**Meet the New Executive Director for the Arts**

Among the most interesting was West Africa’s Donso Ngoni, which is a 6-string harp played for hunters. He also plays plucked string instruments (banjo, guitar, mandolin), many different percussion instruments (including those of West Africa) and woodwinds (clarinet, saxophone, flute). He plans to expand into the piano and brass instruments in the future. He has also composed, performed, and produced music. With such experiences, he has met a myriad of interesting performers. He remembers chatting with Alice Cooper bassist, Dennis Dunaway about the mockumentary Spinal Tap. There is a scene in which the camera is on the band in their preparation room and one can hear the crowd yelling in anticipation. The band, however, cannot see their way to the stage and all the while the crowd is still screaming. Dunaway looked at Strawn deeply and laughed: “You have NO idea how often that happens.”

Strawn’s background as a curator and his unique experiences abroad led him to his current position as the Executive Director for the Arts at ODU. He enjoys being a steward of resources that help people from many walks of life experience the arts in meaningful ways. ODU’s strategic plan includes internationalization, which aligns with these interests. To Strawn, the arts provide a great way to begin to understand cross-cultural issues. He urges graduate students to attend the campus’s many artistic events as they allow for shared human experience in a way unattainable in solo study.

To find out more, visit odu.edu/arts and Arts@ODU (link: http://goo.gl/WdUYqC).

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**Dates and Deadlines**

**February 11, 2016**
- Graduate Student Organization Social
  - 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
  - James River Room, Webb University Center

**February 26, 2016**
- PFF: Managing Your Digital Identity
  - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
  - Learning Commons 1310-1311

**February 28, 2016**
- August 2016 Graduation Application Deadline

**March 7, 2016**
- GRAD Day Proposals Due

**April 8, 2016**
- PFF: Effective Job Talk
  - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
  - Learning Commons 1310-1311

**April 14, 2016**
- GRAD Day
  - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
  - North Mall, Webb University Center
Serving our graduate students is a top priority for ODU Libraries, whether you are on-campus or a distance student. We are always looking for opportunities to engage with graduate students and learn more about how to best meet your needs, so please don’t hesitate to contact us if you need our assistance.

For individual research help, you can schedule virtual or in-person appointments with our subject-expert librarians. For your research, we provide online access to over 400 databases that include research articles, streaming video, digital archives, eBooks, industry reports, and more. We offer in-person and online workshops on topics ranging from reference managers, subject-specific research, using specific databases to data management planning, scholarly metrics searching, and more. Through the Libraries, you have access to EndNote software for organizing and managing your references and we offer workshops and one-on-one assistance with getting started.

One of our newer initiatives is our Digital Commons, which is a digital space where our students and faculty can post their research, dissertations, data, grant reports, projects and more, making it more discoverable on an international level both in Google-Scholar and across all university digital repositories.

If you are a graduate teaching assistant working with classes that have research assignments, we can assist you by providing online teaching tools and in-person library instruction. As a graduate student, you have the same library privileges as faculty and can check out books for an entire semester and have documents such as book chapters and journal articles scanned and delivered to you. You also have access to materials at other area libraries through the Virginia Tidewater Consortium and our Interlibrary Loan services.

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