

Introduction

In February 2016, the University Archives was asked by the Dean of Students Office to create a timeline of diversity and inclusion initiatives to celebrate the 85th anniversary of Old Dominion University (ODU).

Prior to this project, most of the research on diversity and inclusion only covered up through the late 1990s. As a result, I wanted to take what we had on the subject and expand it to include current developments.



Coverage of Research

Since most of the prior research related to diversity and inclusion at ODU centered on African-American and Women's History, I wanted to expand the research to include developments related to race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality, as well as international and non-traditional students, among others.

Staff Involvement

To help with combining through the secondary sources for the project, I secured the assistance of a history graduate student and a volunteer in the Special Collections and University Archives department. I divided up the research into two categories: faculty/staff initiatives and student initiatives, and the student assistant and volunteer each took one category to explore.

Finally, I combed through the primary sources to help fill in the gaps on any developments that were not found in the secondary sources.



Collections and Resources Used

Primary Sources

1. Office of the President Records. These records were a great source for statistical data and other information regarding administrative issues related to diversity.
2. ODU Photographic Collection. The University Archives contains photographs related to the history of all aspects of campus life at ODU from 1930 to the present.

Secondary Sources

1. Mace & Crown. The student newspaper covers all aspects of campus life from 1961 to the present
2. Courier. ODU's faculty and staff newsletter
3. ODU Yearbooks. These annuals show the evolution of student organizations over the years at ODU
4. Old Dominion University: *From the Great Depression to the New Millennium* by Maggie Brydges, et al. Book with chapter on diversity at ODU

Digital Exhibit

As information was gathered for the timeline, all data discovered was entered into a master Word file. To make the project more accessible and more visual for researchers, a digital exhibit was created using Omeka. Images from the ODU Photographic Collection and scans of documents from the Office of the President Records were incorporated into the timeline.



Although the original intent of the project was to create the timeline for the 85th anniversary of ODU, I would like to continue adding information to the timeline as we come across information from research requests, other projects, etc. The Omeka digital exhibit can be found on the ODU Libraries Digital Exhibits page at exhibits.lib.odu.edu or using the QR code below.

