John Broderick:

Hi. I’m John Broderick, president of Old Dominion University, and I’d like to welcome you on behalf of the 3,000 employees and 25,000 students at the university. While this is not intended to be an exhaustive review, I hope this snapshot helps you settle into our wonderful university community.

Old Dominion is Virginia’s entrepreneurial-minded doctoral research university. Our residential and energetic campus is filled with a rich mix of nationalities, cultures, and life experiences. Our nationally-ranked faculty challenge students, while our entrepreneurial approach to problem-solving drives research and collaboration with business, industry, and community partners. Our Idea Fusion community brings together different views, divergent experiences, and fresh ideas to create a new knowledge and develop real-world solutions.

Last year, we unveiled Old Dominion’s Strategic Plan for 2014-19. With input from the faculty, students, staff and members of our community, the plan outlines the five priorities of the institution:

• academic and research excellence;
• student success;
• quality of university life;
• civic engagement;
• and entrepreneurship and economic development.

These five priorities will chart our direction for the next five years and beyond.

As you can see, even though “Old” is in our name, this is a relatively new institution. Old Dominion became an independent college 53 years ago, and in 1969 achieved university status. This year, we celebrate the 85th anniversary of our founding.
The Old Dominion student body is likely the most diverse in Virginia, in the truest sense of the word. Our students range from the traditional 18-year-old freshman to the returning professional who takes classes online. They hail from 49 states and 107 countries. We're especially proud of the fact that more than a quarter of our students are affiliated with the military.

Old Dominion is the fourth largest public university in Virginia. Our total enrollment is 25,000 students and we are committed to maintaining this size for the next several years.

Old Dominion has a strong partnership with the Virginia Community College System...

...and enrolls the third largest number of students from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Old Dominion is the second largest producer of STEM-H graduates in Virginia, playing a critical role in strengthening Virginia’s economic future.

When you look at our students’ achievements, they’re in the company of top scholars across the nation. Old Dominion students boast honors as Rhodes Scholars, Fulbright Scholars, Truman Fellows and many more.

Of course, at the heart of our students’ success are our faculty!

At every opportunity, I brag about the Old Dominion faculty and their achievements. Old Dominion has had 28 SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award winners since 1991. You may not know this, but there are more than 65 higher education institutions in Virginia with more than 50,000 teaching faculty. I'm very proud to tell you that Old Dominion has had more faculty award winners since 1991 than any other institution, with the exception of the College of William and Mary.
In addition to our main campus in Norfolk, Old Dominion also has campuses in Virginia Beach, Hampton, and Portsmouth. In the course of a year, more than 7,500 students take classes at our regional centers.

We also have a robust international emphasis. In addition to numerous international partnerships, Old Dominion researchers conduct their work around the globe. Our faculty members lead high-quality study abroad programs and our campus is home to more than 1,000 international students.

Since the 1990s, Old Dominion has been a recognized leader in distance learning. Today, we offer more than 70 degree programs and 500 courses. More than 12,000 students have completed degrees – many without ever stepping foot on the Old Dominion campus. Our distance learning program expects more than 40,000 registrations during the academic year.

More than 132,000 alumni are part of the Monarch Nation -- and they are located in every state and across the world in 68 countries.

Old Dominion prides itself on being an integral part of Hampton Roads. Our academics, research, programs, and initiatives enhance the region in many ways, and, as a result, the university contributes some $2.1 billion annually to the local economy. We’re also one of the largest generators of new jobs for the region.

ODU also spurs economic development in the region by growing a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators. In 2014, Old Dominion launched the Strome Entrepreneurial Center, where future teachers, nurses, engineers, scientists and artists get the expert help they need to turn their passion into an enterprise. At ODU, entrepreneurship courses are now available to students from all academic disciplines.
In addition to these efforts, the University’s Center for Enterprise Innovation provides companies and organizations of all sizes with access to the University’s research and technologies for business. It houses our Veterans’ Business Outreach Center, Women’s Business Development Center, Technology Applications Center, Launch Hampton Roads, and the Procurement Assistance Center.

Located within the University Village, the two-building IRP is a catalyst for new business and development and is at the heart of ODU’s intellectual capital, research infrastructure and innovation.

While our research spans the disciplines locally, initiatives such as Old Dominion University’s modeling and simulation programs, are propelling job creation and economic growth by tying nicely into regional strengths—federal labs, the port, military bases, Chesapeake Bay, and health care, to name a few.

Old Dominion espouses an entrepreneurial approach to problem solving, which drives our research and collaboration with business, industry, and community partners.

Nowhere is that more evident, perhaps, than with our Sea Level Rise Initiative, which engages faculty experts and the region’s leaders in developing solutions to the challenges facing coastal communities. Most recently, Old Dominion launched a national pilot project that is developing a comprehensive local response to sea level rise and serves as a model for the rest of the nation.

The initiative is also one of the many that come under our commitment to Community Engagement. From outreach and service conducted by our students, to community partnerships, to research and scholarship, Old Dominion is dedicated to leveraging our resources for community success.
I hope you enjoyed that brief overview of Old Dominion. I look forward to working with you!

Enjoy your year on campus.