This story can fit 175–225 words.

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your service. You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists. You might consider purchasing a...
I send greetings to everyone on behalf of the College of Liberal Arts.

This is the beginning of my second year as Dean of the College, after having served a year as interim dean. I am delighted to share with you just a few accomplishments that our faculty, staff, and students have achieved over the past year.

Last year, the College adopted the slogan “The Power of Discovery” because we want students to understand that the fields of art, communications, drama, history, literature, music, political science, psychology, and sociology can guide them on their quest to understand the world with the tools for success.

COLA encourages students on their journey of discovery. Empowered by the knowledge and confidence gained during their educational experience at NSU, students should fully expect to succeed in their chosen profession. With our 10 undergraduate and four graduate programs, COLA continues to serve the largest number of students and majors.

To that end, the faculty in COLA developed two important initiatives that will help faculty and students contribute scholarship and public awareness about a host of issues that specifically concerns the African American community. NSU successfully received funding to begin a Center for African American Public Policy (CAAmPP). Housed in the Department of Political Science, this Center has already hosted three forums ranging from inequities in the criminal justice system to energy disparities. The Center is a think tank, providing unbiased and non-partisan research on public policy issues affecting African Americans and other peoples of color in Virginia. The Center’s mission is to empower minority communities, educate the public at large, and assist lawmakers by providing alternatives on issues involving African Americans and other communities of color.

In addition, the College is developing a Film and Humanities Institute that will pull together all of our various disciplines to highlight narratives through an African American lens, emphasizing filmmaking, digital humanities, music production, and art. Specifically, these narratives will examine issues, challenges, and perspectives related to African Americans and the global community. The Institute will explore our world through contemporary mediums. Our hope is that it will prepare students to become voices that represent current and future populations.

I am excited about the work of the College. Since 2018, we have raised approximately $400,000 in grants and donations and have secured almost $300,000 annually for CAAmPP. In addition, the Psychology Department received a $200,000 endowment from Dr. James Savage, Psychology alumnus.

I am very proud of my colleagues who continue to be productive in their various fields. In the 2017-2019 period alone, faculty in COLA published over 60 articles and books, hosted over 50 programs, forums, musical and theater productions, and conferences. COLA [continued on page 5]
Norfolk State University, in partnership with Virginia's 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution, hosted the 1619: Making of America Summit on the campus of NSU from September 25-27, 2019. The Summit explored the 400-year journey of our founding cultures—African, Native, English—and shared immigrant stories, contributions and influences that have shaped the building of America.

Organized by Cassandra Newby-Alexander and the NSU Team, the Summit “reframed” America’s narrative by highlighting “Diversity, Democracy, and Opportunity” as foundational pillars to answer the question “Who are we as Americans?”

Panelists included Nate Parker, Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax, Mia Love, Juan Williams, and Rex Ellis.

Discussion themes included “Finding America's Roots,” “America's Narrative Reframed,” “America's Future: Citizenship and the Law,” and “Reimagining Representations of People of Color.” Entertainment at the summit included a screening of the films Ghosts of Amistad and Rumble: Indians Who Rocked the World, the live stage play “Gem of the Ocean” and a musical performance “Voices Raised in Harmony.”

Summit attendees saw the premiere of the four-part docuseries 400 Years Later... “free-ish,” created by the Nate Parker Foundation’s HBCU Storytellers Project, to raise awareness about the 400 Year Commemoration of the first Africans that arrived in Virginia in 1619 and the continuing legacy of racial inequity that still exists today.

The Voice of America town hall, Africa to America: The Odyssey of Slavery, was taped live at NSU on Wednesday, August 21, 2019, in the Brown Hall Theatre. The 30-minute discussion focused on the theme of 1619. Over 300 people attended this live broadcast sent to 45 million viewers and translated into 17 different languages.

Professor Peniel E. Joseph of the University of Texas at Austin moderated the discussion. Panel members included Dean Cassandra Newby-Alexander of Norfolk State University, Professor Robert Trent Vinson of the College of William & Mary, Professor Aimee Glocke of California State University, Northridge, Superintendent Terry Brown of the Fort Monroe National Monument, and Professor Gloria J. Browne-Marshall of John Jay College (CUNY).

The panelists discussed the problems that still face the African American community long after the arrival of the first slaves four centuries ago. These themes included reparations, the future of the African American community, a complex discussion of slavery and its legacy, and a review of the ongoing struggles that continue to face the African American community.

The program was attended by the Governor of Virginia, the Honorable Ralph Northam; Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Justin Fairfax; Ghana’s Ambassador to the U.S., Baffour Adjei Bawuah; and U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Bismarck Myrick.
COLA PROGRAMS

GIVE TO THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

COLA’S NEWEST ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:
M.S. in Cyber Psychology
B.A. in Drama and Theatre

HIGHLIGHTED SPECIAL COLA PROGRAMS:
The College of Liberal Arts signed a partnership with the 2019 Commemoration Commission (American Evolution) to host the Graphic Novel Conference and Competition and the 1619: Making of America Summit.
The Department of Visual and Performing Arts has partnered with numerous community organizations that provide opportunities for student engagement, including Norfolk’s NEON District and the Selden Market Place.
The Department of Visual and Performing Arts hosts regular events at the Wise Gallery featuring works of art from faculty and students at NSU. NSU owns an exhibition featuring 30,000 art pieces donated by Dr. Myrna Teck.
The Sociology Department has partnered with the City of Norfolk and a Police Task Force to ensure the deployment of non-biased training of officers and a new community policing policy.
The Department of Sociology has partnered with the United States Navy Exchange to develop an internship program for students interested in working in civil service (especially Human Resources). This program is funded by the U.S. Navy.
The NSU Theatre Company has distinguished itself with a track record of sold out performances and multiple awards, including one from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for its production of The Brothers Size. In 2016, the Company was selected for the Virginia Theatre Conference’s All-Conference production. It also received honors from The National Black Theatre Festival and The HBCU Awards. Since 2017, the Company has partnered with the Virginia Stage Company to produce sold-out performances including the Wiz and the Parchman Hour.
The Department of Sociology’s A Sociological Framework for Preparedness for Coastal Resilience project, funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Minority Servicing Institutes Summer Research Team (MSI SRT), supports on-going and educational initiatives related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding in the African American community. The team studies the sociocultural and socioeconomic factors related to preparedness.
faculty instruct over 5,000 students annually. COLA also initiated efforts to update and innovate programs and curricula.

The year 2019 has been a banner year for COLA. In 2019, faculty worked with the City of Norfolk and Festevents to create an important video and brochure on Harborfest. Entitled “Norfolk Harborfest: Dispelling the Myth of Harborfest and the Connection with the Slave Trade,” the project included video interviews with people attending Harborfest about their awareness of the myth, as well as historical research on reasons the myth exists. For more information on this project, please go to https://festevents.org/events/2019-season-events/norfolk-harborfest/harborfest-myth/

In August, NSU was part of a series of programs associated with the Commemoration of 400 years of African Americans in America. During the Africa Landing Day program at Fort Monroe, I had the privilege of appearing on C-SPAN to discuss the significance of 1619 to America. On August 21, we hosted the Voice of America town hall, *Africa to America: The Odyssey of Slavery*. On September 25-28, we partnered with American Evolution to host our *1619: Making of America Summit*, which included a host of scholars, celebrities, public officials, and guests from around the country. During the program, two of our amazing students—Christine Raspberry and Ayvei Price—participated as panelists, holding their own with the other accomplished panelists and demonstrating the power of their voices.

Each newsletter will continue to share the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students.

These are exciting times for COLA, and we invite everyone to consider assisting us with donations to our various initiatives. As you can imagine, it will go a long way to helping the College of Liberal Arts raise its profile as a beacon of excellence. But more importantly, your donations will help each student find his or her pathway to success!

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**Portsmouth Commonwealth’s Attorney & NSU Grad Speaks at Dean’s List Ceremony**

Stephanie Morales, the Commonwealth’s Attorney for the City of Portsmouth, was the guest speaker for the fall 2018 Honors and Dean’s List Awards Ceremony.

Stephanie is a 2004 Political Science major AND the daughter of COLA’s own Paula Lassiter!
Faculty Accomplishments

OUR FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE EARNED SOME AMAZING AWARDS...

HINT – Dr. Aprilfaye Manalang was the recipient of the 2018-2019 Teaching Faculty Excellence Award. Each academic year, this award is presented to one professor who “has advanced the university’s mission through outstanding teaching, research, and community service.”

HINT – Dr. Charles Ford was recognized at the 4th Annual African American Creative Community Series Awards for his scholarship in local African American history and for his long record of successful teaching and service at Norfolk State University. Also, an article he co-authored, “The Cabiness Family Lynching: Race, War, and Memory in Walker County, Texas,” was awarded the 2019 H. Bailey Carroll Award for the Best Article in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly and was recognized by the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA).

ENFL – Dr. Christina R. Pinkston received the Marquis’ Who’s Who 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2018.

PSYC - Dr. Leah Floyd was awarded the 2019 American Psychological Association Summer Undergraduate Psychology Research Experience (SUPRE) grant. This award will provide paid summer research experience here at NSU for five students working with our faculty. Additionally, the grant brings a cash award to the department.

PSYC - Dr. Ernestine Duncan was selected for the Management Development Program at Harvard Graduate School of Education. This program prepares mid-level managers early in their administrative experience with the skills to succeed in complex roles and shifting institutional and cultural landscapes (June 2-14, 2019).

MCJR – Dr. Christine McWhorter won the Competitive Scholarship Communication Paper Award at the Florida Communication Association Annual Conference.

SOCI – Dr. Yuying Shen was named faculty advisor for the 2019 Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference, STEM Travel Award for recipient Niambi McCoy (Washington D.C., February 2019).

VPAR - Al Reese was selected as lead teacher to accredit potential conducting instructors in the Handbell Musicians of America Certification Program. Applicants from a nationwide pool attended to become accredited to teach at their local level in November 2018.
OUR FACULTY MEMBERS SIT ON SOME PRESTIGIOUS BOARDS...

HINT—Dr. Khadijah Miller joined the board of the American Council on Education Women’s Network for Virginia and the editorial board for *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, the premier journal in the field of Interdisciplinary Studies and the flagship publication of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS).

MCJR – Dr. Wanda Brockington was appointed to serve as a member of the Sister Scholars Advisory Council of the Delta Research and Educational Foundation.

SOCI – Dr. Yuying Shen became the Virginia Beach Branch College/University Chair for the American Association of University Women (AAUW).


VPAR – Christy Frederick accepted a position on the advisory board for the fashion area at Norfolk Vocational Technical School, 2019.

VPAR - Anne Neikirk, Division of Music, began a term as the newly elected Composition Board Member for the Mid Atlantic Chapter of the College Music Society (2018-2020 term).

COLA’s Dean, Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, was appointed to the Board of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and the Commission on African American Education in Virginia. She also serves on the Virginia Law Foundation, WHRO, Co-Chair of Arrival of Africans Sub-Committee and 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee.

OUR FACULTY MEMBERS EXHIBIT QUALITY EXAMPLES OF THEIR ARTISTIC ABILITIES...

VPAR – Dr. Marcia Neblett’s artwork has been exhibited in three notable arenas this academic year. Dr. Neblett’s woodcuts were exhibited at the CURE Coffeehouse and Brasserie in Norfolk, featured at the New York Satellite Print Fair in New York, and woodcut “Savannah Rose” was recently acquired by Syracuse University for its permanent collection (one of the country’s oldest teaching collections).

VPAR – The Fine Arts Program’s “The Enduring Legacies Series: An Exhibition of Paintings and Mixed Media by Tunde Afolayan-Famous” ran from January 21st until March 8th in the James Wise Gallery.

VPAR - Peter Giscombe was featured in a “Solo Exhibition of Paintings, Drawings and Prints” at the Gallery, Thomas Nelson Community College, Hampton, VA, February 2019.
Faculty Accomplishments

OUR FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN THE GO-TO VOICE FOR NEWS EVENTS THAT AFFECTED THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY...

HINT - Dr. Khadijah O. Miller, professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, was interviewed with Dr. Bernadette J. Holmes, professor of Sociology, by WTKR (Channel 3) regarding discussions on Blackface in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Governor’s office, February 2019.

HINT - Dr. Patrick Mbajekwe, associate professor of History, was interviewed and featured in the documentary “20 and Odd: Africans’ Arrival in 1619” by 13NewsNow, first aired on February 10, 2019.

POSC – Dr. Elsie Barnes was quoted in the article “Virginia’s Black Caucus Gains Strength Amid Political Turmoil” by Scott Calvert and Jon Kamp in The Wall Street Journal, February 15, 2019.

PSYC – Dr. O’Shan D. Gadsden participated in the panel discussion “Black Mental Health: Racism, Stigma and the Impact on Health” that was sponsored by The Virginia Department of Health’s Office of Health Equity and Norfolk State University’s Center of Excellence in Minority Health Disparities on Monday, April 22, 2019. The event was reported in The Virginian Pilot/Pilot Online on Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

COLA – Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander was quoted in several articles and interviewed for many radio and television programs regarding the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s death, the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Central Africans at Point Comfort in the Virginia Colony, the controversy over Governor Northam’s “indentured servants” comment, and racism in Virginia.

SOME OF OUR FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN HONORED FOR ORIGINAL CREATIVE WORKS

VPAR - Anne Neikirk composed and performed several original pieces for piano, choir and harp and electronics. The most recent was a piece for piano, “She Persisted,” that was one of a few selected from over 1,000 applicants to be performed at the Society of Composers 2019 National Conference at the University of New Mexico.

VPAR - Clyde Santana’s screenplay Angels in Hip Hop Land was accepted into the 2019 Beverly Hills Film Festival.

ENFL – Dr. David Tenenbaum was a finalist in the 2019 CANNES Screenplay Contest for his original screenplay After School.
OUR MUSIC FACULTY THRILLED CROWDS WITH THEIR MUSICAL PROWESS IN MORE PERFORMANCES THAN WE CAN COUNT...BUT HERE ARE A FEW...

VPAR - Dr. Patricia Saunders Nixon performed with several choral groups including the I. Sherman Greene Chorale, Chesapeake Civic Chorus, and Legacy of Weyanoke.

VPAR - Gregory Gardner served as the baritone soloist in Beethoven’s Ode to Joy from Symphony No. 9 performed by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra as the bass-baritone soloist in the Verdi Requiem presented by Symphonicity (Virginia Beach Symphony) and many, many more performances throughout the Hampton Roads area.

VPAR - Dr. Susan Ha performed with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra as an orchestral pianist at the MLK Day Concert on January 20, 2019. Other NSU performers included Stephanie Sanders, who performed a saxophone solo, and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Frank Elliott. Stacey Migliozzi (viola) and Peter Debeau (tuba) also performed in this concert as orchestral musicians.

VPAR – Matthew Russell performed with such groups as the Virginia Children’s Chorus Chamber Singers, the Boys Choir of Hampton Roads and as a guest conductor for the Alabama State University High School Honors Choir, to name a few.

THE DIVISION OF FINE ARTS HOSTED A FINE ARTS DAY FAIR FOR NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS...

VPAR – The Division of Fine Arts hosted a Fine Arts College Day Fair for NPS teachers on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. Open demonstrations were conducted in all studios during a tour of the Fine Arts facilities. A photography documentary was provided by Sam Hughes, a studio art activity was provided in the James Wise Gallery, and musical entertainment was provided by the NSU Jazz Combo.

EVEN OUR RETIREES RETURNED AND ACCOMPLISHED GREAT THINGS...

MCJR - Dr. Stan Tickton, Adjunct Professor of Mass Communications and Journalism and retired MCJR professor, was unanimously re-elected to a two-year term by the 800 member Mass Communications Division of the National Communications Association to represent the Mass Communications Division in the National Communications Association’s Legislative Assembly, the principal policy making body of the Association.
THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS IS TOO MANY TO LIST, HOWEVER, A FEW NOTABLE MENTIONS INCLUDE...

ENFL - Dr. Michele Rozga presented research on poetry's role in society, centering evidence on NSU student responses to Claudia Rankine’s poems in the book-length work, *Citizen: an American Lyric* at the Collegium for African American Research, 13th Biennial Conference, January 2019.

ENFL - Dr. Melody Williams was the keynote speaker for the ACCESS College Foundation’s 30th Anniversary Gala on Wednesday, October 24, 2018.

ENFL - Dr. Desire Baloubi was the guest speaker at the University of Florida’s Center for African Studies on Friday, January 11, 2019. The title of his talk was “Hope for Pan Africanism in the New World Order.”

HINT – Dr. Geoffrey de Laforcade delivered more than 12 national and international scholarly presentations, published seven reviews and taught two international virtual graduate seminars, the most recent, “The Border as an Axis of Discrimination: Space, Racism and the Crisis of the Nation on the Mexican-American Border,” for the Theoretical-Practical Social Awareness Course on Living with Cultural Diversity for the Institute of American Studies of the Principality of Asturias and the University of Oviedo in Spain.

HINT - Dr. Aprilfaye T. Manalang has presented on several topics, including her research “Religious Nones and Pluralism: Insights on the Decline of Religion among Minority Millennials and Its Implications for Citizenship in the 21st Century.”

SOCI, PSYC & HINT – Dr. Bernadette Holmes (SOCI), Dr. Erica Russell (PSYC), Niambi McCoy (SOCI major) and Aurelio Lawrence (HINT major) participated in the panel discussion “How did we get here? The Rise of Racism in a Politically Correct Culture” at NSU on February 25, 2019. The event was organized by Dr. Scott Debb (PSYC) and Dr. Janira Teague (HINT).


OUR FACULTY PUBLISH IN PRETIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS …

ENFL – Dr. Bonaventure Balla’s book *Aimé Césaire et les Porteurs de Lumière*, has been accepted for publication by Les Editions Persée, a publishing company located in Paris, France, and two other publishers in France.

ENFL - Dr. Ingrid Watson-Miller published two chapters in the *Afro-Hispanic Reader and Anthology*. Dr. Watson-Miller’s chapters, one each in English and Spanish, refer to blacks in Ecuador. The *Reader* addresses African Diasporic literature and cultural forms.

HINT – Dr. Arnold Modlin, Jr., in conjunction with Perry Carter, Amy E. Potter, Candace Forbes-Bright, Stephen Hanna and Derek H. Alderman, published two articles, including “Can Plantation Museums Do Full Justice to the Story of the Enslaved? A Discussion of Problems, Possibilities, and the Place of Memory” in *GeoHumanities*.

ENFL – Dr. Jennifer Malia published one article focusing on the issues surrounding living with autism and has three that have been accepted and are pending in *Self Magazine* including “I’m an Autistic Woman with a Taekwondo Black Belt.”

PSYC – Dr. Erica Russell published “A Balancing Act: First Still, and Faculty at an HBCU” in *Underserved Populations at Historically Black Colleges and Universities: The Pathway to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* (pp. 11-25), Emerald Publishing Limited.

MCJR – Dr. Christine McWhorter published “News Media Literacy in Young Adults: Effects of the Agenda Melding Process” in the *Journal of Media Literacy Education*.

HINT – Dr. Scott Debb’s article “Personality as a Predictor of Cyber Security Behavior” was accepted by the APA journal, *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*. This article was a product of Cyberpsychology research lab work conducted with two of the Psychology Ph.D. consortium doctoral students, Alex Shappie and Charlotte Dawson.

POLI – Dr. Benjamin Rogers, in conjunction with Jami K. Taylor and Donald P. Haider-Markel, published “Toward a New Measure of State-Level LGBT Interest Group Strength.”


Student Accomplishments

COLA MAJORS ARE ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS

From the epitome of the motion picture industry...

**Zeus Campbell, 2006 MCJR graduate**, starred in *Skin*, the 2019 Oscar winner for Best Live Action Short film, February 24, 2019...

To ground-breaking firsts...

**Brehanna Daniels has gone from MCJR major** to NASCAR’s First Female African American pit crew member to reality TV star in a few short years. Daniels competed on the 2019 season of *The Titan Games* hosted by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson.

To the White House...

**Ramal Johnson, M.A. in Media and Communications**, 2013, served as a White House intern in the Office of Presidential Correspondence in fall 2018.

To the Office of the Governor of Virginia...

Two NSU students were selected as 2019 Governor’s Fellows.

**Bobbie Marie Johnson, a 2019 Mass Communications graduate, and Elizabeth Karina Paz, an Interdisciplinary Studies major**, were selected for the fellowship by Governor Ralph Northam and will join other fellows from across the Commonwealth.

Johnson hopes this experience will aid her graduate school studies. “I expect to network with policymakers who can assist me with my growth and political knowledge,” said Johnson.

Paz stated the she is honored to be chosen. “I know this program will take me out of my comfort zone so I can grow into a better individual, leader and follower,” stated Paz.

Created in 1982 by former governor Chuck Robb, the program offers rising college seniors, graduating seniors and graduate students the opportunity to gain valuable, firsthand experience working under Cabinet secretaries and alongside staff in the Office of the Governor.
OUR MAJORS ARE ALSO EXCELLEING IN...

Scholarly research...

Thomas Cerja, IV, Interdisciplinary Studies major, placed second, and Jordan I. Barnes, History major, was one of three third-place winners in the 2019 NSU Undergraduate Research and Innovation Symposium.

The visual arts...

Stephanie Kiah (VPAR alumna) exhibited three works at the Flavas of Africa and the Caribbean Group Art Exhibition at the Elizabeth James Gallery in London from October 16-29, 2018. The Elizabeth James Gallery is a small woman-owned and black-owned contemporary art gallery located in the Croydon borough of London.

Educational pursuits...

Calvin Wright, Interdisciplinary Studies major, was accepted into the Library Science Program at the University of North Carolina Greensboro; Waverly Williams, History major and President of the History Club, earned a Gilman grant to study in Peru; Nykema E. Mpama, May 2018 History and Interdisciplinary Studies graduate, was accepted to the Post Baccalaureate M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies Program at Hofstra University.

Entrepreneurship...

Keisha Reynolds, a graduate of the MCJR graduate program, was featured in the October 26, 2018 issue of The Virginian-Pilot in the article “Norfolk entrepreneur launches women's empowerment website with emphasis on working together.”

UNFORTUNATELY, WE LOST TWO OF OUR RISING STARS

The Inaugural Jadon Z. Jenkins Stellar Student Humanitarian Award, in memory of the late Jadon Z. Jenkins, NSU Drama/Theater Honor major, was presented at The 4th Annual AACC(S (formerly African American Cinematic Collection Series) Distinguished Honor Awards, February 16, 2019. The awards were presented to African American males who are exceeding expectations in academics.

HINT – Joesph Staley, History major, was a tireless worker. He was resilient and had a zest for life. His dreams were big, and he always believed there was a way forward. If he sensed optimism was going to be in short supply, he often said, "That's so wrong on so many levels." Joseph Staley did not like to complain; he did not whine. Joseph was going to get "IT" done, somehow.
WE EARNED SOME NOTABLE GIFTS AND GRANTS...

COLA – On behalf of the College, Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander received a 2019 Commemoration Commission grant for $10,000.00 for the Graphic Novel Conference and Competition that was held at NSU in November 2018. COLA also received support from the 2019 Commemoration to support the 1619: Making of America Summit.

SOCI – Dr. Yuying Shen earned one board appointment, delivered three scholarly presentations, two workshops, reviewed three manuscripts, and earned three grants. The most recent grant was for a research project funded by the National Science Foundation for “Security Pedagogy Across the Curriculum: A Model to Integrate Cybersecurity into the Social Sciences” that was funded for $109,974.00.

PSYC - Dr. James Savage (class 1968) made a donation to the Psychology Department in the amount of $200,000. The funds will be used to establish an African American Psychology Hall of Fame. It will also be used to support faculty development and student scholarships.

MCJR – Lateef Gibson facilitated a gift to the NSU TV News Studio from WVEC-DTV 13. WVEC donated its news set, including a new Tightrope Media System for cablecasting on CCTV47, and a new CamMate jib crane has been added to the studio for high angle camera video.

HINT - The Norfolk Historical Society and the MacArthur Foundation created a scholarship for Junior History majors that began in August 2019.

SOCI – Dr. Robert Perkins is Co-Principal Investigator of the National Science Foundation-funded research project “Security Pedagogy across the Curriculum: A Model to Integrate Cybersecurity into the Social Sciences” that was funded for $399,974. This is the third renewal of this project by the NSF.

SOCI – Dr. Carlene Turner is the Principal Investigator of NSF-funded research project “Security Pedagogy across the Curriculum: A Model to Integrate Cybersecurity into the Social Sciences” that was funded for $399,974. This is the third renewal of this project by the NSF.
The Norfolk State University “Spartan Legion” Marching Band was featured in a video by Justice, the Grammy-award winning electronic dance music duo.

Justice won a Grammy in 2019 for the Best Dance/Electronic Album. The Spartan Legion Marching Band was featured in the video to the electronic music song “Heavy Metal.” In just the first hour of its Internet debut on YouTube on December 13, 2018, the video received more than 35,000 views. Justice fans from all over the world have been talking about the Spartan Legion and their performance on popular social media channels.

Members of the 205-member Spartan Legion Marching Band, named the top Division I HBCU band by ESPN/The Undefeated HBCU Band Rankings, are the sole subjects of Justice’s “Heavy Metal,” a four-minute and twenty-five second video which features shots of the band at locations on campus that include William “Dick” Price Stadium, the L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center, Edward L. Hamm Fine Arts Building and several shots of band members in uniform throughout downtown Norfolk.

William Beathea, Director of the Spartan Legion at NSU, said the release of the video is one of the highlights of his tenure as band director. He says the video will help give Norfolk State University and the Spartan Legion international exposure.

“What is so fantastic about the video is that the director was able to capture the intensity of the band and, visually, it helps bring you into the music,” Beathea said. “The visuals capture the intensity and seriousness our students take into the overall musicality of the Spartan Legion,” Beathea added.

Justice, made up of French artists Gaspard Augé and Xavier de Rosnay, also won a Grammy Award in 2008 for Best Remixed Recording/Non-Classical.
COLA Accomplishments

COLA’S CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY FUNDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The Commonwealth of Virginia has funded ($295,000 annually) COLA’s Center for African American Public Policy (CAAmPP). CAAmPP is a think tank that will provide non-partisan research on public policy issues in Virginia. Unlike other public policy centers in the nation, CAAmPP will specifically focus on issues affecting African Americans and other peoples of color.

CAAmPP will fill a void that currently exists in institutions of higher learning in Virginia concerning the political process as it affects African Americans.

To this end, CAAmPP will create a political atmosphere in Virginia that intentionally includes the voices and perspectives of the underserved and underrepresented by empowering minority communities, educating the public at large, and enabling lawmakers to enhance the public policy-making process.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSES POWER OF GRAPHIC NOVELS TO COMMUNICATE HISTORY

Norfolk State University hosted its first-ever Graphic Novel Conference and Competition on November 18-19, 2018. The conference brought scholars, artists, designers, and students together to discuss the power of art and graphic novels to communicate history.

The conference featured more than 20 local and regional artists, developers and Norfolk State faculty who participated in panel discussions, presentations and workshops about art and history-related topics.

“The goal of the conference was to discuss, from a visual standpoint, how we can create a real narrative that tells the story of America,” said Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Dean of the NSU College of Liberal Arts. “We can’t talk about our accomplishments as a country and where we came from without talking about the good, the bad and the ugly,” Newby-Alexander said.

The conference also featured a contest where participants created their own graphic novel that incorporated a storyline to interpret the arrival and lives of the first Africans brought to the shores of Virginia at Point Comfort in 1619.
Department Accomplishments

Dr. Soji Akomolafe, Dr. Carol Pretlow, Jaunice Thompson, Shelton Chapman, the Young Democrats Club and the Political Science Department were recognized as being instrumental in Norfolk State University being recognized as one of 123 campuses in 31 states to earn the designation of “Voter Friendly Campus.” The voting program was sponsored by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) and the Fair Election Center’s Campus Vote Project (CVP).

The Psychology Department hosted and co-organized The 24th Annual CyberPsychology, CyberTherapy and Social Networking conference (CYPSY24), which was held on the main campus of NSU from June 24-26, 2019. Over 100 CyberPsychology researchers, clinical psychologists, academicians and experts from business/industry from 20 different countries gathered to hear over 60 sessions of information related to CyberPsychology research happening in the US and around the world. Keynote speakers included Dr. Grainne Kirwan, world renowned forensic CyberPsychologist from Ireland, and Dr. David Stagel, Deputy Chief Scientist from the Air Force Research Laboratory’s Human Performance Division.

The Department of Mass Communications and Journalism hosted its annual MCJR Week in April. During the week-long series of events, MCJR alumni returned to campus and shared their expertise and experiences with current MCJR students. The week concluded with an award session in which famed actor and director Tim Reid was presented the MCJR Legend’s Award by Dr. Wanda Brockington.
The College of Liberal Arts
at Norfolk State University
Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Dean

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Support Us!

Please support The College of Liberal Arts and its initiatives. For more information, please contact Dr. WaNelle Anderson to learn more about how you can help.

Designed By: Brianna L. Jones
Fine Arts major