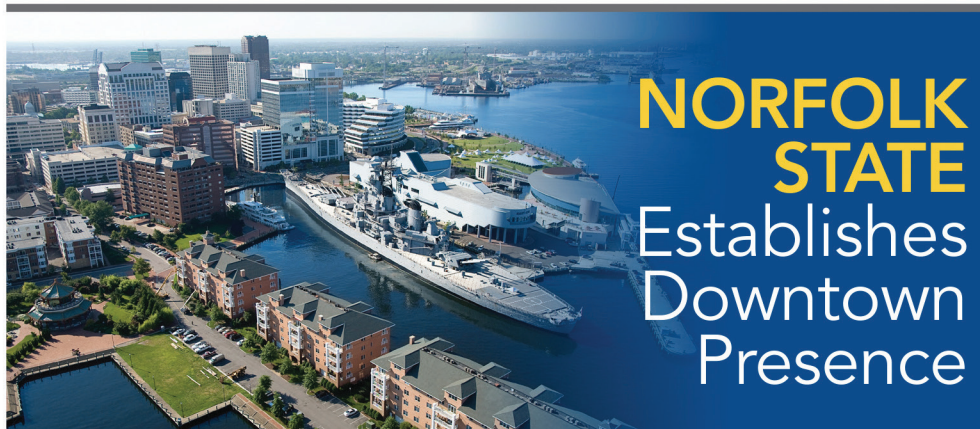


MAKING WAVES



A NEWSLETTER FOR FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY



Norfolk State University will be in the thick of things in downtown Norfolk. The University is leasing city-owned space at 520 E. Main Street. Norfolk City Council approved the \$1-a-year lease for a period of three years at its November 2017 meeting and it became effective December 22.

The space is to be used by Norfolk State University and the Norfolk State University Research and Innovation Foundation and is expected to support several strategic initiatives and academic programs.

"We would like to house in this location programs that would support the University's economic development, technology transfer and research activities," said Hudnall Croasdale, NSU Research & Innovation Foundation executive director and chief executive officer. "These activities and initiatives, in addition to supporting the overall academic mission of Norfolk State, will complement and support both the City of Norfolk's economic development plans and additionally a number of the Commonwealth of Virginia's research and job creation programs, in particular the GO Virginia program."

GO Virginia is an initiative for growth and opportunity that is working in nine regions across the Commonwealth. The purpose of this bipartisan, business-led group is to foster private-sector growth and job creation through state incentives

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 2**



In his first major speech to the University, Dr. Melvin T. Stith, Sr., '68, NSU interim president, made it clear that students are at the center of all decision making and called on the University to stake its claim on the future.

Stith delivered the speech Wednesday, January 3, at the Spring 2018 Opening Conference as faculty and staff returned from the annual winter break.

"Simply stated, our greatest asset and responsibility is our students," said the interim president. "Today, every decision that we make and every dollar that we spend will be directed toward ensuring that our students are fully prepared to compete in the 21st century global economy. Our students deserve no less," he added.

During his speech, Stith spoke of his days as a student. He recalled an assembly in which a moment of silence was interrupted by the pounding of heavy construction equipment. "President [Lyman Beecher] Brooks went on to explain to us that the noise that we heard was more than just the sound of construction — it was the sound of progress — the sound of a university moving forward toward the future."

"Today, let us reflect upon what kind of university we want and what kind of university we need to ensure that our students are fully prepared to compete in the 21st century global economy. Let us collectively ask the question: what will be NSU's sound of progress on the road ahead?"

Stith also emphasized his background as a faculty member and dean. "Having spent a lifetime in higher education, I know firsthand the rewards, challenges and sacrifices each of you face as members of the academy." Adding, "Working together we will create an enterprise that fully embraces faculty engagement through the principles and framework of shared governance."

"We will not always agree on every issue, but I will work to ensure that every stakeholder has an opportunity to be heard because we are all on the same team — and all working toward the same common mission."

STITH LAID OUT HIS FOUR KEY PRIORITIES:

- The adoption of a students-first approach to organizational decision making;
- The cultivation of an organizational environment of mutual respect that fully engages faculty in the shared governance of the university;
- The elevation of NSU as a viable player in the economic development of the Hampton Roads region, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and global community; and
- A renewed focus on philanthropy to jump start the process of better securing NSU's financial future.

"The agenda I have set forth is ambitious and will not be completed in the first week, first two months, or even during my tenure," he said, "but the hard work of moving this agenda forward will begin today, and it will become our sound of progress — our sound of a university moving forward toward the future."



2017 Marks Record for Bachelor's Degrees, STEM-H

RICHMOND — More people earned bachelor's degrees in Virginia in 2016-17 than ever before, including a record number of degrees in STEM-H fields, according to recent research by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

SCHEV researchers analyzed degree completions and other awards in 2016-17, focusing particularly on in-state graduates at public and private nonprofit institutions. The record number of degrees in STEM-H fields — science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health — may indicate increasing interest in those careers.

SCHEV ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS

- Virginia's colleges and universities awarded 54,508 bachelor's degrees in 2016-17 — the most in state history.
- This includes 24,405 STEM-H degrees (35% of the total) awarded by Virginia public institutions, a state record.
- In all, Virginia institutions awarded 118,837 certificates and undergraduate and graduate degrees — just 0.9% lower than the state record of 119,934 set last year.
- Overall undergraduate enrollment at Virginia's public four-year institutions totaled 174,032 in fall 2017. This showed an increase over the prior year, as it has every year since 1993. Enrollment of new students increased a robust 5%.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- The top three bachelor's degree programs at Virginia public institutions remain unchanged from previous years: psychology, biology and business administration.
- Bachelor's degrees in nursing have increased 19.6% at Virginia public institutions in the past five years, placing that degree in fourth place ahead of liberal arts and sciences, English and history.
- Data-science degrees have increased 33% in the past five years across all Virginia institutions, from 4,961 to 6,582, in response to employment demand.

CONTINUED FROM **PAGE 1**

NORFOLK STATE ESTABLISHES DOWNTOWN PRESENCE

for regional collaboration by business, education, and government. Croasdale stated that the venture could be viewed as the next strategic step by the

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**NORFOLK STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Norfolk State University Research & Innovation Foundation and Norfolk State University to increase both a physical presence in the Norfolk business district as well as to assume a greater leadership role in the region.

Norfolk Mayor Kenny Alexander

welcomed the move. "We are very excited that NSU is expanding its presence to Downtown and offering programs that will enhance Norfolk's role as a leader in workforce development and innovation," stated Alexander. "This partnership will continue to distinguish Norfolk as a thriving center for higher education, and we are confident it will produce pioneers in business and emerging technologies."



NSU Interim President Announces University Leadership Appointments

NSU Interim President Dr. Melvin T. Stith Sr. recently announced **Dr. Leroy Hamilton Jr.** as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs; **Dr. Carl W. Haywood** as chief of staff to the president; and **Ericke S. Cage**, in an expanded role as executive advisor to the president and board of visitors for policy, compliance, and university ombudsman.

Each of the new appointees have provided the Office of Communications and Marketing with their priorities:



Dr. Leroy Hamilton Jr. — The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs aims to promote the welfare of the University by supporting the vision of the President and by ensuring that our academic programs reflect national and state standards of excellence. In addition to performing its routine oversight functions, our office is focused on completing the University's Reaffirmation of Accreditation report, facilitating data-based planning and decision-making to guide improvements, taking concrete steps to synergize academic and non-academic units, and creating student-initiative models that foster student learning and boost academic program completion rates.

Dr. Carl Haywood — Plans to work on "Promoting the Intangibles": Improving Customer Service/Working Relations; Commitment and Excellence in Teaching /Student Engagement; Emphasizing Unity: Spartan Nation, Forever United; Restoring our greatness as a leader and respected partner in the community. The "Promoting the Intangibles" initiative is expected to launch in the fall.



Ericke S. Cage J.D., LL.M. — My priorities as the University's Chief Policy and Compliance Officer are to increase transparency and encourage engagement in the university's policymaking and compliance processes and to advance a culture of accountability across the institution. As university ombudsman, my priority is to support the advancement of an organizational culture of dignity and respect by raising awareness of the confidential resources offered to NSU faculty and staff by the university ombudsman.
nsu.edu/ombudsman

To the Campus Community:

I want to provide recognition and "Thank You" for the fantastic job that the Facilities Management onsite essential personnel and the University Police Department provided during the recent snow blizzard. Your hard work and dedication helped us out during a difficult time and your efforts are appreciated and very much valued.



We know that the recent blizzard was dangerous and you made great sacrifices to come to campus. Some of you also endured staying overnight to handle campus emergencies and secure the area. During your efforts you were exceptional in covering additional duties. We also know that both before and during this time you have worked tirelessly to keep your department and the campus going strong all while students began their move in.

The entire campus and I acknowledge the quality work you have done. Furthermore, you did all of this with a fantastic attitude and willing disposition. I am asking all of my colleagues to say a special thank you to our Facilities Management and University Police teams!

Thank you again for your hard work and commitment to NSU both throughout the snow storm and in the past. You truly demonstrate the Spartan Spirit.

BEHOLD THE GREEN AND GOLD.

Sincerely,

Melvin T. Stith, Sr., Ph.D.
Interim President

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African-Americans in Time of War

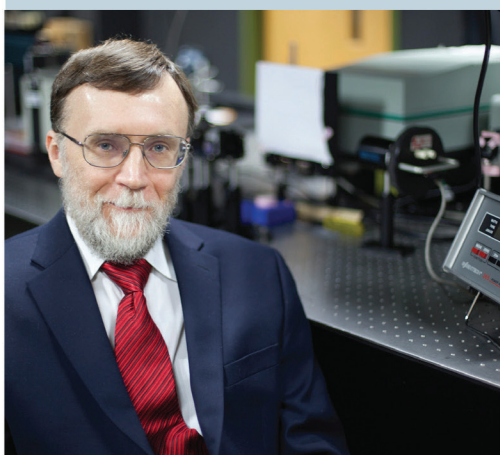
2018 Calendar of Events

Visit www.nsu.edu for the full calendar.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR MOMENT



IN BRIEF



DR. MIKHAIL NOGINOV,

professor of physics and in the Center for Materials Research, recently co-authored an article with Jacob B. Khurgin at Johns Hopkins University. The article, which is published in the journal *Nature Materials*, is titled "Miniature Lasers: Is Metal a Friend or Foe?" *Nature Materials* is part of Nature Research, a portfolio of journals dedicated to serving the scientific and medical communities and the wider scientifically interested general public.

DR. GEOFFROY DE LAFORCADE,

professor of history, who has conducted extensive research on Cuba, recently made presentations at two universities during January. Dr. de Laforcade presented at Allen University in South Carolina on "The African Spirit of Cuba and South Carolina" on Jan. 11. He was featured as part of the First 2018 Walter Rodney Lecture Series of the Woodruff Library at Atlanta University on Jan. 18. The series was titled, "Groundings with My Others: Art, Memory, and Cultural Marronage in Revolutionary Cuba." In October 2017, de Laforcade also presented at the First International Seminar on Afrodescendants of the Latin American Social Sciences Council in Havana, Cuba.



DR. CAMELLIA MOSES OKPODU,

director of the Defense Intelligence Agency's intelligence community Center for Academic Excellence at Norfolk State University, served as a key advisor to the PBS NewsHour and Patti Parson in the preparation of a proposal to the National Science Foundation. The NSF awarded \$200,000 to Greater Washington Education Telecommunications Association (WETA) for support of the project, "PBS NewsHour Coverage of Post-Harvey Research of Extreme Weather." Dr. Okpodu will serve as an advisor as the NewsHour prepares a series of stories aimed at discussing the roles that state and local governments play in mitigation and disaster recovery from extreme weather events, specifically in the minority community.



Essence magazine has named **Dr. Jediah Isler** (B.S. '03) as one of "STEM's New Guard." Dr. Isler appears in the magazine's February 2018 issue.

WILMER APPOINTED TO BOARD

Before leaving office, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed Joan G. Wilmer '99 to the Norfolk State University Board of Visitors. Wilmer is filling the unexpired term of Dr. Melvin T. Stith, Sr., '68, whom the board named NSU's interim president at its November meeting. Her term expires June 30, 2021.

Wilmer of Hanover, Maryland, is a human resources executive for the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors. She has previously held high-level positions at CBRE Group Inc., Caesars Entertainment, American Red Cross, Toyota and Citigroup.

Until her appointment, Wilmer served as a member of the NSU Foundation Board of Directors since September 2013. She is an honors graduate of both NSU and the University of Texas, where she earned a Bachelor of Social Work, and an MBA, respectively.

