

# THE SPARTAN Connection

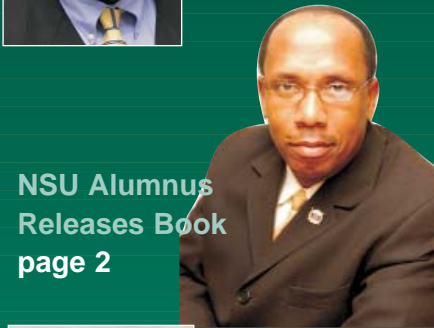
A monthly newsletter for faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Norfolk State University

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## BOARD OF VISITORS NEWS

# NSU Rector Named Virginia's Outstanding Industrialist 2006



Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine and Dr. Walter R.T. Witschey, Science Museum of Virginia Director, have named Jack L. Ezzell, Jr., rector of the Norfolk State University Board of Visitors, as one of the Commonwealth's Outstanding Scientists and Industrialists 2006. Ezzell and scientist honorees were introduced to the General Assembly on March 2 and will receive their awards during a banquet at the Science Museum Tuesday, April 4.

Ezzell, who has served on the NSU Board since 2001, was named Virginia's Outstanding Industrialist 2006 for his work as CEO of Zel Technologies LLC (ZelTech). ZelTech is one of the nation's fastest growing technology firms. Formed in 1988, the company has grown from a small consulting firm into a multi-faceted corporation offering services in technical support, strategic planning, international business development, complex software design and systems integration and engineering. Headquartered in Hampton, Va., ZelTech has responsibilities that range from supporting current military operations around the globe to a leadership role in developing security upgrades for the

Virginia Port Authority. The company has been tapped by the Department of Defense as the primary U.S. subcontractor on a team that will upgrade the air defense system of the United States and Canada by playing a major role in building the Air Force command and control system for the 21st Century. ZelTech has operations in California, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Northern Virginia, Nebraska, Massachusetts and the Republic of Korea. The company describes itself as "providing customers with knowledge, tools and solutions needed for correct and timely decisions and effective actions to help ensure U.S. national security." As rector of the NSU board, Ezzell had a leadership role in

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## DEPARTMENT NEWS

# Mass Communications and Journalism Department Celebrates Its Success Stories

What do Ava Hurdle (WAVY Channel 10); Lisa Godley (WTKR News Channel 3); Leon Moore (WAVY Channel 10); Alveta Ewell (WAVY Channel 10); Derrick Dingle (*Black Enterprise Magazine*); and Regina Mobley (WVEC Channel 13) have in common? All of these television and print news reporters, anchors and editors graduated from Norfolk State University's mass communications and journalism program. The department head beams with pride when she talks about NSU graduates – especially the alumni from mass communication and journalism. "We have alumni in every conceivable area of the media and in other professions such as education, business, and law enforcement," said Dr. Wanda G. Brockington. Brockington spoke to the *Spartan Connection* as the department gears up for its annual *Mass Communications and Journalism Week April 17-21*. Like a proud parent, she has amassed a huge collection of photographs of former students for the "Wall of Fame" in the office.

"Last year we celebrated the department's 30th Anniversary by inviting our alumni to participate in a panel. It was such a big hit that the alumni insisted that we do it annually," said Brockington. This year's celebration will include the panel discussion that features alumni in media, a student panel that will focus on what students need to know as they enter the world of the professional journalist, an awards luncheon to recognize student achievement, a meeting of the advisory board and a motivational career focused panel. Advisory board members include Derrick Dingle, Sheila Harrison who heads up marketing for Nauticus, Monty Ross from the film production company *40 Acres and a Mule*, and Denise Watson Batts from *The Virginian-Pilot*.

"This is my 26th year at NSU and I think the best way



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## DEPARTMENT NEWS

# Virginia21 Announces Success of Campus Safety Legislation

*Bills create Office of Campus Law Enforcement and accountability requirements for colleges*

Last month, Virginia21 celebrated the passage of significant legislation on college campus safety, which was announced as the *Protect Virginia Students Plan*. HB1036/SB560, which was sponsored by Del. Phil Hamilton (R-Newport News) and Sen. Ken Stolle (R-VA Beach), creates the Office of Campus Law Enforcement in the Department of Criminal Justice Services,



Chief Burt

Continued on Page 4

**NSU Rector** *Continued*

the nearly year-long search for the university's new president. He also serves on NSU's Enterprise and Empowerment Foundation (E2F) board. He wholeheartedly believes that the private sector should give back to the community. To this end, he has established an innovative technology laboratory geared toward children called KidTech. KidTech provides free computer access and information technology for children in kindergarten through 5th grade and to senior citizens. More than 3500 individuals have been served since the program's inception. KidTech has also been incorporated as an independent non-profit corporation. The KidTech model has been replicated by the Hampton Roads Partnership providing greater community access to technology and decreasing the digital divide.

A retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, Ezzell is active in several Virginia civic, business, and community organizations including the Hampton Industrial Development Authority, the Hampton Roads Partnership, Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation and the Urban League. Additionally, he served on former Governor Mark Warner's transition team, and is a member of the Commonwealth's Chief Information Officer Advisory Board and serves on the Governor's special commission for minority business utilization.

Ezzell has also received numerous awards including the National Technical Association's prestigious Technical Achievement Award in the small business category, the Commonwealth of Virginia's Small Business Person of the Year, the KPMG Peat Marwick and Hampton Roads High Tech Entrepreneur Award and the Old Dominion University Distinguished Entrepreneurial Award. In 2005, Ezzell received a humanitarian award from the Virginia Region-Peninsula Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice for his dedication and personal commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.

He is a sought after speaker by civic, educational, and professional groups where he is recognized as one of the nation's leaders in addressing the growing information gap among citizens. Ezzell also invests a great amount of personal time and energy mentoring small, minority, and women-owned businesses. He is married to the former Linda Carol Horton and they have two adult children.



Dr. Wanda Brockington shows off the Mass Communications and Journalism Alumni Wall of Fame, which is located in the department's main office.

**Celebrates its Success** *Continued*

to tell our story is talk about our alumni. We have alumni working at HBO, *Lifetime*, *Vibe*, *the Source*, *MTV News*, the *Detroit Free Press* and the *New York Daily* just to mention a few media outlets. When we plan the annual trip to New York all I have to do is call an alumnus and they ask 'what do you need?,' she said. Brockington has sponsored an annual trip to New York to introduce mass communications students to media professionals for more than 20 years. The trip nets the students prestigious interviews, internships, networking opportunities and sometimes even jobs.

Brockington notes that a degree in mass communications often offers graduates an array of diverse careers. "Our degree is versatile and not confined to the usual careers in media. Mass communications alumni are working in the music industry, NASA, American Red Cross, and fire departments. New doors are opening up for our graduates. We've got five alumni working at the Weather Channel in various areas of the media operation," she said.

**"I feel so privileged to be in a position to see these people come in as freshmen and make the transition to professional," Brockington commented.**

Mass Communications and Journalism Week gives the department an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of its graduates, highlight the talents of current students and provide a critical networking opportunity for NSU students in the program. "I feel so privileged to be in a position to see these people come in as freshmen and make the transition to professional," Brockington commented. For more information about Mass Communications and Journalism Week, contact the Department of Mass Communications and Journalism at 823-8330.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**NSU Alumnus Releases Book on Airline Security in a Post-9/11 Society**

Byron L. Cherry, Sr., a 1982 NSU alumnus, has recently published a new book titled *Are We Safer Now? Airline Security in a Post-9/11 Society*. Last month, the book was released by iUniverse, Inc.

Sept. 11, 2001, was a day that most Americans will never forget. *Are We Safer Now? Airline Security in a Post-9/11 Society* offers an interesting look into understanding the factors that influenced the change in passengers' perceptions of how safe they really are when traveling by air.

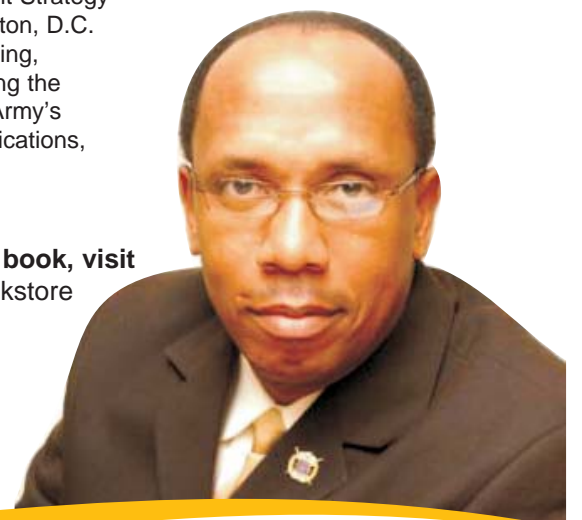
As a doctoral student at Regent University, Cherry researched and studied the airline industry for two years. He interviewed U.S. Armed Forces personnel, Department of Defense civilians, and contract workers in support of the federal government and private sector employees for research to write the book. Their answers to his question about fear of another terrorist attack varied from, "I am more afraid of thunderstorms and microburst than I am of terrorism," to "I fear another attack someday will occur due to human error or a daring attack not unlike 9/11." In the book, Cherry brings to the forefront the major issues that have emerged since 9/11, such as

poor passenger screening methods. He also explains the implications for leaders within the airline industry and the federal government, details the limitations of the study, and makes recommendations for future research.

A native of Norfolk, Cherry currently resides in Northern Virginia with his wife and three children. He is director for the C4/IT Investment Strategy Division of the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C.

He is responsible for developing, coordinating and implementing the investment strategy for the Army's command, control, communications, computers and information technology programs.

**To purchase Cherry's book, visit [www.iuniverse.com/bookstore](http://www.iuniverse.com/bookstore) or call 800-288-4677.**





## Save the Dates

### National Alcohol Screening Day

The NSU Counseling Center will celebrate National Alcohol Screening Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 6. Screenings will be offered in the 2nd floor foyer area across from the NSU Bookstore, which is located in the Mills Godwin Student Union Building.

### Commencement News

- In honor of the Class of 2006 graduates, the Office of Alumni Relations will host the Senior Toast Reception at noon Wednesday, May 3 at Scott-Dozier Dining Hall. Graduates must RSVP no later than Monday, May 1st by calling 823-8135.
- The 2006 Spring Commencement will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 6 at William "Dick" Price Stadium. If inclement weather occurs, the commencement will be held at Joseph G. Echols Memorial Hall.

### Instructors: Don't Cancel That Class Series

The NSU Counseling Center has a program titled "Don't Cancel That Class Series." This is a series of psycho-educational programs designed to support teaching faculty and extend the Center's efforts to reach students. The seminars address topics such as stress management, self-esteem, substance abuse, and developing healthy relationships.

If a course instructor is unable to lecture on a given day, she or he can request that a Counseling Center staff member come to this lecture section and present one of these seminars.

The Counseling Center makes a strong effort to meet all requests for these programs. We ask that course instructors provide the Center with at least two weeks advance notice when requesting this programming.

**For more information about this series, please contact the Counseling Center at 823-8173.**

## NSU and ODU Co-host 2006 Multicultural Film Series

Norfolk State University and Old Dominion University will co-host the 2006 Multicultural Film Series at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center through the month of May. While the "movie call" goes out to NSU and ODU students, staff, faculty, and family members, it is also free and open to the public. During the last Friday of each month, a different movie will be shown at 7 p.m. in Rooms 244 A and B at the VBHEC. Refreshments will be provided.

The movies include: *Monster*, April 28th; and *Osama*, May 26th. The film series is co-sponsored by Old Dominion University's Multicultural Student Services in conjunction with the NSU/ODU Virginia Beach Higher Education Center, which is located at 1881 University Drive. For more information, call (757) 368-4100.

## SPORTS



Under the leadership of Men's Track Coach Kenneth Giles, the Norfolk State University men's track and field team recently captured the second Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference indoor championship in school history at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Maryland. Coach Giles was also named the meet's Most Outstanding Coach on the men's side.

## Faculty Corner



**Dr. Amelia Ross-Hammond**, director of NSU's Service-Learning Program, recently attended the White House National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Washington, D.C. The conference highlighted the important role that corporations and foundations play in funding social service groups. President George W. Bush was

the keynote luncheon speaker for the event. The National Conference served as a "philanthropy summit" and will emphasize the effectiveness of partnerships between private givers and grassroots groups and explore how these innovative relationships can be fostered so that local communities are best served.



**Rogers Brown**, professor of music, was recently a guest on the NPR radio show *With Good Reason*. On the talk show, he provided information about music publishing and music copyrighting. *With Good Reason* is produced by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Higher Education Broadcasting Consortium.



**Dr. Cynthia B. Burwell**, director of internships and assistant professor in the department of health, physical education, and exercise science, was awarded a grant titled "A Multi-faceted Approach Using the Social Norms Marketing Theory to Influence Obesity Prevention in African American College Students." The grant was awarded by

the United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$100,000. The project funding is for two years and part of the award will support NSU's Healthy Spartan Fitness Initiative.



**Craig M. Coombs**, information technology audit manager, was recently notified by the Information Systems Audit and Control Association that he successfully passed the examination and completed all requirements to be recognized as a certified information systems auditor. He joins

more than 44,000 professionals worldwide who have earned the designation since the inception of the certification program.



**Akiko Imai**, NSU admissions counselor for international students, was recently selected as one of the 2005-2006 National Association for Foreign Student Advisors Academy trainees. Sponsored by both the U.S. Departments of State and Education, NAFSA is a joint effort to bridge the gaps between knowledge, professional expertise, and leadership within the international

and exchange student communities through 13 months of multi-faceted training and networking. As a trainee, Imai will represent Norfolk State University at the annual NAFSA Conference in Montreal, Canada in May. NAFSA is a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic members-only organization with more than 9,000 associate members at 3,500 financial and scholastic institutions worldwide.

## RESEARCH

### EVMS-NSU-ODU to Hold Research Expo April 5

Dr. Peter Doherty, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Medicine, will be the keynote speaker at the EVMS-NSU-ODU 2006 Research Expo Wednesday, April 5. Doherty and partner, Rolf Zinkernagel's work laid the foundation for understanding how the immune system recognizes both foreign microorganisms and self-molecules. The event will take place from noon to 7:30 p.m. at the Ted Constant Convocation Center, which is located on the Old Dominion University campus.

This year's theme is *Global Challenges, Local Solutions*. The event will showcase research projects and creative accomplishments of students and faculty at NSU, ODU and EVMS.

The Research Expo also highlights outstanding student and faculty researchers, scientists, program directors, and public policy officials all conducting research to enhance the lives of human beings. Research expo attendees will also have the opportunity to see several exhibits, and demonstrations, participate in panel discussions and talk with researchers about their work. Transportation will be provided for students who want to participate.

For more information on the EVMS-NSU-ODU Research Expo 2006, call the Office of News and Media Relations at 823-8373.



## Virginia Announces Continued

and HB346 (Hamilton) holds universities accountable for improving campus safety and security. Nearly \$400,000 in general funds are provided for the Office of Campus Law Enforcement in both the House and Senate budgets (HB30/SB30) as amended on February 23rd.

This legislation was developed after the completion of a two-year study of campus crime by the Virginia Crime Commission. The first-ever study analyzed thousands of campus crime incidents, and the state of campus law enforcement in Virginia. The legislation now goes to Governor Timothy M. Kaine for his review.

### Under the new legislation, the Office of Campus Law Enforcement will:

- Set staff hiring, training and certification standards for campus police and security departments.
- Generate innovative policy and procedure ideas for campus law enforcement offices that are often strapped for staff and resources.
- Implement centralized data collection and information sharing, so good ideas can be spread and new problems are quickly spotted.
- Provide technical assistance to departments. Experts will help college security and police departments implement these goals cost-effectively.

HB346 requires colleges to meet goals for safety and security as part of the Higher Education Restructuring Act of 2005. These new requirements add student safety and security to the annual higher education performance measures to ensure continued progress towards safer campuses.

The "Norfolk State University Police Department views this legislation as an important step forward for campus safety and campus policing," said NSU Police Chief Carl D. Burt. "If the legislation is signed by the Governor, we should see improved train-

ing, technical support, better funding and help to standardize campus policing throughout the state."

### The Facts About Campus Crime and Policing in Virginia

(Source: Virginia Crime Commission, Study on Campus Safety & Security)

- The most common crime on college campuses is larceny.
- Many campus police and security departments do not have written policy and procedure manuals.
- There are no statewide standards for hiring, training, or victim response.
- Only a handful of campus police departments are accredited by an appropriate accrediting agency. No security departments are accredited.
- Many colleges do not have a centralized database or system in place to track case outcomes, internal sanctioning mechanisms, or student charges in local courts.

Virginia21 is an action-tank involving young people across the Commonwealth in the political process by providing information, directing advocacy, and coordinating political action on a non-partisan issue agenda. Virginia21 is the Commonwealth's and the country's first generational advocate for young voters.

## RADIO STATION

### WVEC Channel 13 News on WNSB 91.1 FM

Check out WNSB 91.1 FM's Dream Team Morning Show each Tuesday and Thursday morning for WVEC Channel 13 News updates. That's right!



Hear the best in rap, R&B, soul and now the best in television news on the university's public broadcast station 91.1 FM. The 60 to 90 second news spots will air at 6:40; 7:40 and 8:40 a.m. A five-day schedule may be added later depending upon review by WNSB and Channel 13. This

new partnership with WVEC Channel 13 enhances WNSB's service to the community.

For more information, contact Ed Turner at 823-8095.

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### Campaign Volunteers Keep Giving

**Surpassing the Goal!** — Campaign volunteers (l-r) Ruby White (Human Resources), Janet Timberlake (Residential Life Housing) and Marlene Green (School of Liberal Arts SOLA-TEC) hold up a banner indicating the amount raised in the 2005-06 Faculty Staff Annual Giving Campaign. The 2005-06 Faculty/Staff Annual Giving Campaign, which was led by Dr. Tommy Bogger, director of the NSU Archives; and Sandra Williamson-Ashe, assistant vice president for student affairs, raised \$157,470.76. The goal was \$150,000.

If you are interested in contributing to the annual fund or need more information, contact LaVerne Moore, annual giving officer, at 823-8038 or via email at lmoore@nsu.edu.



## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### International Consultant on eLearning to Speak April 11

Dr. Shirley Waterhouse, an international expert and consultant on elearning pedagogy and elearning strategic planning, will be the featured speaker at the bi-annual university-wide Technology Informational Meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 11 at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center.

Waterhouse is the president of eLearnGlobe and serves as the director of educational technology at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is the author of six books, the most recent one being *The Power of eLearning: The Essential Guide for Teaching in the Digital Age*.

This meeting is sponsored by the NSU Technology Advisory Group and the Office of Information Technology. Reservations must be made in advance and acceptance to attend is on a first-come, first serve basis. Email Twanya Brown at tdbrown@nsu.edu to reserve your seat.

