

NOVEMBER 2018 | ISSUE 1

THE HOUSING HERALD

**BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS TO ENHANCE
YOUR SPARTAN RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE!**



NEW RESIDENCE HALL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Norfolk State University will welcome a new 740-bed residential facility constructed by a team which includes S.B. Ballard Construction Company, Commonwealth Architects, and Niles Bolton Associates. Ballard Construction will be the design-build contractor.

The four-story residential facility will feature a North and South Hall with a central two-story amenity space, and will include 193,424 square feet and 740 beds for first-year students. The amenity space, which connects the two residential wings, will house offices, conference room, resource production space, fitness room, movement/yoga studio, multipurpose room, group study space, community kitchen, theater, and an open gaming space. The residence hall has been designed to complement Norfolk State's campus and architectural aesthetic.

HRL ALL-STARS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

**PLEASE JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING THE FOLLOWING
SPARTANS FOR DISTINGUISHING THEMSELVES IN OUR
RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES AS "RA OF THE MONTH"
AND "RESIDENT OF THE MONTH."**

"Resident of the Month"

**NASIR DAVIS, BABBETTE SMITH SOUTH
MALCOLM DIGGS-ROOKS, BABBETTE SMITH SOUTH
ADRIAN COOK, SPARTAN SUITES
BERNARD MEYER, CHARLES SMITH HALL
ALETA PLATER, SAMUEL SCOTT HALL
MERCEDES MANGRUM, LEE SMITH HALL
SELENA LAWS, ROSA ALEXANDER HALL**

"RA of the Month"

**JORDAN BAKER, BABBETTE SMITH SOUTH
KYLAH CHARLES, SPARTAN SUITES
RAYMOND STREAT, CHARLES SMITH HALL
SIERRA CLAUD, SAMUEL SCOTT HALL
JASMINE GISSENTANNA, LEE SMITH HALL
SAVAN MATTHEWS, ROSA ALEXANDER HALL**

**OUR RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES ARE ENHANCED BECAUSE OF YOU.
WE SALUTE YOU AND CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS WELL-DESERVED HONOR!
WAY TO GO, SPARTANS!**



NOTE TAKING TIPS!

TAKE NOTE: EFFECTIVE NOTE TAKING TIPS

Even though it's around the 10th week of the semester, it is NEVER too late to learn how to take good notes in your courses. Here are some tips for your consideration.

First thing's first: Be sure to read your assignment before you come to class, which will make it so much easier to follow the professor and take notes in the process.

Next...start each set of notes on a new sheet of paper. Not only does this bring focus to the new topic that is being covered in class, but it allows you to refer to the notes more easily ESPECIALLY if you date each sheet of notes and write a heading or topic at the top of your page.

Step 3: As you listen to your professor, think about what your professor is saying and then write your notes in terms that will allow you to remember the information and/or connect with it easier. This will also assist you when you study your notes in preparation for a test, quiz, or essay.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Often times when professors are giving a lecture, students try to write every word that the professor is saying and they FORGET TO ASK QUESTIONS. Allow yourself the greatest opportunity to fully understanding the material being presented. Asking questions and summarizing your professor's responses to them will assist you in that endeavor.

Tip #5: Decide on which type of note-taking is best for you given the type of material or the course.

Should you write in outline format or create a mind-map? Would numbered paragraphs help you more or should you draw charts and graphs?

Sometimes it is a matter of trial and error to determine which note-taking system will work better for you given the subject matter.

Last, but certainly not least – after the lecture, go through your notes and review them. Try to do so on the same day as the lecture while the material is still fresh in your memory. Reviewing your notes not only helps you remember the material presented during the class session, but it also allows you to add things to make sure you don't forget the material.

"Allow yourself the greatest opportunity to fully understanding the material being presented"



IT WAS A WEEKEND TO BEHOLD!

DATELINE: Early November, 2018.

SPARTAN RAs embark on leadership development opportunities along the Atlantic Seaboard which take one group to the mountains of northcentral Pennsylvania and the other to the southwestern region of Virginia. It was definitely a weekend full of learning, laughter, and the creation of life-long memories.

Eight NSU students from the student organization, Inclusiveness for All (including two Resident Assistants), along with Area Coordinator Brianna Steele (East Campus and Resident Director for Spartan Suites) and Resident Director Anthony Tillman (Midrise Residential Honors College), attended the Mid-Atlantic LGBTQA Conference hosted by Bloomsburg University. The experience spanned November 1-4 and conference organizers were extremely complimentary of our students' participation. It is also noteworthy that NSU was the only HBCU in attendance at the conference.

Resident Assistants Adrian Daggett (Lee Smith Hall) and Flo'Daija Branch (Midrise Residential Honors College) were among the students who attended the conference. Following are their thoughts from that experience.

"The sessions I attended stressed the importance of continuous activism, and put into perspective an issue associated with LGBTQ+ youth often overlooked as mutually exclusive: the homelessness. I learned that 40% of the homeless youth (i.e. minors less than 18 years old) identify within the LGBTQ+ community. To learn and to know that there are people out there, without that support system, on such a massive scale simply because of their sexual or gender identity was very eye-opening to me, both as an HRL staff member, and as an ally and a minority in this country. Overall, the conference was a very educational experience, and I appreciated the opportunity to attend, and to broaden my potential to positively impact the LGBTQ+ community as an ally, through this opportunity." (Adrian Daggett)

"Over the weekend I was fortunate to travel to Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania to attend the Mid-Atlantic LGBTQIA conference. People of the LGBTQIA community just want to bring awareness and gain acceptance from others outside of their community. I learned things that I can incorporate in my community building for my residents in Midrise, that are a part of the LGBTQIA community, such as acknowledging pronouns, understanding the different labels and what they stood for, how to build a safe zone that is inclusive for all, etc." (Flo'Daija Branch)

In addition, Resident Directors Jazmine Forbes (Babbette Smith North) and Arlana Young (Samuel Scott Hall), along with Associate Director Dr. Marcus Harison, chaperoned twenty Spartan RAs as they attended the annual VACUHO Resident Assistant Conference hosted by Averett University. The team's experience began on November 2nd and ended the next day. For years, NSU has had a tradition of attending the conference and leaving a positive impression on conference-goers. Sparta even served as host of the conference in November 2011 and it remains the VACUHO RA Conference with the most attendees! Of the four structured competitive events, NSU won three! These include Best Roll Call Video, Best Spirit Pin, and Most Spirited School (Large Delegation).

"Attending the VACUHO Conference was an experience of a lifetime. Getting a chance to fellowship and network with other resident assistants from all over Virginia was such a fun time! Not only did we have fun chanting and showing our school spirit, I also enjoyed the different leadership sessions we sat in on. Knowing that I'm not the only student leader that gets overwhelmed and flustered from time to time was a comforting feeling. I truly do thank my Housing and Residence Life Department for giving me the opportunity to go!" (Indigo Pascall)

"My experience this weekend at the 2018 VACUHO RA Conference was honestly incredible. Besides the fact that it was beyond fun and good laughs, it was a great learning experience. From the sessions that we had to attend to the fun little competitions that we participated in throughout the day I found myself continuously learning something. Sitting through the sessions I got a lot of different insight from other Resident Assistants, and their compensation packages, or what they have to do with their residents versus what we do here at Norfolk State University. This was a great experience, and I hope to experience it next year as well as feeling that every RA should get to go to VACUHO at least once." (Shadai Collier-Jones)

If you would like to know more about the experiences of our Resident Assistants at either of these conferences, please feel free to ask them. There is no doubt they would be more than willing to share their stories with you.

Also – if you are interested in learning more about the Resident Assistant positions and/or applying for it, be on the lookout for an email from our office next week which will provide more details about our selection process, including qualifications, deadlines for consideration for potential spring 2019 openings, and other pertinent information.

VACUHO RA CONFERENCE RECAP



Are You Ready For Thanksgiving?

2018 THANKSGIVING BREAK SCHEDULE

Schedule

The residence halls will close at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 21st. Residents will need to check-out by this time. The halls will re-open on Sunday, November 25th at 10:00 am.

Standard Holiday Check-Out

This option provides you with the opportunity to be present during your check-out inspection. You must first schedule your check-out time with your RA. Once you are ready to leave for the Thanksgiving Break, you and a Housing & Residence Life staff member inspect the room together.

Checking Into Your Residence Hall

Upon your arrival to campus, please go directly to your assigned residence hall.

We hope that you will enjoy your break! Please travel safely.



**NORFOLK STATE
UNIVERSITY**

OFFICE of HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

Checklist for Vacating your Room for Thanksgiving Break

- ☒ Set up a check-out time in advance with your RA; they will have schedules posted. If your RA is not available at the check-out time you need, please schedule a time as close as possible to your departure time.
- ☒ Remove or secure all valuables.
- ☒ Sweep the floor. Do not sweep trash or place trash bags into hallways, breezeways, etc.
- ☒ Remove trash from room and common areas and take it to the dumpster and/or recycle bins. Failure to remove trash will result in a \$25 fine for the student.
- ☒ Dispose of any perishable items.
- ☒ Take any items that you may need during the break.
- ☒ If all roommates are leaving for the break, close and lock all windows, turn off lights, close and lock door to room and/or suite/apartment.
- ☒ Follow through with your check-out option. *The fine for an improper check-out is \$50.00.*

Questions?

Contact the Office of Housing & Residence Life at (757) 823-8407 or e-mail housing@nsu.edu.

Winter Closing Information

2018 Winter Break Check-Out Schedule

WHEN:

Student housing contracts for all University residential areas (except Spartan Suites) officially end 24 hours after your last scheduled final examination. Students are expected to depart within **24 hours after your last exam** or by **Friday, December 7th at 7:00pm**.

Graduating students, non-graduating students who are participating in the Fall 2018 Commencement Ceremony, and those who are unable to depart by Friday, December 7th may remain until **Saturday, December 8th at 3:00pm**.

You must properly administratively check out at the end of each academic semester. Please review the information with your Hall Director, Graduate Assistant and/or your Resident Assistant (RA) to avoid any additional charges such as improper or late check-out.

STANDARD CHECK-OUT:

This option provides you with the opportunity to be present during your check-out inspection. You must first schedule your check-out time with your RA. Once you are ready to check out, you and a Housing & Residence Life staff member inspect the room together.

Based on the information listed on the Room Condition Report and subsequent room inspections for inventory purposes, they may determine that there are chargeable items that were not reviewed, noticed or documented by Housing & Residence Life staff members. Any discussion related to observable charges/damages will be noted and communicated at checkout.

You will be responsible for any additional fees incurred due to missing or broken items. ALL keys must be returned to the front desk or to the person checking you out. Failure to return your key will result in a \$75.00 charge to cover replacement key costs.



TIPS FOR STRESS-FREE CHECK-OUT

Added to the usual escalation of stress that comes with academic demands at the end of any academic year (or semester if you will NOT be returning), MOVING STRESS only complicates matters. One way of minimizing the non-academic stress is to do as much as you can (as early as possible) to pack belongings that you will not need for the remaining few weeks of school.

- ☑ Begin to accumulate good packing boxes early.
- ☑ Pack anything you know you won't need between now and the end of the semester.
- ☑ If you are shipping articles home, do so in November, except for the most necessary items.
- ☑ Get rid of clutter! The dumpsters will fill faster at the end of the semester. RECYCLE when possible.
- ☑ Think about next year and the things you may not need. Consider selling or donating any decorations, extra supplies, etc. that you may no longer need. Make early arrangements for pick up.



Winter Closing Information Cont.

CHECK OUT PROCEDURES:

Follow these procedures prior to check-out:

- ☑ Clean your room/suite. The room/suite should be cleaned upon departure. No trash should be left in the room/suite upon checkout. If you are NOT returning, please remove all of your belongings.
- ☑ Secure and lock valuable items in your wardrobe for belongings you want to leave (ex. jewelry, laptop, etc...) if you plan to return to your residence hall in the spring 2019 semester.
- ☑ Unplug and clean-out your personal mini-refrigerator.
- ☑ Dispose of all trash in the dumpster outside of the halls.
- ☑ Close and lock windows. Turn off lights and lock doors.
- ☑ **TURN IN YOUR KEY.**

Failure to complete any of the check-out procedures may result in a fine.

- ❖ \$100.00 for not cleaning your side of the room/suite.
- ❖ \$50.00 for improper checkout.
- ❖ \$75.00 for not returning the key(s).

A charge will be made to each room occupant, or charge per suite if significant cleaning is necessary at the end of the academic semester.

YOU WILL BE CHARGED ACCORDINGLY FOR ANY BROKEN FURNITURE AND FOR ANY MISSING ITEMS!

EXPRESS CHECK-OUT:

This option provides flexibility and saves time during the busy end of the semester. It allows you to check out at any time, day or night, within 24 hours of your last exam. If you elect to do an Express Check-Out, please remember:

- 1) Your Hall Director, GA, RA or Residence Life staff member will inspect your room after your departure.
- 2) The Room Condition Report will be referred to during the staff's inspection, comparing the condition of the room upon your arrival to its condition at the time the staff member is inspecting at the end of the year.
- 3) You will be responsible for any missing items of furniture, etc., damages over and above normal wear and tear, or necessary cleaning. If you have any concerns about damage responsibilities, it is recommended that you choose the Standard Check-Out option.

***We hope that you enjoy your break!
Please travel safely.***

MAIL FORWARDING:

If you want to receive your mail, you must leave a forwarding address with the University Mail Room before leaving for the semester.



BILLING FOR DAMAGES:

Damage charges will be added to your account in mid-December.

The fees must be paid immediately. An unpaid bill will keep you from receiving transcripts, getting a room assignment for the next semester, or prevent you from registering.).

To minimize fines, please be sure that any damages, and the people responsible for damages, are identified before the end of the year.



HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact the office of Housing & Residence Life at 757-823-8407 or e-mail housing@nsu.edu.

We are available from Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.



"I Want For My Sister, What I Want For Myself"

Upcoming Events

- General Body Meetings - Every Wednesday 6:30 P.M.
- Winter Clothes Drive - Nov. 1, 2018- Nov. 19, 2018.
- "The Ideal Spartan Woman" - Charm School Program - Ongoing

Contact

Women's Initiative
Coordinator

Shareen Nicholson
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NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

SOCIETY OF SPARTAN SISTERS

A woman of NSU will excel academically, socially, and culturally. She will follow a path of excellence where she is mentored and supported by faculty, staff, alumnae, and her fellow Spartan sisters. She will graduate with leadership abilities that will distinguish her in future graduate and professional endeavors.



The Women's Education Initiative aims to assist in the development of female identified students through engagement in workshops and activities that address academics, social and personal development, leadership, and building community. We seek to encourage authentic educational experiences that assists the University's efforts to increase student success and retention.

BE SURE TO KEEP UP WITH US VIA INSTAGRAM
@NSUWOMENSINITIATIVE