

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

# BEHOLD

SPRING 2017

Kathleen Magee (MSW '86)  
Operation Smile Co-founder



# Contents

2 From the Desk of the  
Vice President for  
University Advancement

4 **UniversityNews**  
A Chance To Make History

7 Computer Science  
Program Founder Retires

14 **FacultyNews**

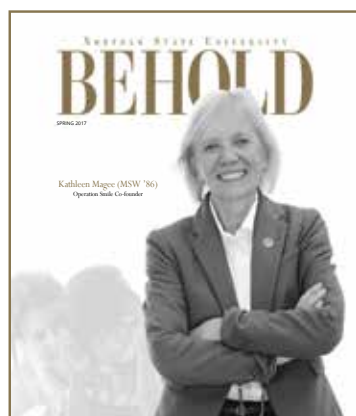
16 **BEHOLD PROFILE**  
Norfolk State Alumna, Kathleen Magee,  
Finds Key To Happiness

20 From Tragedy to Triumph

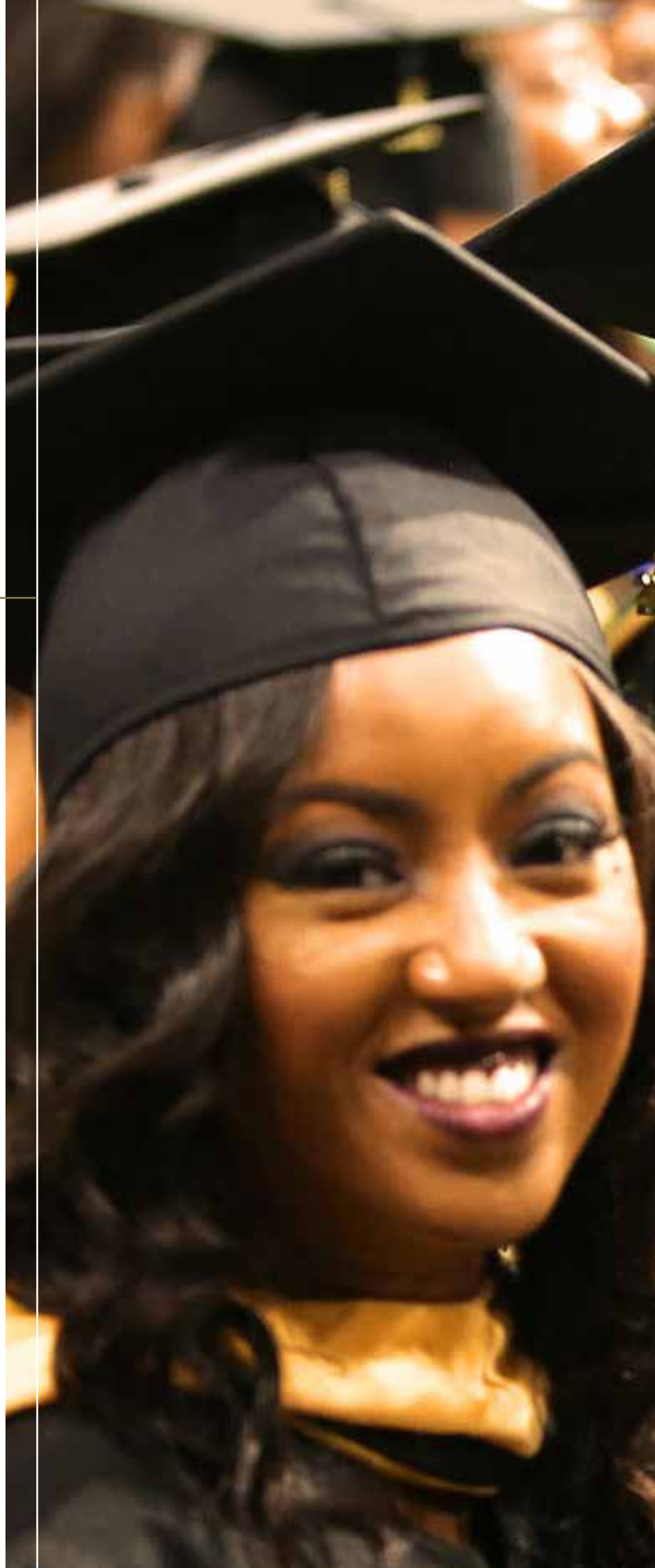
22 Hate Won't Win

24 **AlumniNews**

31 **ATHLETIC NEWS**  
Spartan Football Team Looks to  
Make Noise in 2017



Kathleen Magee  
Photo by Keith Cephus







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A group of NSU students are all smiles at the University's 100th Commencement Ceremony.

Photo By: Alvin Swilley

# From the Desk of the Vice President for University Advancement

## Greetings, Spartan Family and Friends:

As you read the Spring 2017 BEHOLD, I hope everyone is in good health and spirits. Norfolk State University recently wrapped up an outstanding 2016-2017 academic year under the leadership of President and CEO Eddie N. Moore Jr. Our University continues to grow and thrive, and we're educating the next generation of Spartan scholars and leaders.

On May 6, NSU held its 100th Commencement Ceremony at the Norfolk Scope. Nearly 600 students received their bachelor's, master's and/or doctoral degrees. As I watched students walk across the stage, the excitement on their faces was evident as they achieved this important milestone in their lives.

This edition of BEHOLD features stories about how Norfolk State University alumni, students and faculty are serving their communities. These individuals are making an impact in their respective communities in Hampton Roads, across the nation, and internationally. Members of the NSU community have made significant contributions in many areas to include education, public safety, government, social work and philanthropy.

Our cover story features Kathleen Magee, (Page 16) co-founder and president of Operation Smile, an international medical charity in Virginia Beach. The organization provides hundreds of thousands of free surgeries for children overseas affected by cleft lip and other facial deformities. Magee, who received her master's degree in social work from NSU, has helped to cultivate a coalition of international volunteers who value commitment, leadership and giving back.

Norfolk State has also produced a long history of graduates who now serve the community by working in public safety and education. Earlier this year, Alvie Culanding, a 1996 alumnus, became the first Filipino-American Captain at the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office –Virginia's largest city. BEHOLD (Page 10) follows Culanding around Norfolk State as he visits the campus for the first time in nearly 10 years. The magazine features an article (Page 12) highlighting our highly-effective teachers and educational administrators who touch the lives of their students every day.

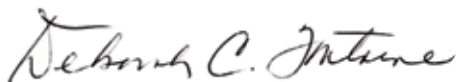
During the spring semester, Norfolk State University and the U.S. Coast Guard established a partnership to increase diversity within the military branch. As partners, we will both promote the Coast Guard's College Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) program to our students to help enhance the demographic profile of the Coast Guard's officer corps.

This is an exciting edition of BEHOLD. We hope you enjoy it.

As I close, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to everyone who invested in the 2016 I AM NSU Campaign. Because of your generosity, the University raised more than \$3 million in cash and pledges, from more than 3,100 donors. I'm especially proud of our Alumni who contributed more than \$1 million to support students and the University for the third straight year. Your continued financial support makes it possible to extend Norfolk State's proud educational legacy well into the future.

If you have not made an investment in NSU's future in 2017, please make a gift today. All gifts, of any size, make an impact and will help transform the lives of our students in profound and lasting ways. *To make a gift, visit [www.nsu.edu/giving](http://www.nsu.edu/giving) or use the envelope enclosed in this publication.*

**Best wishes and BEHOLD...the Green and Gold.**



**Deborah C. Fontaine**



# NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY BEHOLD

SPRING 2017

A MAGAZINE WITH GLOBAL REACH

The word "Behold" is often used by those who love Norfolk State. It sums up the excellence of the University and pride felt for it. That is why when it came to naming the magazine featuring the accomplishments and progress taking place at Norfolk State "Behold," easily came to mind.

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**Eddie N. Moore Jr.**  
President and CEO

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**N**orfolk State University entered a formal partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard this spring where University leaders and the military branch will work to increase diversity and promote the College Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) program to students.

In March, NSU President and CEO Eddie N. Moore Jr. and Coast Guard Vice Adm. Karl Shultz signed a memorandum of agreement at the L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center in front of administrators, faculty and a contingency of Coast Guard representatives, who toured the University and met with students.

The two entities will promote the benefits of the CSPI, a program established in 1989 to improve the diversity of its officer corps, to current and prospective students. The scholarship program, which would become effective during an eligible student's junior and senior years, pays for the final two years of their education. Students accepted into the program enlist in the Coast Guard and would be required to fulfill duty obligations. The students would also receive a monthly stipend and be eligible for program benefits.

Moore said he is pleased about the potential for the program on Norfolk State's campus.

"This is an agreement to establish the equivalent, in my mind, to an ROTC program with the Coast Guard on campus," Moore said. "Not only am I the president, I'm a veteran. I am totally committed to the national defense of this nation."

Schultz said about 70 students participate in the CSPI program nationwide, including Lloyd Banks, a 2016 NSU graduate, who was in Officer Candidate School in New London, Connecticut, at the time this article was printed. Schultz said diversity is very important to the military branch.

"We need to have the best and brightest from all walks of society," the vice admiral said. "We've got to represent the workforce of America. There are terrific minds here at Norfolk State and we've got some real ties with the STEM program here."

While the contingent of representatives was on campus, they visited several academic facilities and toured the NSU Clean Room laboratory inside the Marie V. McDemmond Center for Applied Research. They also participated in a special lecture at the NSU Student Center where several officers talked about leadership to a group of more than 125 students.

"The intelligence programs, the cyber programs, those are the kind of skills we need in the United States Coast Guard and we want to draw the best talent in America to be amongst our ranks," Shultz added.

NSU's Wayne Ivey, director of military services and



By STAN DONALDSON '04

# Norfolk State Establishes Partnership with U.S. Coast Guard

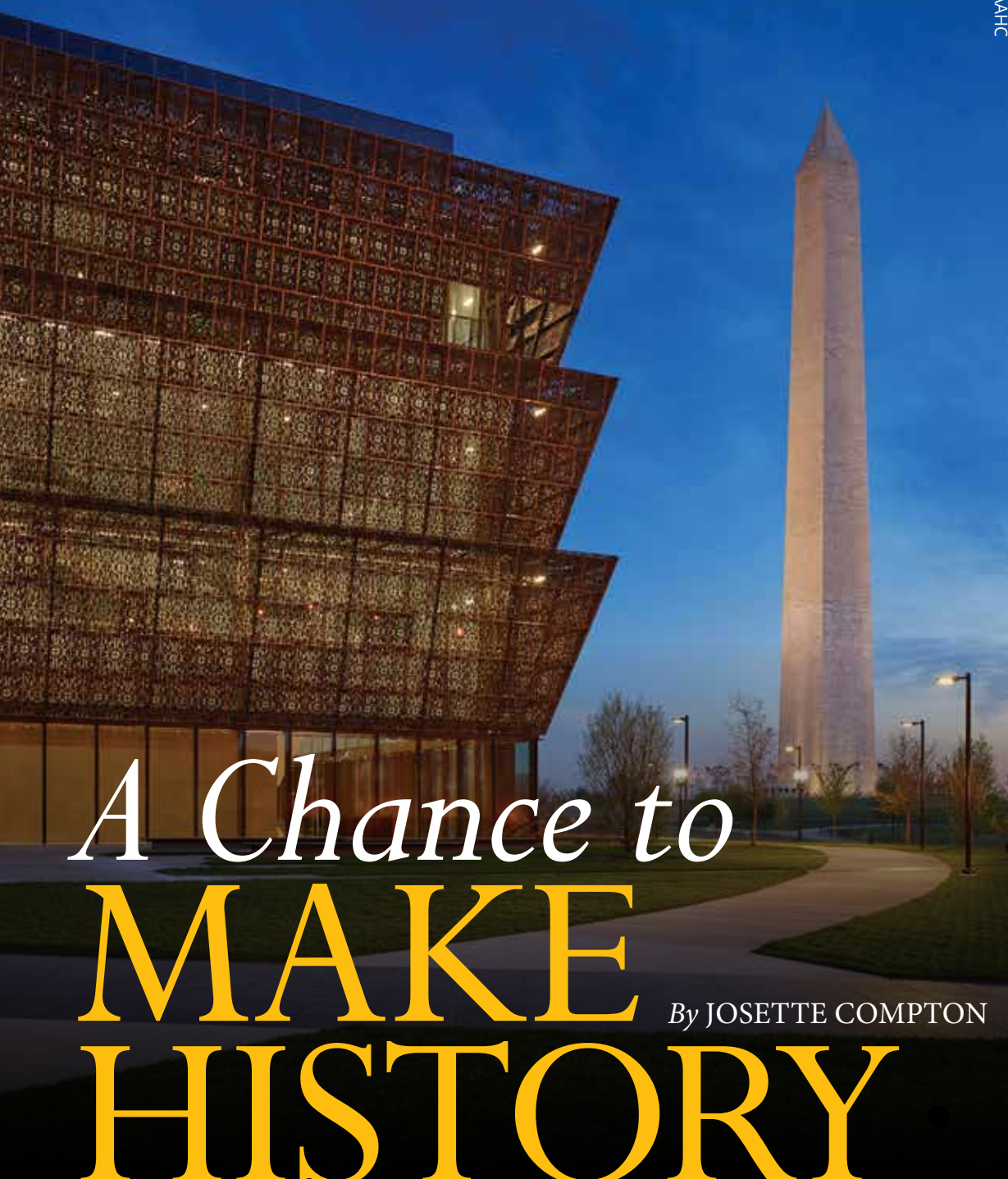
veteran's affairs, said Norfolk State already has established Army and Navy ROTC programs on campus. He said he is very thrilled about the addition of the Coast Guard and that interested students should apply for the scholarship.

"This is a good program because it helps pay for school and it offers selected students a chance to gain some real-life work experience in the Coast Guard," Ivey said. "They learn not only technical skills, but leadership skills they will need as they advance in their careers."

Though the Coast Guard emphasized STEM programs during its visit, President Moore said the CSPI program is available to all majors across campus. He said going forward, University leaders will incorporate STEM curriculum into all of its arts programs so that students will be prepared for the workforce of the 21st century and beyond. **B**

For more information about the program, contact the NSU Office of Military Services and Veterans Affairs at 757-823-2586.





# A Chance to MAKE HISTORY

By JOSETTE COMPTON

*Films by Two Norfolk Alumnae  
Featured in National Museum of  
African American History and Culture*

In 2003, when President George W. Bush signed into law the creation of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, Alexis Aggrey was a sophomore at Norfolk State University, studying broadcast journalism.

Back then, the thought of "making" history was unfathomable. In fact, Aggrey's mind was set on landing internships.

"Class was cool," Aggrey said, "but I was thinking, when are we going to get these checks?"

Aggrey talks with a rasp that is, more times than not, offset by laughter. She has a comedic way of sharing her journey from an ambitious student at Norfolk State to an award-winning filmmaker who—along with director Jacquie Jones—snagged a 2013 Peabody award for the documentary series, "180 Days: A Year Inside an American High School."

Of course, it was Aggrey's passion that caught the attention of NSU alumna and TV One Producer Traci Drummond in 2004, when they met at MCJR Week—the annual media conference hosted by NSU's Department of Mass Communications and Journalism.

"I remember a young lady who asked a lot of questions," Drummond said. "It was Alexis, and after the panel was over she wanted to talk more...and needless to say, that girl tore me up."

But it was not until 2015 when Drummond, who was hired as supervising producer at the Smithsonian Channel, called Aggrey and asked if she would join the NMAAHC film project.

"It was the project to end all projects," Aggrey said. "It was serendipitous. My career has been steps that fit with the next step, and so I thought, if this is that last thing that I do, I will be fine."

Drummond managed 130 videos now installed in the Museum, while Aggrey produced 32 films across four galleries: "Cultural Expressions," "Power of Place," "Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: The Era of Segregation, 1879-1968," and "A Changing America: 1968 and Beyond."

For three years, the Smithsonian Channel managed a creative team in shooting original footage, and mixing archival videos, interviews, audio, and personal accounts from various periods of African-American history. The technical side of the project required more nuanced skills than basic film editing. So Drummond needed some of the best talent that D.C. offered.

"It was important to get people who knew how to do museum stories," she said.

Not only did filmmakers need to know technicalities such as how to properly fit resolution to 40-inch screens, but also they had to ensure that the curator's vision and tone were reflective in the look and feel of the films.

"It was probably one of the most special things I've ever done," Drummond said. "The project was well beyond us. We were telling stories that we don't hear in our history books."

One of the most indelible films that Aggrey produced was "Tulsa Riot & Recovery," on the Tulsa,





The Cultural Expressions Exhibit, located on the fourth floor, displays numerous videos produced by Drummond & Aggrey.

Photo By: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC



**TRACI DRUMMOND**

Oklahoma, race riots of 1921. It is a “tone poem,” or silent film of archival footage that shows the burning of a wealthy African-American community once known as Black Wall Street.

“What’s interesting about the galleries is the overlap,” Aggrey said. “There’s this circular thing that is happening in history that says we’ve been here before.”

Visitors may find similarities between the 2012 shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin and Emmett Till, who in 1955, was murdered in Money, Mississippi, at age 14, for allegedly flirting with a white woman.



**ALEXIS AGGREY**

Although some exhibits depict a painful past, others showcase a triumphant future, which continues to demonstrate a resilient African-American community.

“Where we ended up with Obama... was amazing,” Drummond said. “I think that is part of the reason I love NSU. Those professors made it their mission to be there for us and to teach us that it was a privilege to be at that school, and to take advantage of every opportunity before us... It was not about victimizing yourself, but becoming self-reliant.”

Breaking into the TV and film industry was no small feat for Drummond or Aggrey. Both hustled to garner

internships and build strong networks by keeping close ties with alumni who were successful and aware of new opportunities.

“You have to love it,” Aggrey said. She recalls taking entry-level jobs—some of which did not pay—getting coffee, picking-up cigarette butts, and “being nice to celebrities when they pretend they don’t see you.”

But through it all, Aggrey and Drummond attribute their perseverance and business savvy to two recently retired Norfolk State professors: Drs. Paula Briggs and Stanley Tickton.

“People feared Dr. Tickton,” Aggrey said. “But for those of us working in documentary production,” Drummond said, “he taught us about securing copyrights, and quoting things properly... and the funny thing is that once you walked out of his room, you loved him for what you learned.”

As the newest attraction on the National Mall, the Museum, which sits on five-acres, follows a chronological order, beginning with the trans-Atlantic slave trade on the lower level, and ending with “Community and Culture,” a contemporary look at African-Americans, at the upper level, where visitors can view an array of American monuments and memorials.

What visitors may not know is that many of the short films featured in the Museum’s permanent collection were produced by Aggrey and Drummond, who have helped shape a visual history for patrons who visit the museum. “My takeaway from this experience,” Drummond said, “is that it offered me an opportunity to pay homage to those women who wanted to do what I do, but were not able to do it. I now understand that somebody sacrificed their life for me to be in a position to tell our story.” **B**





Photo By: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

The Contemplative Court features a waterfall fountain where people can sit and reflect.

# MUSEUM TREK EVOKES A VARIETY OF EMOTIONS

By SHARON RIDDICK HOGGARD (M.A. '04)

It's been in the works since 1916 when African-American Civil War veterans sought to create a memorial for Blacks' contributions during the war. The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) is the Smithsonian's 19th addition to the National Mall. It is designed to convey the history and culture of a people once enslaved. As such, many of the exhibits are dark and conjure up extremely difficult periods in our country's history. The NMAAHC was established in 2003 by an Act of Congress, and is the only national museum exclusively devoted to the documentation of African-American life, art, history and culture.

"The opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture was a 13-year journey to foster a broader understanding of the black experience in a national and international context," said Lonnie Branch, the museum's founding director in a news release in 2016.

Steven Opfer, an instructor in Norfolk State University's mass communications and journalism department, agrees and believes the museum will influence race relations. "Knowing more about someone often brings you closer to them. I see the museum as a great opportunity to heal racial divides by increasing understanding and empathy between people."

The museum's exterior is unique. Its façade weighs 230 tons and was designed to resemble crowns used in Yoruba art. The metallic color pays homage to the ironwork crafted by men and women enslaved in Louisiana and South Carolina. More than 3,500 bronze-colored cast iron panels are draped from the top of the building—not stacked on top of each other.

Curators deliberately located certain exhibits on the top, airy floors; and other artifacts are staged on the lower floors entered via long and dark paths. This strategy was deliberate, as the curators and designers wanted to tell the African-American story chronologically versus thematically. Patrons enter at ground level into a spacious lobby containing a huge donor wall, the Walmart Welcome Center and a gift shop. The donor wall proudly displays the contributions of Oprah Winfrey, Kobe Bryant, Bill Gates and gifts of the President of the United States and its citizens.

Nearly 40,000 pieces of art, music, photography, civil rights memorabilia, slave-related items and other objects depicting the culture and history of blacks in the U.S. are housed in the museum. On the second floor, the art and culture exhibit, one of the first exhibits you'll notice, is an interactive one that explains the history of stepping in Greek-lettered college fraternities and sororities. The exhibit allows patrons to hear the history, but also to learn how to step. The automated and interactive docent explains how stepping began and then tells the patron, step-by-step, how to make the moves, sounds and general technique.

Directly behind this exhibit, the family art room contains poignant photographs of black family life including courtship and marriage from the 1800s through the 1970s. It paints a stark contrast between black families then and today. "Museums are a wonderful way to capture and preserve the human experience. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is one such example focusing on African-Americans. Museums make you laugh, sigh and cry! They also make my feet hurt!" joked Dr. Elsie M. Barnes, professor of political science at Norfolk State University. Trekking through the NMAAHC's 400,000 square feet is like a marathon run/walk. The museum is divided into 10 major galleries. Realistically, it takes more than one visit to see the entire exhibit.

James Baldwin, American novelist and essayist, once stated, "American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it." Baldwin was absolutely correct. In the bowels of the NMAAHC, the dark and terrible past of African-Americans is on exhibit.

One such item, one that museum officials and curators debated, is the coffin of Emmett Till. Till was 14 years old when he was dragged out of bed, savagely beaten, shot and hung because he supposedly committed some social infraction while visiting a relative in Money, Mississippi in 1955.

Reflecting on Till's coffin as part of the museum's artifacts, Professor Carol Pretlow from NSU's political science department said, "It reminds me of the progress made in our legal system. It also reminds me of the contemporary embodiments of Emmett Till specifically, Eric Garner, etc."

Also housed in this tomb-like space are artifacts from the trans-Atlantic slave trade including shackles, a slave auction block, a leather whip often used on slave ships, a slave cabin and much more. "If you don't know your past, you are doomed to repeat it," Pretlow said.

"The museum gives us an opportunity to celebrate our contributions while directing us to the future through the pathway of honor, celebration, commitment and contribution." **B**

photos courtesy of COLLECTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Boombox carried by Radio Raheem in the film "Do the Right Thing," 1989



Photograph of women and children at voter registration motorcade, September 8, 1956



Boxing headgear worn by Muhammad Ali, 1973

Red Cadillac Eldorado owned by Chuck Berry, 1973





# FOUNDER of NSU Computer Science Program RETIRES

By SHARON RIDDICK HOGGARD (M.A. '04)



The NSU Scott/Dozier Dining Hall main ballroom was filled with about 300 current faculty members, retirees, staff and a few students. They crowded around the woman in a pink suit whose voice often cracked with unshed tears. Dr. Sandra J. DeLoatch, referred to as the mother of the computer science department, retired in February. She touched the lives of countless students, but also a host of faculty, staff and administrators. DeLoatch has been an innovator, collaborator, champion and distinguished leader.

“It’s been a glorious journey, and I trust that I have left NSU in a better place,” DeLoatch shared with those gathered.

DeLoatch served NSU for 42 years and eight months, mainly in the sciences and technology area, teaching and later in several administrative capacities. She served the University as an educator, professor, founding chair of the computer science department, dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs and as acting president. Among her greatest accomplishments she said was the creation of the computer science and cybersecurity programs.

“These programs did not exist when I arrived at NSU,” DeLoatch said.

She began her tenure at NSU in 1972 as an instructor of mathematics. Dr. Dimitri Kusnezov, chief scientist with the Department of Energy, told DeLoatch in a letter, “We took some bold steps together to set up something new, impactful and something lasting that could not have happened without your leadership and vision.” Kusnezov was referring to her involvement in the development and launch of a cybersecurity consortium in which NSU served as the lead institution. DeLoatch was responsible for bringing more than \$50 million in awards and research grants to the University—not including the many grants she assisted others in acquiring.

“She created a certain culture at Norfolk State,” said retired mathematics department chair Dr. Phillip McNeil. “That culture demanded that we put students first and we obtained extraordinary results from students.”

Dr. George Harrison, retired chair of the computer science department, said DeLoatch was the most intelligent person he had ever met in his life. “Her ability to think out of the box . . . to be creative . . . that’s what really helped the students.” Harrison talked about her ability to withstand and overcome adversity and to adjust to different positions. “She helped us get our first accreditation,” he said.

DeLoatch loves Norfolk State. Because of that love, she has been one of the University’s most charitable donors having been inducted into the Lyman Beecher Brooks Society in March 2015 for giving more than \$400,000 to the institution.

Throughout her tenure, she made extraordinary contributions to the science, engineering and technology fields. Through her efforts, NSU became very well-known for STEM outreach initiatives. “We used our outreach program to develop our STEM pipeline.” She championed many programs, both on and off campus that have uplifted and encouraged women, girls and minorities to enter the STEM fields. Among her many “firsts” during her career include serving as the principal investigator for one of two research contracts ever awarded to an HBCU by the National Security Agency.

“I have mixed emotions about retirement,” DeLoatch said. “The work has been challenging, but for the most part extremely rewarding.” Reflecting on her legacy, she hopes the advances made in STEM are remembered, then added, “I also hope that I am remembered as a person who worked hard for NSU and provided great support to colleagues. It is difficult to think of not being here and interacting with my colleagues. I’ll rest for a while and then move on to some other initiatives.” **B**





NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

*Celebrates*  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

Norfolk State University continued its tradition of celebrating Black History Month in 2017 by hosting special guest lectures, panel discussions, art exhibits and cultural events to honor the contributions African-Americans have made in the United States.

Dr. Khadijah Miller, chair of the NSU History and Interdisciplinary Studies Department, said Norfolk State has a long-standing tradition of providing high-quality, educational programming during Black History Month, not only for students, but also for the overall Hampton Roads community. Miller also serves as the chair of the NSU Black History Month Committee.

“Black History Month is sadly still a necessary pause in our year to reflect, remember and applaud our contributions to society; there would be no America without Black Americans,” Miller said.

The month-long observance kicked off with an art exhibit by artists Stephanie Kiah and Ernest Lowery. Other events included African dance with live drumming, HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and Black History Month Shorts, with each event designed to showcase African-American contributions to society.

Some of the special guest lectures included visits from Dr. Christine Darden, a former NASA scientist who was featured in the book, “Hidden Figures,” and Dr. Umar Johnson, a scholar who regularly appears on national television and radio. The award-winning NSU Theatre Company also performed the theatrical production of “Ruined,” in addition to other campus events such as poetry slams and film screenings.

The events were sponsored by various members of the campus community including the Robert C. Nussbaum NSU Honors College, Office of Student Activities and Housing and Residence Life.

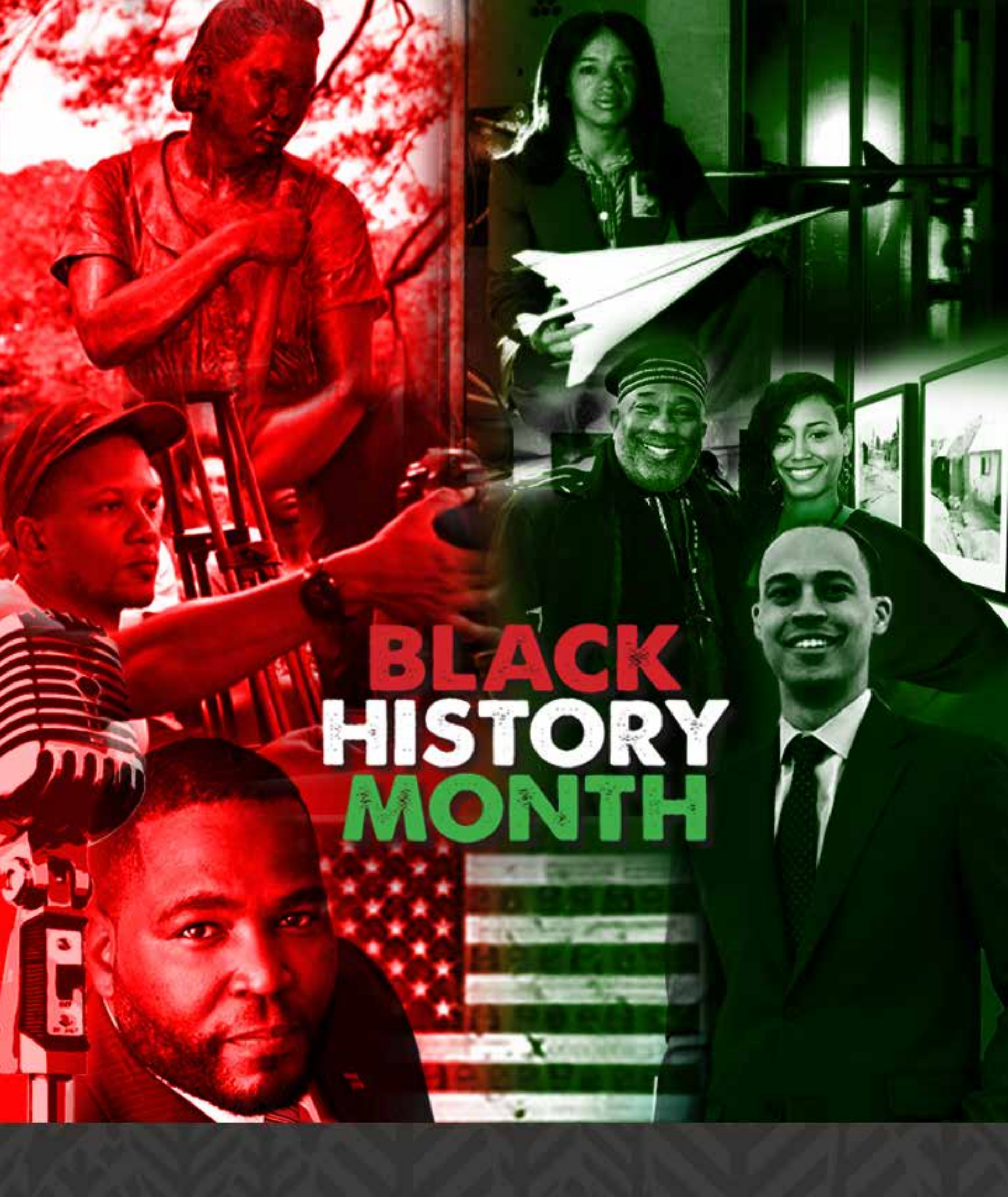
*Information compiled by NSU Communications and Marketing Staff and Intern Marisa Grey* **B**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED ON HBCUS**

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order on historically black colleges and universities. Under the order, Trump moved the Initiative on HBCUs from the Department of Education to the Executive Office of the President, a move that has been touted as a way to increase the capacity of HBCUs through more visibility. It directs the initiative to increase the private sector role in strengthening HBCUs and requires federal agencies to develop and carry out plans to assist the higher education institutions. Trump signed the order in the presence of more than 80 HBCU presidents, who also had meetings with education officials and congressional members.







**BLACK**  
**HISTORY**  
**MONTH**



# NSU Graduate MAKES HISTORY IN VIRGINIA BEACH

## *by Becoming Sheriff's Captain* By STAN DONALDSON '04



**A**lvie Culanding wasn't quite sure how his life would turn out when he arrived at Norfolk State University in 1987, but he knew an education would help further his prospects.

The Virginia Beach native knew he had a desire to work and help others, but he didn't know what major would fit his interests best. At the time, he

thought of college as "something to do" and worked as a baggage handler and fueled aircraft at the Norfolk International Airport. But Culanding credits his time at Norfolk State for helping to lead him to a now 20-year career in law enforcement as a member of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office.

Culanding said he discovered an interest in the mental health field while working as an intern at the former Norfolk Community Hospital near campus. The psychology major recently made history in Virginia Beach—the Commonwealth's largest city—by becoming the VBSO's first Filipino-American Sheriff's Captain. He currently is assigned to the Court Security Division and oversees courthouse operations, transportation of inmates and serving of civil paperwork.

The 48-year-old, who initially worked as a mental health technician, said his time at Norfolk State helped guide him toward his career in public safety.

"NSU is where the seed was planted," Culanding said. "When I worked my internship at the hospital, I remember seeing the staff work with mental health clients in a very patient and nurturing way.

"Sometimes, the clients were brought in by sheriff's deputies and I watched how they interacted with them as well. That is when something clicked for me. I knew I wanted to be in law enforcement and it was a career where I could help others."

Culanding has always been very proud of his Filipino heritage. His father moved to the United States after joining the U.S. Navy in the Philippines. His mother, a nurse, worked at the Norfolk General and Norfolk Community hospitals. He says he learned about NSU because of her work in the city.

"There weren't many people, if any, who looked like me when I was a student at NSU," Culanding said. "But the students and faculty always embraced me and made me feel a part of the Spartan family. I've always appreciated that."

Culanding said one of his mentors, who helped him finish his degree, was Dr. Delanyard Robinson, former chair of the NSU Psychology Department. He said Dr. Robinson "made learning very enjoyable and had a way of connecting with students."

When he finished his degree in 2006, Culanding became the first person in his family to earn a college degree in the states. His two younger siblings also attended NSU and have pursued careers in public safety and the military.

In addition to his NSU education, Culanding has also completed graduate work through the Virginia State Police and University of Virginia's National Criminal Justice Command College. He is also a co-founding member of the Filipino American Law Enforcement Officers Association of Virginia and serves as a volunteer with Special Olympics and at an elementary school in Virginia Beach. He and his wife, Liza, have three children.

Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle said Culanding is an asset to the Sheriff's Office.

"Capt. Culanding is an integral part of the VBSO family and his contributions to this organization over the past 20 years have been outstanding," Stolle said in a statement. "I demand the best from all of my deputies under extreme conditions and Capt. Culanding has delivered. He is a credit to this organization and I am proud to have him as a captain."

In March, Culanding stepped onto the NSU campus for the first time in a decade. As he stood around the soon-to-be-completed University Quad, near the Communications Tower, he pointed out to where the old White House and Student Union Building were located.

As the students walked from the Lyman Beecher Brooks Library and Nursing and General Education Building, some greeted Culanding as he took pictures and selfies of himself on campus. He said their politeness quickly brought back warm memories of the days when he was a student.

"Going to Norfolk State was a pivotal part of my life," Culanding said. "Going to college here really opened up many doors for me and I'm glad that the campus is growing." **B**

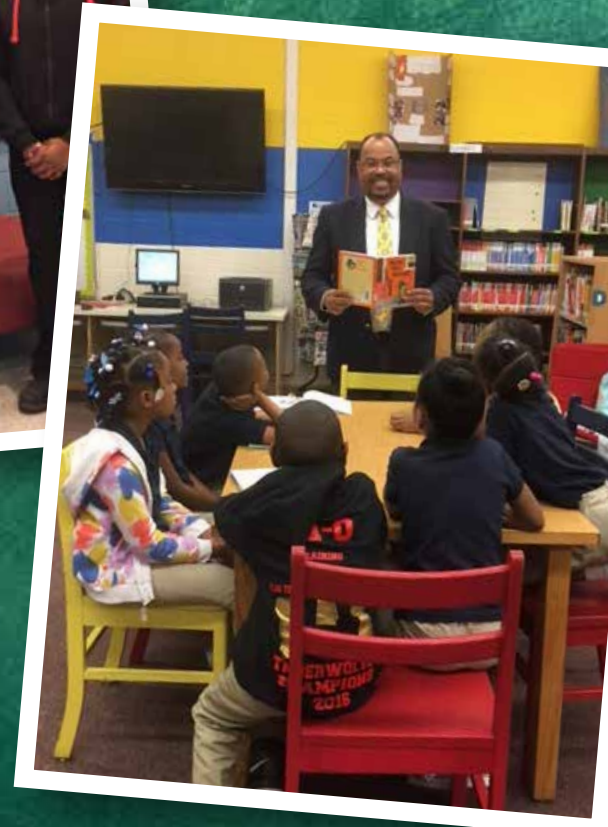






# UNIVERSITY HAS HISTORY OF PRODUCING OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

By REGINA LIGHTFOOT



*“NSU is a family that is like no other,” Byrd says.*



The education of teachers was one of the foundational programs as the young Norfolk Unit of Virginia Union began forming. According to the book *Upward: The History of Norfolk State University*, from 1935-1945 a large number of area teachers, who held 2-year Normal professional certificates were able to upgrade them to collegiate professional certification at the Norfolk Unit. The college further helped area teachers move toward earning their bachelor's and master's degrees through an arrangement with Teachers College of Columbia University. Courses were taught at the Norfolk Unit by Columbia faculty. The credits could then be used to earn a master's at Columbia or transferred to another graduate institution.

In the fall of 1956, elementary education and business became the school's first programs to offer a bachelor's degree, and in 1958, elementary education students were among the first to receive a bachelor's degree.

By that fall, the Division of Teacher Education was established.

Since its beginning more than 80 years ago, educational professionals have attended Norfolk State as a means of providing them with the knowledge necessary to advance in the field. The University has a strong reputation for educating and preparing teachers and administrators.

Just in the last five years, eight NSU graduates have been named teachers of the year in the Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk, Southampton County and Atlantic City (N.J.) school divisions. Additionally, Dr. Toney McNair, from Chesapeake Public Schools, was named the Virginia Teacher of the Year and competed for the 2017 National Teacher of the Year.

What accounts for the success of NSU's School of Education? "NSU has a strong curriculum and an excellent experienced faculty with K-12 teaching, school counseling, and/or administrative experience who are able to model effective teaching and administrative behaviors for today's schools," says Dr. Denise Littleton, the school's dean.

Littleton added the School of Education has two programs that ensure students' success — the teacher prep program and the Future Teacher Academy. "We also try to provide real-world connections and experiences for students with persons who are currently working in the field through actual classroom experiences, seminar presentations and conferences."

Dr. Lawrence C. Taylor (B.S. '93, M.A. '99), principal of Chesterfield Academy in Norfolk, Virginia, says he has had a love of learning since childhood. Taylor, the second eldest of 14 siblings, grew up with parents who both had an elementary school education. He came to Norfolk State through a temporary agency to work as an administrative assistant in the School of Education after service in the Marines. "Inspired by Dr. Elaine P. Witty, dean of the School of Education and Dr. Denise M. Littleton, professor in the School of Education (at the time), I was selected to participate in the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Pathways to Teaching Project at Norfolk State University," says Taylor, who has received two Teacher of the Year awards. "This is where my love for teaching began."

Chantel C. Suber '10, '14 is a second-generation teacher whose father, Ronald Boyd, also teaches in Norfolk Public Schools. A kindergarten teacher and grade-level chair at P. B. Young Sr. Elementary School in Norfolk, she was voted Teacher of the Year in February 2017 by the entire school.

"I do the best that I can to give my students the education that they deserve and need," Suber said. "Norfolk State has prepared me for my career by giving me amazing professors and staff from different backgrounds to assist me in becoming an educator."

She said while at the University, she was able to student teach, intern and observe schools with varying student demographics and different needs. "Those

experiences challenged me to be able to educate any child that walks through my doors."

Dr. Rhonda Ambrose (B.S. '96) took an unconventional path to teaching. "I completed my undergraduate degree as an adult with the support I received from the Department of Continuing Education from NSU," Ambrose said. "The professors equipped the students with the necessary knowledge to be successful in their area of study, but also understood the flexibility needed for adult students, often working full-time jobs with families to care for."

Ambrose is principal at Southside STEM Academy at Campostella. The school, a new 181,000 square-foot building that opened this school year, serves children K-6 and will add a seventh grade next year and an eighth grade the year after. It has a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) focus that is integrated throughout the curriculum using inquiry-based learning activities and critical-thinking skills. "As an instructional leader, I possess a vision that prepares students for the 21st century, and one that goes beyond the realm of the traditional school setting," Ambrose said.

Located not far from NSU, the school and the college have an important relationship. "We are fortunate to have the League of Extraordinary Men and the League of Extraordinary Women visit the school weekly to assist with the Foodbank program. They have also served as field-trip chaperones," Ambrose said. In addition, student-athletes have been lunch buddies to students, the NSU chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, social work interns, Office of Admissions and even President Eddie N. Moore Jr. have participated in programs at the school.

Dr. Stenette Byrd III (B.S. '97) was a math major at Norfolk State and began his career teaching math, algebra and geometry on the middle-school level. Just three years out of NSU at the age of 24, Byrd became assistant principal at Syms Middle School in Hampton, Virginia. Three years later, he was named principal and served at various schools over a 10-year period. Today, he is the director of secondary school leadership for Suffolk Public Schools. The division is growing—building two new state-of-the-art schools, redesigning the college and career academy and building upon specialty programs such as the International Baccalaureate, engineering and biomedical specialties. His parents, Stenette Byrd Jr. '70 and Maxine Byrd '72, both graduated from Norfolk State. His father worked 30-plus years with Hampton City Schools, and his mother retired as a social work supervisor.

"NSU is a family that is like no other," Byrd said. And he is grateful that the University welcomed an "underachieving" student, as he described himself in high school and provided him with support. "Through rigorous coursework and the support of my fraternity — Kappa Alpha Psi, the band and roommates, I was surrounded by a support system that expected excellence of me," Byrd said. He has taken what he learned inside and outside the classroom on his professional journey. "Because of the way the professors at NSU approach their work and cared for their students, I knew that I would someday do the same." **B**

Top Left: Chantel C. Suber  
Bottom Left: Dr. Stenette Byrd III with students, etc.  
Middle: Rhonda Ambrose  
Right: Dr. Lawrence C. Taylor

.....  
Dr. Stenette Byrd  
photobombing  
graduation.  
.....







**N**orfolk State University faculty work throughout the academic year and during the summer perfecting their teaching techniques, exploring possible new courses, conducting research, attending conferences, contributing articles to professional journals, and continuing their studies in foreign lands—all in an effort to improve best practices in teaching and keeping up with the latest trends in higher education.

**Here is a brief compilation of faculty highlights and accomplishments:**



Norfolk State University has been awarded a grant titled **Enhancing Cybersecurity Research and Experimentation Infrastructure** by the Department of Defense for \$499,570. The award runs through August 2017. **Dr. George Hsieh**, professor of computer science, is the principle investigator (PI) for this award. The new grant is provided to further enhance the research and experimentation infrastructure at the **Center of Excellence in Cyber Security** at NSU, which is also funded by the Department of Defense for more than \$4.9 million through

April 2020. Hsieh serves as the PI for the COE, which includes Old Dominion University’s Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center as an academic partner.



**Dr. Anne Neikirk’s**, assistant professor of music, composition **“In Praise of Songs that Die”** for soprano/piano was selected for performance at the College Music Society 2017 Northeast Regional Conference, which was held at the University of Plattsburgh (New York) on March 18. In addition, her composition, **“Lung Ta”** for percussion and electronics was selected for performance at the Society of Composers, Inc. 2017 National Conference, which was held at Western Michigan University March 30. The same work was also selected for performance at the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United

States 2017 National conference, held at St. Cloud State University (Minnesota) on April 21. Neikirk has also been invited to join a new music collective, ADjective New Music, which will serve as a distributor for her compositions.



**Dr. Wanda Goins Brockington**, associate professor in the Mass Communications and Journalism Department, is the 2017 recipient of Urban League of Hampton Roads’ **The Marian Palmer Capps Award**, which recognizes an individual (or group) who has made significant contributions to the Hampton Roads community through the promotion of educational initiatives which support interracial understanding and cooperation. Brockington received the award during the Urban League’s Whitney M. Young Dinner at the Chesapeake Conference Center. Dr. Brockington has been teaching at NSU for 37 years and has been recognized several times for her excellence in the classroom as well as winning numerous awards for service. Brockington is the recipient of the 2017, 2015 and 2014 faculty member of the year for the department of Mass Communications and Journalism; the 2015 Woman of Distinction Award from the Hampton Roads YWCA and the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award for the department of Mass Communications and Journalism in Communications. Her personal mission is to touch lives in a meaningful way and help students prepare for life in a global society. Her advice to students is to follow your passion.

The Department of Sociology at Norfolk State University was selected as collaborator with the **Nat Turner Archaeology Project** and **National Geographic** in efforts to reclaim the physical remains of Nat Turner and the lost history, and to use the research to inspire dialogues about race in America. The Nat Turner foundation has been awarded a \$5M plus grant for this racial and restorative justice project. The purpose of the grant is to exhume the bodies of the brave men and women who were a part of the resistance, and to give them a proper burial and final resting place. Faculty in the department of sociology responded expeditiously with information pertaining to their current scholarship, student enrollment, and presentations and engagement—all which likely solidified the department's selection for the project.



**Dr. Geoffroy de Laforcade**, professor of Latin American and Caribbean history, presented his latest book, *In Defiance of Boundaries* (with Kirwin Shaffer), University of Florida Press, 2016, and research in a keynote session of the **First International Congress of Researchers on Anarchism** in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and attended the **First International Convention on Science, Technology and Innovation** in Havana, Cuba, as a participant in an interdisciplinary panel on black history. Professor de Laforcade was also named to the new Latin American Council of Social Science (CLACSO) Working Group on African-Descended Peoples and Counterhegemonic Practices.



**Dr. William Alexander**, professor of history, presented papers about aspects of the 19th Century Francophone Black Atlantic at the following conferences—the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies; Cartagena, Colombia; MESEA: The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies; Warsaw, Poland; and the Afro-Latin American Research Association; Curacao. In addition, a paper Alexander presented at the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era conference has been accepted for publication in the consortium's "Selected Papers."



**Dr. Nikhil Moro** was selected last fall (2016) as the new chair of the Department of Mass Communications and Journalism at Norfolk State University. He holds a national reputation as a scholar and teacher of digital media law. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in media law, emerging technology and international communication. Prior to joining the NSU faculty, Moro held several notable leadership positions. He founded and directed a research collective in South Asian Media, Culture & Arts, and also led collaborations with universities in India, at the University of North Texas. In addition, he chaired the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Civic & Citizen Journalism Interest Group, which recognized him for Outstanding Service. He served on the board of the AEJMC Media Management and Economics Division as well as the AEJMC Strategic Plan Committee. Moro's work has been recognized internationally. He has held a visiting professorship at the School of Communication of the University of Navarra in Spain. He has given endowed lectures at the Indian Institutes of Technology Madras and Gandhinagar, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, etc. He has reviewed manuscripts or served on editorial boards for SAGE, Allyn & Bacon, McGraw Hill, Bedford/St. Martin's, Oxford University Press, *Communication Law and Policy*, *First Amendment Studies*, and *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*. He has consulted intensively in Internet law and business models.



**Dr. April Manalang**, assistant professor in history and interdisciplinary studies, has written and published several articles including: *The Role of Religion in Identity Politics and In-Group Identification: How Does Religion Influence Regionalism Among Filipino-Americans?* published, in the *Journal of American Studies: Eurasian Perspectives*, 2016; *Returning Back Blessings: Catholicism and Civic Engagement in the Largest Filipino-American Community on the East Coast*, accepted, in the *Journal of Implicit Religion*, fall 2016; Invited Review of *Fictive Kinship*, by Catherine Lee *Journal of Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*. Submitted, fall 2016; *Moral Visions and the Neo-Colonial Dynamic: Filipino Americans and Their Search for the Good Life*, submitted, in *Diaspora*, fall 2016; *Why Are Teenagers Involved in Religious Community Groups? An Examination of Teenagers in Chicago*, submitted, in *Special Section: Processes of Religious and Spiritual Influence in Adolescence*, the *Journal of Youth Studies*, fall 2016.



**Dr. Larry T. Ferguson**, associate professor in the School of Education, Department of Secondary Education and School Leadership, and an active member of the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE), was elected to be co-chair of the **Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) Digital Storytelling/Digital Video Special Interest Group (SIG)**. SITE is an international, academic association of teacher educators, researchers, practitioners and collaborating organizations across multiple disciplines. SITE creates and disseminates knowledge enhancing teacher education through the use of technology across a global context. The Digital Storytelling/Digital Video SIG addresses the role of digital storytelling in teacher education, research, and the evaluation of digital storytelling and best practices for digital storytelling in the field, among its varied topics. There are currently 471 members, from around the world, in the Digital Storytelling/Digital Video SIG.



# NORFOLK STATE ALUMNA FINDS KEY TO LIFELONG HAPPINESS

## IN SERVICE

By SHARON RIDDICK HOGGARD (M.A. '04)

**T**he first time Kathleen S. (Kathy) Magee (MSW '86) went on a medical mission, she had no idea what she would find. What she found was overwhelming, heartbreaking and heartwarming. And even now when she re-tells the story, 35 years later, it makes her eyes well up with tears.

Her husband, William P. (Bill) Magee Jr. M.D., a plastic surgeon, asked her to join him on a trip to the Philippines. "He always wanted to do craniofacial surgery and to take care of kids," Magee said. "We had five kids, and I didn't think it would be possible." But her parents stepped in to take care of the children.

The Magees took their oldest daughter, who was 13-years-old at the time. A surgical nurse then, Magee taught her daughter how to be a surgical scrub assistant. "She fainted the first time she was in the operating room." They spent several days on the islands and the crowds grew with each day. By the time they reached the last island, 250-300 children with their families waited to hear whether they would be chosen to have the surgery that would change the course of their lives. However, sadly, the group could only perform 40 surgeries. What happened next fueled the Magees' passion and planted a seed. A mother whose child was turned down for surgery approached Magee and said, "We wanted to give you this, even though you couldn't help my child," presenting her with a gift.

From the Philippines trip, to the juggling of life events, to this need to take care of kids . . . Operation Smile was born.

Magee is a human dynamo. After more than three decades of shepherding Operation Smile, she still keeps a packed bag in her office . . . ready to hit the road for the next project.

"Working with Kathy Magee is inspirational every day," said Amanda Bryer, development officer for the student programs department. Bryer has worked with Operation Smile and Magee for nine years. "She has a way of pushing you to do things that you never dreamed possible, which carries over outside of the workplace." Bryer says that Magee's passion for helping others is contagious. "She sets the bar so high and the mission of helping children is never far from her mind. She creates a culture of putting someone else's needs before your own."

Founded in 1982, Operation Smile is an international medical charity that has performed approximately 260,000 free surgeries for children and young adults in developing countries who were born with cleft lip, cleft

CONTINUED ON PG. 19





Photo By: Keith Cephus



BEHOLD



Photo courtesy of Operation Smile



Photo By: Keith Cephus



Photo courtesy of Operation Smile



# Missions have demonstrated what being happy really means. “Love is making someone else’s problem your own.”

CONTINUED FROM PG. 16

palate or other facial deformities. Operation Smile will observe a milestone in 2017 . . . its 35th anniversary.

With all the children treated around the world, Magee says it’s still not enough. “We know it’s not enough. The poverty is so incredible and there are barriers for the people trying to get care.” Magee began to tick off the barriers so ingrained in her mind she doesn’t need notes with numbers or other statistics. “First, there is no money.” In many of the countries Operation Smile has provided service, the people earn on average about \$2 a day. Getting to the surgical site is another barrier. “Families will sometimes walk for 24 hours to get to the site.” And, one of the biggest barriers is trying to find impacted children earlier so that treatment is the most effective. “If we can get them before the age of one to 18 months old . . . when they get older, the palates get very large and the surgery is riskier. We try to take care of these kids as we would here.”

Magee received her master’s in social work from Norfolk State University. NSU’s influence pushed her to work with children who have cleft. “The professors were always willing to help.” The educators, asking themselves how they could make the world better, provided analysis of where surgical need was the greatest.

“We looked at the diet in the region where the highest rate of clefts occurred. Genetics, epidemiology and the environment were analyzed.” Preventative measures such as providing vitamins and using different stoves that vent out of the homes were also employed.

Operation Smile was created on a foundation of self-sustainability. It has sustained its ability to help millions by training local medical teams to perform these types of surgeries. “Eighty-one percent of our missions are done by locals,” Magee said proudly. Recruiting more than 12,000 medical volunteers . . . some of the best doctors and other medical professionals is another strategy in the self-sustaining model. “They leave their practices to join the missions. They have seen what we have seen in these countries and how the missions impact and change lives.” And, for the future, Operation Smile has initiated a vigorous student element. Since its founding in 1985, Operation Smile Student Programs has cultivated more than 900 student clubs worldwide — with a network of more than 18,000 students from 44 countries — to build awareness, raise funds and educate others about core values of commitment, leadership and volunteerism.

Operation Smile Student Programs empower youth globally through advocacy, education, leadership and service. The Until We Heal campaign was kicked off by students. “It’s an extraordinary opportunity to volunteer with the founder of such an admirable organization,” said Reginald Land, who works with the Operation Smile Student Programs area and serves on its National Leadership Council. Land, an NSU business major, has been working with Operation Smile for five years. “I’ve attended four international student leadership conferences, interned three times and emceed three local student program events,” he said listing all the jobs he’s held there. “I went on my first medical mission as a U-Voice Student in March 2017. As a founder of my own nonprofit organization, I get inspiration from Kathleen Magee and can envision where my own organization can end up . . . if I am genuine, hard-working and resilient.”

Magee serves as a full-time volunteer in the role of president of Operation Smile and is a lifetime member of its board of directors. “Kathy Magee has an endless amount of energy—and it’s absolutely incredible. Whether she is bouncing from meeting to meeting in headquarters, boarding a plane to the Philippines, or spending time in one of our many program countries, she is constantly engaged in Operation Smile’s mission,” said Joey Feduniewicz, program officer for international programs. “It is so rare that an entry-level employee gets to spend so much one-on-one time with the president and co-founder of one of the largest nonprofit medical charities for children. Kathy believes wholeheartedly that young people are our future . . . from children at elementary age to a young college graduate looking for his first job out of college.”

For nearly 35 years, her life has been centered on Operation Smile; countless



Photo courtesy of Operation Smile

missions, travelling at a moment’s notice, haggling over international politics, raising money, recruiting, training volunteers and so on. All the while raising her children. When asked if she were happy, Magee answered without a second thought. “Yeah, I am. We have 14 grandchildren, and we take them on missions to teach them to be thankful for what they have.” Missions have demonstrated what being happy really means. “Love is making someone else’s problem your own. If you can smile at one another, you can love one another.” Magee added, “It’s a gift we’ve been given. Giving surgical care to underserved populations and actually giving them a future.”

**Editor’s Note:** For their work serving the world’s neediest populations through the medical charity they co-founded, Operation Smile, Kathy Magee and Dr. Bill Magee Jr. are the recipients of the 2017 LEAD Hampton Roads First Citizen award. LEAD is a program sponsored by the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce. **B**



Photo By: Keith Cephus





**FROM  
TRAGEDY  
TO TRIUMPH,  
NSU'S AMBER BROWN  
REBOUNDS AS A  
RESULT OF  
MOTHER'S FAITH**

By JOSETTE COMPTON



**C**oretta Brown and her daughter Amber go to bible study most Wednesday nights. They attend church every Sunday, and pray together now more than before.

This is hardly the first time the family has relied on their faith to push through hard times. But after Amber, 21, was put in a medically induced coma, more than a year ago, the Browns have deepened their spiritual awareness, and in the process, become closer.

It all started on Jan. 1, 2016. That was the day that Coretta and Amber's lives changed. While working one of her two full-time jobs in Atlanta, Coretta received a phone call from her oldest daughter Ebony, who was crying: "Something's wrong with Amber."

Amber, a psychology major and basketball player at Norfolk State University, was found unconscious in her dorm room; within one hour, she would suffer three cardiac arrests and seizures. She did not awaken for 33 days.

"Never once did we consider pulling the plug," Coretta said, clarifying misinformation that was previously reported. "I was okay with whatever was going to happen to Amber because it was not up to me, it was up to God."

After hearing of Amber's unconscious state, Coretta boarded two planes from Atlanta to Norfolk. She only cared that Amber was alive. No panic, no crying.

"I was at peace," she said, "God had revealed himself to me my whole life. On New Year's day, they [doctors] were telling me all this was happening. So on the plane I started praying. It balanced me."

From Jan. 2-26, doctors at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital examined CT scans, and asked questions about Amber's daily life. Is she eating too much sugar? Does she exercise more than needed? Is she under stress? No. No. "No," Coretta said.

Prior to her medical issue, Amber juggled 16 credit hours, weight training, and basketball practice twice each day.

"I was an athlete," Amber said, "so I was taking care of myself, injecting myself with two types of insulin each day, and eating well." Although Amber indulged in sodas and chips "every now and then," it was not enough to explain the spike in blood sugar that left her brain dead for a month.

After all, Brown was not the "typical" stroke victim. She was not over the age of 50, overweight, anxious, or struggling with high cholesterol, or hypertension. Yet Amber, who was diagnosed with Type I diabetes three years ago, suffered an episode that has become more common than not among young adults. According to a 2016 report released by the American Heart Association, approximately 10 percent of all strokes occur in people 18 to 50

years of age. Risk factors include high cholesterol, smoking, hypertension, and diabetes.

"I don't know what that experience taught me," Amber says, pensively. "But now I feel as though I know myself better."

After receiving a work transfer from Atlanta to Norfolk, Coretta found herself living in the hospital. She carried a list of questions to ask doctors as they made rounds. "If this machine beeps, what does that mean?" she recalls. At that time, Amber was breathing on a ventilator and had a hole drilled into her skull to drain excessive fluid from her brain. She did not move, blink, or speak.

Doctors warned Coretta that chances of Amber surviving or returning to her normal self were low. In fact, they believed she would be unrecognizable, stuck in a vegetative state with the appearance of wakefulness, but not able to talk or walk.

"I didn't have time to be scared," Coretta says. "When the doctors looked me in the eye and told me, worse case 'she's not going to come out of this coma;' I didn't take those words to heart."

Instead, Coretta continued to treat Amber as though she were conscious. They watched Netflix movies, listened to gospel music, and Coretta read to her.

"I told people, do not go in that room sad. Talk to her as though she is getting extra sleep."

After days of slow, but steady movements, Amber rebounded and was discharged Feb. 20, 2016. Once at home, she worked with an outside physical therapist, enrolled in two online summer classes, and returned to Norfolk State in August.

Coretta attributes her daughter's recovery to her faith. "We serve a higher power," she said. Family and friends were equally yoked with Coretta's spiritual beliefs, and wrote letters, sent gift baskets, and prayed with her over the phone.

Donna Fullove, Coretta's best friend, and her children started a "Supporting Amber" page on Facebook, which logged Amber's progress, while a family member launched a GoFundMe page that raised more than \$7,000. In addition, the Browns received support from Sentara hospital's nursing staff, Norfolk State's athletics department and its alumni association, and NSU President and CEO Eddie Moore N. Jr., who visited Amber in the hospital.

Around the time that Amber moved back on campus, she remembers students welcoming her with open arms. Some would hug her, while others would offer to walk her to class. Even the cafeteria workers watched Amber as though she were their child. On Valentine's Day, when workers handed out candy to students, one of them spotted Amber, and aware that she was diabetic, the woman said, "I know you, you can't have candy."

"That gave me confidence to know I had support," Amber said.

Doctors are still not clear on what caused the



stroke, but Amber is now more cognizant of how she cares for herself. She checks her blood sugar hourly, and drinks plenty of water. She is now driving, attending church regularly, working out, and shooting hoops. Although, Amber says, she will not return to basketball.

"I miss it," she says without regret. "I'm proud of the girls." But more than anything, she says, "I am enjoying being alive."

While Amber's life has resumed a sense of normalcy, it was Coretta's spiritual tenacity that saved her daughter's life.

"Did I have moments of weakness?" Coretta said, "Sure, but then I would remember all the beautiful moments I had raising her, and I envisioned that she would smile again, so my faith was not in the doctors, but in God." **B**





HATE  
WONT  
WIN

## Act of Hate *Spawns Outpouring of Love*

By REGINA LIGHTFOOT

**O**n June 17, 2015, Alana Simmons' (M.A.'13) whole world changed. On that day, as she went about her daily life in Hampton Roads, her grandfather, the Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr., was murdered as he bowed his head in prayer at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. A 20-year-old white man, Dylan Roof, whom the members of the weekly Wednesday night Bible class welcomed, killed Simmons and eight others.

Although still numb and stunned from what had taken place, Simmons and her family were able to find a way to transform what was a horrific act of hate into an outpouring of love. Simmons, along with her siblings, established the Hate Won't Win Movement. It is born from three words Simmons spoke to Roof at his June 19 bond hearing — just two days after the killings. Those words were put on her heart by the outpouring of love she and the families felt the moment the Charleston community heard of the tragedy.

"I started the movement because I believe God laid the purpose of racial

reconciliation on my heart," Simmons said, "and I wanted to spearhead a movement of love that would heal our communities and prevent this kind of crime from happening again."

She also thought of her grandfather. "I wanted to make sure that my grandfather's legacy was continued in love and the way he lived, and not how he died."

The Hate Won't Win Movement is a call for people to proactively show an act of love to someone different from themselves and to post it on social media with the hashtag #HateWontWin. It follows nine values in honor of the legacy of the victims and five initiatives in honor of the survivors of "Mother" Emanuel AME Church.

By June 26, 2015, according to the Los Angeles Times, #HateWontWin had been retweeted hundreds of times across the country; the Facebook page had nearly 10,000 followers; and then-President Barack Obama and then-first lady Michelle Obama were pictured in a tweet from @POTUS holding up a Hate-Won't-Win T-shirt.



The late  
Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr.

Although the nonprofit is a family affair, the belief that education comes first means that Simmons works for the movement while her brother and sisters pursue their degrees at Norfolk State. For Alana Simmons, Norfolk State is like home to her. “To us, it is a family school. My mother graduated from this school; my siblings all attend,” Simmons said, “and although I got my B.A. from Elizabeth City State, I wanted to continue my education at a school that has been good to my family as well.”

Simmons’ master’s degree is in music education (voice). Her brother Daniel Simmons III ’13 earned his Bachelor of Arts in music education (piano) and is working on his master of arts in music theory composition with the Class of 2017. Simmons’ two sisters, Ava (violin) and Anya (piano) are also earning their degrees in music education. “They were all instrumental in helping me start the Hate Won’t Win Movement,” she explained.

Frank Elliott, who teaches music in the NSU Visual and Performing Arts Division, has not taught Alana Simmons, however, he has taught Daniel, Ava and Anya and describes them as musically gifted. “I have seen them in various settings,” said Elliot, “they are very polite, very kind and very concerned about others. They all seem to have the same common values.”

So much so that Elliot was not surprised to hear they had begun the Hate Won’t Win Movement. “What you really recognize is those Christian values. That explains the politeness, the well-mannered behavior. The values you would see in the homes of young people where those values have been taught and demonstrated.”

It has been almost two years since that fateful day in June. During that time, Roof’s trial has been held, he has been convicted and he has been sentenced. Simmons refused to let the trial and the re-living of what happened deter or distract her.

“I feel relieved that the judicial part of this process is coming to a close,” she said. “For people who are facing similar situations, I would encourage them to find peace with the outcome.” While the verdict was in the victims’ favor, she cautioned, “We have seen several examples of why our hopes for peace should not be built on any person, outcome or system. Throughout this entire process, our family has trusted God and God alone for peace.” **B**



## INITIATIVES

Hate Won’t Win Movement Inc. primarily focuses on initiatives to increase values in the following areas:

- Education
- Family and Community
- Religious
- Political
- Media

## VALUES

The Hate Won’t Win Movement Inc. has nine values it follows in honor of the legacy of the victims and five initiatives it implements in honor the survivors of “Mother” Emmanuel AME Church massacre.

1. Advocating for Unity
2. Fostering relationships between people who are different (racially, ethnically, culturally, etc.)
3. Empowering communities
4. Embracing diversity
5. Encouraging equity and justice
6. Converting hateful hearts
7. Demonstrating love
8. Publicizing good works
9. Honoring victims of crimes past and present

For more information, go to [www.hatewontwinmovement.com](http://www.hatewontwinmovement.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/hatewontwinmovement/](https://www.facebook.com/hatewontwinmovement/)  
Twitter: [@hatewontwin\\_](https://twitter.com/hatewontwin_)





# Norfolk State University Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Commencement

By STAN DONALDSON '04



**Nina Turner**

**N**orfolk State University celebrated its 100th Commencement Ceremony exercises in May at the Norfolk Scope.

This year's class of nearly 600 graduates received their doctoral, master's, bachelor's or associate degrees from the institution. Though all of the previous graduating classes have generated excitement, this 100th affair held special meaning for the Spartan community because it helps to solidify NSU's mission as a higher education institution.

Nina Turner, a college professor, political analyst and former Ohio state senator, was the guest speaker at the Scope. Her speech follows the commencement address of Virginia Secretary of Education Dietra Trent held at the Joseph G. Echols Memorial Hall in December.

Turner said she was honored to speak at NSU's 100th commencement ceremony.

"Joining NSU's Class of 2017 during the college's 100th commencement is a high honor," Turner said. "The steps of every graduate who walks across the stage is a symbolic reminder of the struggles of the past, the possibilities of the present and the promise of the future."

Both women joined a long list of notable speakers who have provided speeches to NSU graduates throughout the years. Previous commencement addresses have been orated by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dr. Julianne Malveaux and alumnus Tim Reid.

Current politicians such as U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott and former Virginia Govs. Mills Godwin Jr., L. Douglas Wilder and Charles S. Robb have also provided words of encouragement for graduates. In addition, current NSU President and CEO Eddie N. Moore Jr. and former presidents Lyman Beecher Brooks and Harrison B. Wilson have addressed graduates at commencement.

At the spring ceremony, the Norfolk State University Class of 2017 presented a special gift to the campus community.

Members from the spring class collected \$6,500 and gifted it to the University as part of the Proud to Pay Legacy, a student-led initiative in partnership with the NSU Alumni Association Inc. The initiative began at the start of the 2016-17 academic year. NSU Senior Class President Tichira Smith presented a check to President Eddie N. Moore Jr. at the Scope. The president said it was the largest check he has ever received on behalf of students from a university where he has worked.

The NSU Class of 1967 also joined the new class of graduates at commencement. Nearly 20 members from the class attended the ceremony and dressed in gold caps and gowns. During the processional, the group followed NSU faculty inside the Scope.

Graduation ceremonies have been on campus in outdoor settings such as William "Dick" Price Stadium and the campus greens, and also indoors at Joseph G. Echols Memorial Hall. Through it all, NSU alumni who have walked across the stage to receive a degree in their respective majors have all experience the privilege of being handed a degree from the 81-year-old institution. Norfolk State University would like to congratulate NSU's 100th commencement ceremony class.

**BEHOLD the Green and Gold!** B









# NSU Honors ALUMNI

*as Distinguished for Professional, Community Accomplishments*

Norfolk State University honored three of its alumni at the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner. These three graduates demonstrated exemplary leadership in their professions and in the community. They personify the mission and goals of the University.



**Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase (B.S. '94)**

Dr. Tahira DuPree Chase uses the bachelor of science degree she earned in communications from Norfolk State University to advocate for the needs of public school students. Dr. Chase serves as superintendent of the Greenburgh Central School District in Hartsdale, New York. She assumed the position in the 2,500 student district, which has a 93 percent graduation rate, in 2015. With more than 20 years of experience as an educator, Dr. Chase has patiently and expertly taught and inspired

young minds at both the elementary and secondary levels. Dr. Chase has received numerous accolades and distinguished honors, including the Top 25 Superintendents to Watch National Award, NAACP White Plains/Greenburgh Chapter Image Award (Education Game Changer), Educational Champion Award (WestCop, Inc.), Alpha Kappa Alpha HBCU Outstanding Educator Award, Delta Sigma Theta Stand on Their Shoulders Award, St. John Fisher College Scholarship Award, Distinguished Educator of Year, and New York City District Nine Teacher of the Year. She has a Master of Art in English education from City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center, a Master of Education with a specialization in School Administration and Supervision from Mercy College, and a doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College.



**Rev. Dr. Jonathan A. Mason Sr. (B.S. '95, H '15)**

Rev. Dr. Jonathan A. Mason Sr. graduated from Norfolk State with a bachelor's degree in mass communications. Later, the University invited Rev. Mason to serve as the commencement speaker at the December 2015 ceremonies and awarded him with an honorary doctorate of humane letters for his community service. In New York, Rev. Mason kicked off his career at 92.3 K-ROCK, home of the Howard Stern Radio Show. He rose through the ranks of the Infinity Radio Group

and led the sales team at the organization's most successful radio station. Most recently, he formed his own media company—JAM Media Solutions –

a full-service advertising and marketing firm. Rev. Mason also serves as the 34th International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. where he has dedicated his life to the service of others. He founded the Sigma's Waging War Against Cancer, a national partnership with the American Cancer Society that reached more than half a million people through its awareness program. An ordained Baptist minister, Rev. Mason spends a great deal of time working for the church. He serves as the pastor of Northeast Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is also the founder of Camp New Joy Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under construction in Rustburg, Virginia. New Camp Joy Inc. is designed to provide service to at-risk youth in communities all across the country.



**Col. (Ret.) William Russell Jr. '67**

Col. (Ret.) William Russell Jr. has demonstrated a true commitment to his country, community and to Norfolk State University. A member of the first commissioning class of Norfolk State University (then the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College), he has had a long and distinguished military career. While serving in Vietnam, he received the Bronze Star for valor in combat and Air Medals for supporting combat operations from rotary and fixed-winged aircraft. He is a charter

member of the NSU Military Alumni Chapter, which has as its primary focus the support of the University's Army ROTC Department and the professor of Military Science in the development of high-performing Army and Naval officers. In 2016, Col. Russell was inducted into the inaugural class of the U.S. Army ROTC National Hall of Fame. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and a faithful member of the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, where he leads a men's ministry dedicated to helping the incarcerated, delivering meals to needy families, a Feed the 5000 food distribution program and a Brother's Keeper project that provides school supplies and coats to needy school children.

# NSUAA Celebrates 45 YEARS!



In 1969, the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College was granted independence by the Virginia General Assembly and was named Norfolk State College. Immediately following independence, the leadership of the college, and alumni set forth to establish an alumni association under the name of Norfolk State College. On May 29, 1971, the first annual meeting of the Norfolk State College Alumni Association was held on campus. In 2000, the Association adopted its new name—Norfolk State University Alumni Association (NSUAA).

On September 2, 2016, the NSU Alumni Association, Inc. celebrated its 45th Anniversary. Over the years, the NSUAA has evolved into an accomplished and vibrant organization with 21 chapters across the country and members around the world.



## 2017 MEAC Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Robert B. Lee III (B.S. '66) represented Norfolk State University as one of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's (MEAC) 2017 Distinguished Alumni award recipients. Dr. Lee has been a faithful supporter of Norfolk State for decades. He and his wife, Dr.

Margaret Giles Lee, have supported NSU via the Robert B. Lee Endowed Scholarship, which annually supports students from the Peninsula who wish to attend NSU.

Dr. Lee is an internationally known NASA scientist and was one of only two known African-American investigators, in the world, on a major spacecraft missions/science teams. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from NSU in 1966, a master's degree from UVA, and a Ph.D. from Hampton University. Dr. Lee is a lifetime member of the NSU Alumni Association Inc., and an active member and past president of the Peninsula Alumni Chapter.




Kenneth B. Norman, Larry Carr & Colvin Gibson

## NSU Alumnus Becomes Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Sacramento

NSU alumnus Larry Carr '69 was sworn-in to serve on the Sacramento City Council by his childhood friends former NSU Board of Visitors member Colvin Gibson '69 and Kenneth Norman '69. Carr was first elected to the Sacramento City Council back in 2014 and appointed Mayor Pro Tem in 2016.





## NSU ALUMNA BECOMES CITY COUNCIL MEMBER IN GEORGIA

By STAN DONALDSON '04

**A** Norfolk State University alumna was recently elected to become a city council member for a newly established municipality in Georgia.

Carmalitha Gumbs, a 2000 Norfolk State graduate, will serve as District Two's first councilperson in South Fulton, Georgia. The city, near Atlanta, formally became incorporated in November 2016, when voters in Fulton County passed a measure for the area to become its own municipality. Gumbs received 54 percent of the vote in a runoff election held in April and will serve a four-year term.

During her campaign, the NSU social work major ran on a platform of economic development, public safety and an enhanced quality of public life. Gumbs, of Birdsnest, Virginia, said her Norfolk State education played a role in her decision to enter public service.

"My background in social work has provided me the opportunity to work with many diverse populations across my career, and understanding the socioeconomic factors that impact a variety of groups," Gumbs said. "My NSU education shaped me for perseverance and determined success."

In addition to her council seat, Gumbs also works as a strategic communications analyst for the Center for Diseases Control in Atlanta. The 41-year-old said she is honored to be a member of the South Fulton City Council and serve the residents in her district. Gumbs said one of her goals as a councilperson is to help bring opportunities and resources to deserving communities as a local government employee.

In addition to her degree from Norfolk State University, she also obtained two master's degrees, one in business administration and marketing management and the other in health administration from Strayer University.

Although her council seat is a part-time position, she said her work to help the nearly 100,000 resident city thrive will be a full-time job.

"Going to Norfolk State taught me how to strive for excellence," Gumbs said. "I plan to take that same attitude into my role as a public servant." **B**



## NSU ALUMNUS PROMOTED TO U.S. ARMY BRIGADIER GENERAL

By STAN DONALDSON ('04) AND SHARON HOGGARD (M.A. '04)

**A**s a child growing up in Virginia, Fletcher Washington had to sometimes learn how to do without.

The Stafford County native learned how to live without a consistent paternal presence. He also lived in a home where the fridge wasn't always stocked with enough food for him and his eight siblings. Sometimes, his home had no running water or electricity.

But Washington attributes his faith, humble beginnings and the education he received at Norfolk State University for helping him to attain the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Army. In March, the 1992 NSU alumna was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General at a military ceremony in Springfield.

Washington, who was a member of the NSU Army ROTC and who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, said Norfolk State helped prepare him for the world. Prior to his recent appointment, the general has served as the commander for his brigade staff at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan and as deputy chief of Air Operations in Coalition Forces Land Component Command in Kuwait.

"(My experiences) provided me with a great deal of humility, which has helped to positively shape me into the person I am today," he said. "ROTC departments at HBCUs instill in the cadets, and the student body as a whole I imagine, that... you have to do twice as much just to be viewed equal and three times as much to be seen ahead of your non-minority peers."

After Norfolk State, Washington continued his education at Florida Institute of Technology and received a master's degree in logistics management. He also attended the National Defense University and obtained a second master's in joint planning and strategy. As a distinguished military graduate of Norfolk State's ROTC program, he received a regular Army commission in the Transportation Corps.

Washington has received several awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal, seven Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint service Commendation Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, numerous other campaign medals and ribbons, two Meritorious Unit Citations, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Parachutist Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge. **B**

NSU Communications and Marketing Intern Marisa Grey contributed to this story.





# NSU Army And Navy

## ROTC Students By STAN DONALDSON '04 Visit Pentagon

**T**he Norfolk State University Army ROTC recently visited the U.S. Pentagon to meet with a senior military official and toured the Arlington National Cemetery as part of a professional development program for officers.

Task Force Tidewater, which consists of students enrolled in Army ROTC programs at Norfolk State, Old Dominion and Eastern Carolina State Universities met with U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley in April. The staff general talked with students about future Army operations and history, their role as leaders, and provided them with advice on how to achieve success in the military. The task force was made up 40 NSU Army and Navy ROTC students along with three instructors from the University.

Army Lt. Col. Cedric Lee, professor and chair of military science at Norfolk State, said the purpose of the visit was to help cadets with leadership, development and mentorship.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our cadets and midshipmen to visit with the most senior general in our Army and listen to his vision for the future of the nation’s Army,” Lee said.

The group also toured the Arlington National Cemetery as part of the trip. Lee said the tour provided students with a history of how their predecessors have served and sacrificed for the United States.

“The intent was to give the cadets and midshipmen an opportunity to see the military profession as an enterprise and glimpse into how the Pentagon runs the greatest military in the history of the world,” Lee said. **B**





Martha Bissah holding MEAC Award.



PHOTOS BY MARK W. SUTTON

Jonathan Wade making his way around his opponent.

## NEWS & NOTES FROM SPARTAN ATHLETICS

### Wade, Bissah Take Top Honors at NSU Athletics Awards Ceremony

Senior basketball player Jonathan Wade and freshman track standout Martha Bissah were named NSU's Male and Female Athletes of the Year, respectively, at the athletics department's end-of-year awards ceremony in April. A native of Panama City, Florida, Wade was a first-team All-MEAC selection in his final year in the green and gold in 2016-17. Wade ranked second in the MEAC in scoring at 19.4 points per game. He also finished fifth in rebounding (6.8) and eighth in both field-goal percentage (48.4) and 3-point percentage (38.4). Wade and the Spartans earned the program's sixth consecutive postseason appearance, participating in the CollegeInside.Com Tournament (CIT) for the third straight year after advancing to the MEAC Tournament championship game.

A freshman from Accra, Ghana, Bissah burst onto the scene with a memorable freshman track season. She won four gold medals to earn

Most Outstanding Female Track Athlete at the MEAC Indoor Championship in February. She won the 800, 1,500 and 3,000 meter events at the indoor championship and also ran a leg on NSU's winning distance medley relay team. Bissah continued that success during outdoor season, qualifying for the NCAA East Preliminary Round in the 800 meters. The outdoor season was not complete at press time.

Junior softball player Seana Moriarty and sophomore baseball player Chris Ford were recognized as the department's Scholar-Athletes of the Year for having the highest grade-point averages among their respective genders.

### NSU Unveils New Weight Room in Gill Gymnasium

Norfolk State University unveiled its new weight room this past spring. Located on the first floor of James D. Gill Gymnasium, the room includes all brand new equipment from Hammer Strength and services all NSU student-athletes in addition to the University's ROTC program and physical education department.

The total cost to renovate and purchase new equipment for the 3,445-square-foot room was \$550,000. The room includes 10 racks, five platforms, two glute/ham machines, a squat machine and dumbbells ranging from 5 to 150 pounds. The area will allow students to train in a more functional, efficient space.

### NSU Debuts New Mobile App, Web Site Redesign

With the help of digital services provider Sidearm Sports, NSU athletics debuted a new mobile application for Android and iOS devices in the



# YOUNG, BUT EXPERIENCED SPARTAN FOOTBALL TEAM LOOKS TO MAKE NOISE IN 2017

By MATT MICHALEC



PHOTOS BY MARK W. SUTTON



**W**hen the Norfolk State football team takes the field this fall, the Spartans will still feature a roster dominated by underclassmen. As few as 12 seniors will be in uniform for NSU under third-year head coach Latrell Scott. But don't mistake NSU's youth for a weakness. Twenty-four Spartans who started at least one game last year return as

NSU looks to build on its 3-1 finish to the 2016 season which included victories over perennial MEAC contenders South Carolina State and Hampton.

The most pressing question for the Spartans is at quarterback, where two-year starter Greg Hankerson Jr. exhausted his eligibility after 2016. Hankerson led NSU in both passing and rushing yards the last two seasons, starting all 22 games as the Spartans' signal-caller in 2015 and 2016. The first two players trying to fill his shoes will be sophomore Tyre Givers-Wilson, who served as the team's backup last year, and freshman prep school recruit Tripp Harrington. Both players gained valuable practice repetitions in the spring. They will be joined in the summer by high school product Juwan Carter out of Highland Springs High School in the Richmond area. Carter was an all-state performer in high school who helped his team to two state championships.

The Spartans have a number of weapons at the receiver and running back positions. Junior Marcus Taylor and sophomore George Wahee were the two leading receivers on the team in 2016, combining for 64 receptions for more than 800 yards and four touchdowns. Senior tight end Demetreus Ferebee also returns as a pass-catching threat, as does sophomore Chuma Awanna.

At running back, top rusher Gerard Johnson graduated, but juniors Quintreil Chung and Aaron Savage, senior Shakeem Copeland and redshirt freshman Malik Butts will wage a competition for carries in the Spartan backfield. A trio of heralded newcomers—freshman Marvin Beander, Shedrick McCall and Christian Jones—will also vie for time.

Up front, the Spartans welcome back sophomores Kenneth Kirby and Dominic Jordan and junior Wes Jones to anchor the offensive line, which will also feature an influx of talent from players who sat out last season and from the 2017 recruiting class.

Defensively, the Spartans return a number of key playmakers. The defensive line should again be a strength, with two-time All-MEAC defensive lineman Chris Lee leading the way. Lee has led the Spartans in sacks the last two seasons, notching 4.5 last season alone. Junior interior linemen Deshaywn Middleton and Walter Brantley give the Spartans size in the middle, and sophomore ends Nigel Chavis and Josh Bryant look to make a big impact in 2017. Incoming freshman Nick Ackies is among the new players to keep an eye on.

Senior Kyle Archie, another All-MEAC player from last year who was second on the team in tackles, heads up the linebacking corps along with sophomore Cephas Harden. Look for junior college transfer Michael Kwegyir-Attah to also make an early impact. Sophomore safety Bobby Price and cornerback J.T. Wahee are two of the top returners in the secondary. A bevy of touted recruits, including prep school transfer Dy-Shawn Simpkins and incoming freshman Charell Coley, Johnathan Gregory, Anton Ashby and Rashard Russell, should fortify the defensive backfield for NSU.

The Spartans play another fan friendly, exciting schedule in 2017. Virginia State returns to the schedule for the Labor Day Classic to kick off the season on Sept. 2. The teams last played in 2012.

NSU also hosts intra-state foe William & Mary on Sept. 9 before concluding its non-conference schedule at James Madison on Sept. 16 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. JMU won the Division I FCS national championship last season and will be playing the Spartans for the first time ever.

NSU has MEAC home games against Florida A&M (Oct. 7), Hampton (Oct. 14), Savannah State (Homecoming, Oct. 28) and North Carolina A&T (Nov. 4). The Spartans play road MEAC contests at Delaware State (Sept. 23), North Carolina Central (Oct. 21), Howard (Nov. 11) and Morgan State (Nov. 18). **B**

*Season tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the NSU Ticket Center on campus or online at [www.nsuspartanstickets.com](http://www.nsuspartanstickets.com). For more information on Spartan football, follow @NSU\_FB on Twitter and log onto [www.nsuspartans.com](http://www.nsuspartans.com).*



# 2017 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



PHOTOS BY MARK W. SUTTON

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
<b>September</b>			
Sat. 9/2	<b>Virginia State</b> (Labor Day Classic)	Norfolk, Va.	6 p.m.
Sat. 9/9	<b>William &amp; Mary</b>	Norfolk, Va.	6 p.m.
Sat. 9/16	at James Madison	Harrisonburg, Va	TBA
Sat. 9/23	at Delaware State	Dover, Del.	2 p.m.
<b>October</b>			
Sat. 10/7	<b>Florida A&amp;M *</b>	Norfolk, Va.	2 p.m.
Oct. 14	<b>Hampton *</b> (Battle of the Bay)	Norfolk, Va.	2 p.m.
Oct. 7	<b>Florida A&amp;M *</b>	Norfolk, Va.	2 p.m.
Oct. 21	at North Carolina Central*	Durham, N.C.	2 p.m.
Oct. 28	<b>Savannah State *</b> (Homecoming)	Norfolk, Va.	2 p.m.
<b>November</b>			
Nov. 4	<b>North Carolina A&amp;T *</b> (Senior Day)	Norfolk, Va.	1 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Howard *	Washington, D.C.	TBA
Nov. 18	at Morgan State *	Baltimore, Md.	TBA

Home games in BOLD played at William "Dick" Price Stadium \* MEAC game ~ Subject to change

CONTINUED FROM PG. 30



spring. Fans can search "NSU Spartans" in their mobile store to locate the app. It is free to download. The new app features a new look and enhanced features for users, including links to game-day media coverage for NSU athletics teams.

The NSUSpartans.Com web site also went through a new redesign, which will take effect in the summer. The site will feature a fresh look with a larger emphasis

on social media channels, photo and video coverage in addition to the normal comprehensive Spartan athletics news in a user friendly design.

Since launching with Sidearm Sports in 2007, NSUSpartans.Com had attracted nearly 2 million unique visitors as of this spring. In the 2016 calendar year, the site drew 275,336 unique visitors, the most in its history for any one-year period.

### Spartan Coaches, Administrators Selected for Professional Development Opportunities

Several NSU athletics department personnel were selected to participate in professional development opportunities within the NCAA. Associate

athletics director Alisha Tucker was chosen to serve on the NCAA's Accelerating Academic Success Program (AASP) grant selection committee. In this role, Tucker will be one of the members responsible for reviewing grant applications from NCAA member institutions to determine grant recipients. Tucker played a role in NSU receiving the grant in the fall of 2012.

Kentrell Kearney (director of compliance), LaTrese Barker (academic coordinator) and Ivana Rich (academic coordinator/learning specialist) were three of 40 individuals selected to participate in the NCAA's selective facilitation workshop earlier this year. The interactive workshop is designed to help enhance leadership skills and learn how to effectively run meetings and group discussions.

In addition, Rich was selected as a member of the 2017 NCAA/ Women Leaders in College Sports (formerly NACWAA) Institute for Administrative Advancement. At this program, leaders representing all NCAA divisions and pioneers in women's athletics prepare, empower and inspire participants to become successful administrators and advance within the profession.

Finally, assistant women's track and field coach Yvette Lewis was selected to attend the NCAA Women Coaches Academy this summer. The WCA is a four-day educational training session open to NCAA coaches of all experience levels that offers non-sport-specific program management strategies. The WCA's primary focus is on philosophy development and increasing knowledge about planning, communication, legal issues, ethics, hiring, supervising staff, conflict resolution, learning styles and achieving success. **B**





## WATCH FOR THE LAUNCH OF NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY'S NEW BRAND AND LOGO.

Our new brand is about Norfolk State's proud history and promising future. And most of all, it is about our remarkable students and alumni, who shared their stories with us to help us develop the brand. Watch for the full story in our fall 2017 issue.



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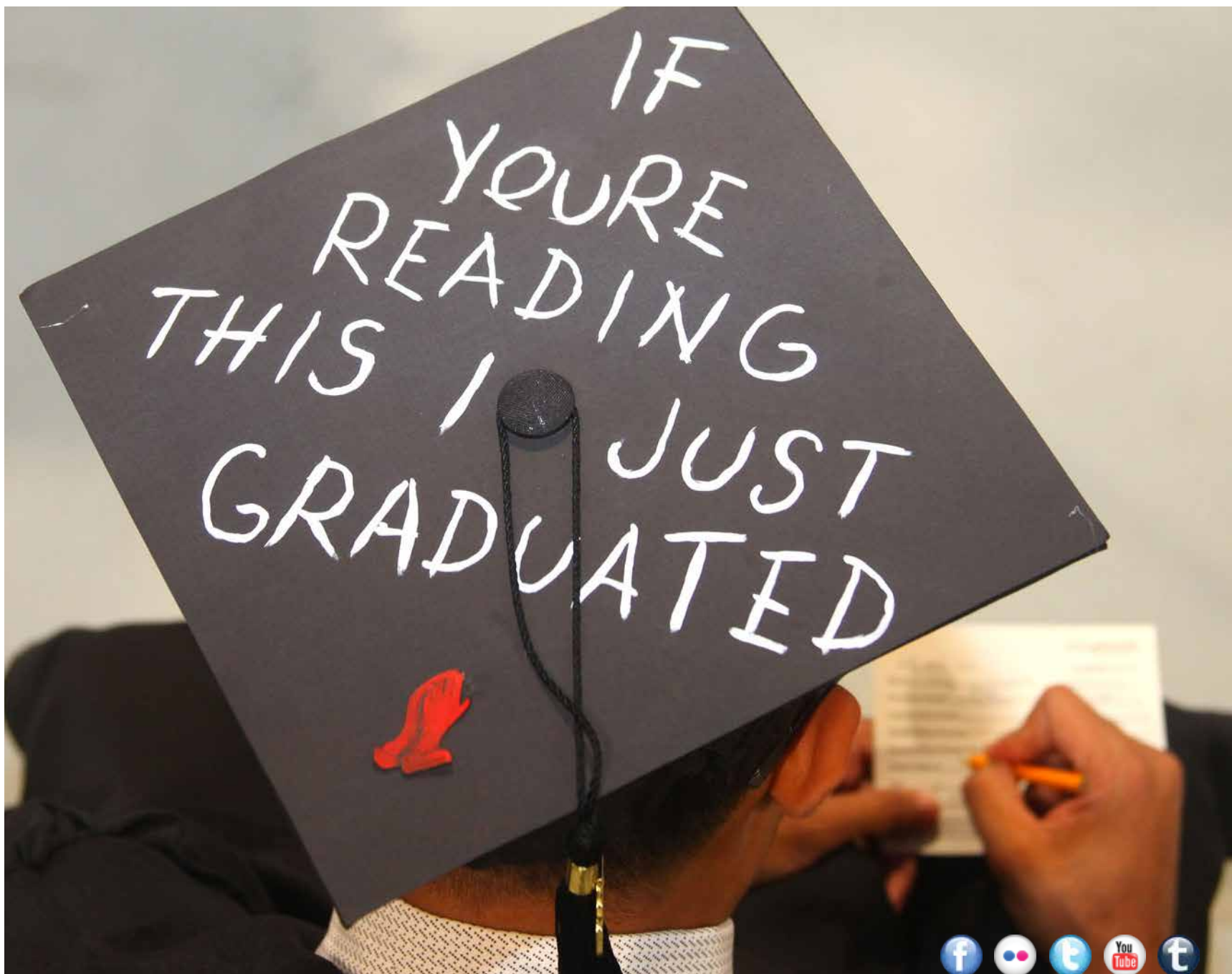
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