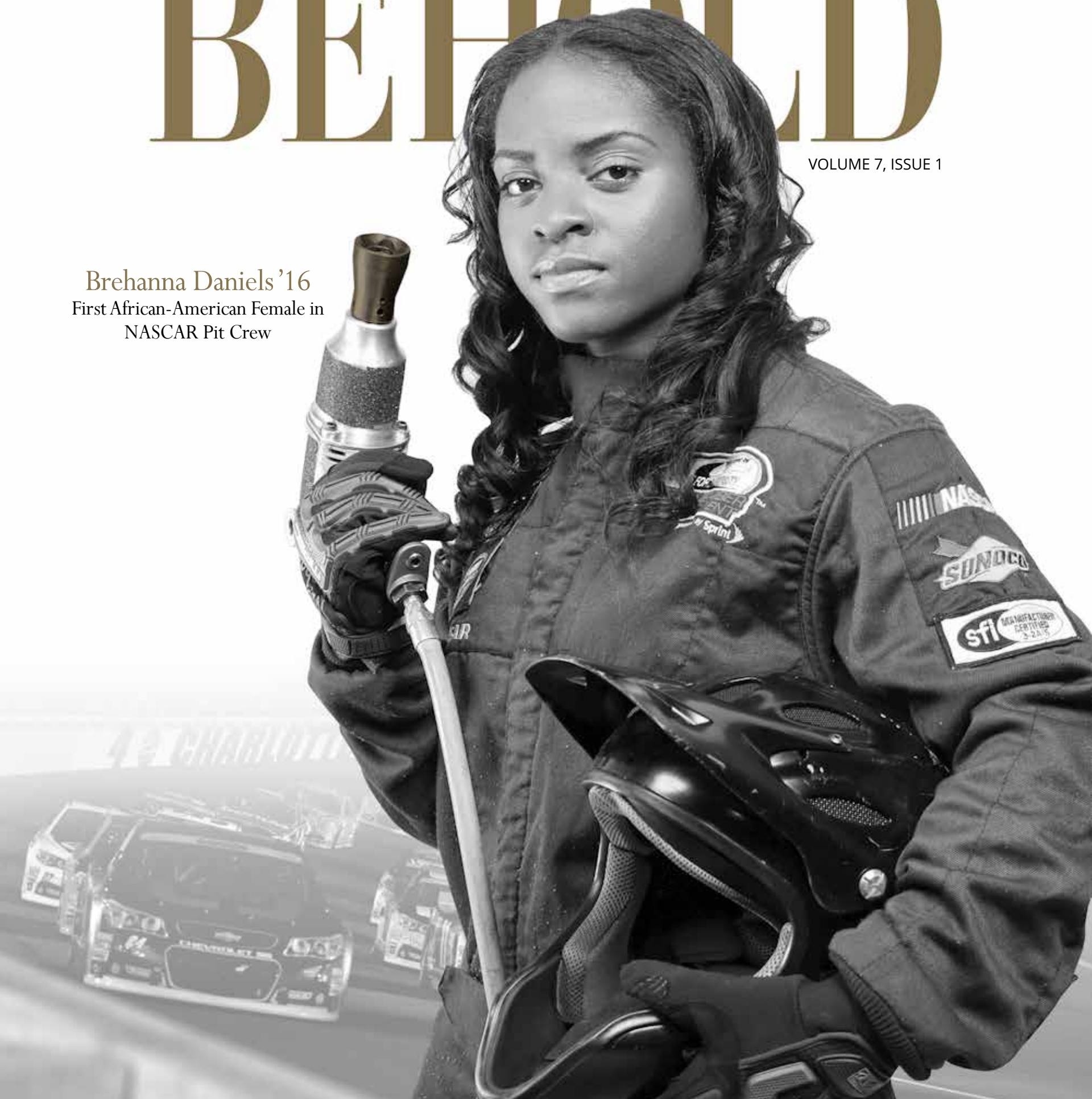


NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

BEHOLD

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

Brehanna Daniels '16
First African-American Female in
NASCAR Pit Crew



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PHOTO BY JAMES SOSSOU

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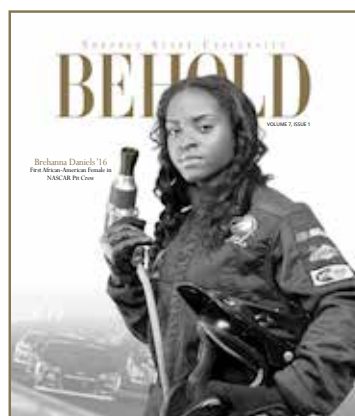
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Brehanna Daniels
Photo by Lateef Gibson





COMMUNICATIONS TOWER
Focal point of the campus quad

From the Desk of the Vice President for University Advancement

It takes a vision to grow a university. If you look up the definition of a vision statement, it will likely read: An aspirational description of what an organization would like to achieve or accomplish in its long-term future.

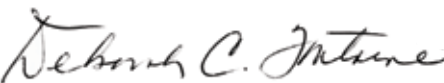
Dr. Lyman Beecher Brooks, Norfolk State's first president, had a vision. He would often say that one day Norfolk State would stretch from Park Avenue on the west to Merrimac Avenue (now Ballentine Boulevard) on the east. Dr. Brooks was not willing to settle for the 55-acre tract along Corprew Avenue that the college had acquired in the 1950s and its one building Tidewater Hall. Many may have felt that his aspirations for Norfolk State were not achievable.

Yet when he retired in 1975, the campus extended westward to Park Avenue and consisted of 100 acres of land, two residential towers, a fine arts building, a dining hall and a three-story library. During his 37 years as president, he could transform even the most mundane things into new and exciting ideas. As you'll begin reading on Page 3, Dr. Brooks knew that the noise and inconvenience of construction on campus was the aspirational 'Sound of Progress' — Vision.

Today, Norfolk State continues to build upon the evolutionary and prophetic thinking of Dr. Brooks. This issue of BEHOLD illustrates how the University continues to move forward, progressing toward a more expanded 21st Century vision while affirming the ideals that Dr. Brooks cherished. We're re-imagining the physical campus, our academic offerings and relationships with the greater community even as we remain steadfast to the principle of "putting students first."

The Master Plan article (Page 6) chronicles the transformation of the Norfolk State University campus over the last decade and highlights new projects. The dedication of our new Cybersecurity Complex and the launch of two cutting-edge fields of study ... cyberpsychology and cybersociology ... squarely points us toward a futuristic vision of Norfolk State. The BEHOLD feature (Page 16) reminds us that there are still barriers to overcome. The article profiles the unexpected history-making achievement of a young alumna who broke a barrier in NASCAR. The University's newest video (Page 24) provides us with a soul-stirring reminder of the important work that faculty and staff carry out every day as six alumni describe how Norfolk State saw the future in them, and changed their lives. We will be sharing that video with you soon.

As we look back to the past and forward to the future, Norfolk State University is an HBCU for the Modern World, grounded by our heritage, focused on the future, and deeply committed to student success. Truly, a place that Dr. Brooks be very proud of.



Deborah C. Fontaine



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY BEHOLD

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

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.

Melvin Stith Sr., Ph.D.
Interim President

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PHOTO BY HOBBS STUDIO

DR. BROOKS' 'SOUND OF PROGRESS' *Still Resonates Today*

CONTINUED ON PG. 4





PHOTO COURTESY OF: HARRISON B. WILSON ARCHIVES

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

The words of Dr. Lyman Beecher Brooks have stayed with Dr. Melvin T. Stith for more than 50 years.

At the time that he first heard them, Stith was a student and Brooks was the provost of what was then the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College. A true visionary, Brooks had much bigger plans for the Norfolk Division. He had already moved the college three times to bigger locations and until it made the final move to the present day campus. He had built Tidewater Hall, the college's first permanent building (later named G.W.C. Brown Memorial Hall) and now more construction was underway. On this particular day during an assembly of faculty and students the constant boom of a construction machine repeatedly broke the students' attentiveness. Realizing this, Stith said, "Dr. Brooks went on to explain to us that the noise that we heard was more than just the sound of construction — it was the sound of progress — the sound of a university moving forward toward the future."

That struck a chord with Stith so much so, that today as interim president and Norfolk State's first alumnus to hold that position, he is using the experience and Brooks' words to envision a new "Sound of Progress" for NSU. Although his vision may not always involve building physical structures, it does involve building a strong Norfolk State. And building it together with faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community.

Stith understands the importance and the enormity of the agenda and the vision. But he also understands that NSU students deserve no less. "The agenda I have set forth is ambitious," he told faculty and staff last January. "It will not be completed in the first week, first two months or even during my tenure. But the hard work of moving this agenda forward will begin today. It will become our sound of progress — our sound of a university moving forward toward the future." **B**

DR. STITH'S KEY PRIORITIES:

PRIORITY #1: GROW IMPACT BY:

- Using a students-first approach to teaching and learning that supports student success
- Preparing graduates to compete in the 21st century global economy
- Maintaining our continued commitment to providing a high-quality, affordable college degree
- Maintaining a welcoming, supportive and self-empowering environment for all

PRIORITY #2: GROW RELEVANCE BY:


- Elevating NSU as a vital partner in the economic development of Hampton Roads, Virginia and the global community
- Increasing partnerships to expand NSU's reach beyond campus walls
- Maintaining a fully engaged faculty committed to teaching excellence, scholarly research and community engagement

PRIORITY #3: GROW REVENUES BY:

- Increasing solicitation of competitive grants from local, state and federal sources
- Employing enhanced exploration of revenue growth through technology transfer activities
- Placing renewed emphasis on increasing philanthropic giving from alumni and friends of NSU







RE-IMAGINING NORFOLK STATE

An Update on the Master Plan

Nearly 10 years ago, Norfolk State University leaders set on a path to re-envision what the University would look like, feel like and provide to students as a 21st century institution of higher education. Out of that visioning came the University master plan — an ambitious design project that would overhaul the look, feel, and function of the campus. The objective: provide quality space for students by way of new learning spaces, living spaces and gathering spaces; provide pedestrian friendly pathways in and around campus; and create an architecturally dramatic entranceway that establishes a sense that you have arrived at a special place.

And while the path hasn't always been smooth and straight, Norfolk State now offers a dramatically different physical environment than it did just a decade ago. The campus is now home to a recently completed academic and student-centered quadrangle that includes an 84,500 square-foot Student Center, a 56,000 square-foot Student Services Center, the 132,000 square-foot Lyman Beecher Brooks Library, a 140,000 square-foot Nursing and General Education classroom building, the new 154,000 square-foot G.W.C. Brown Memorial Hall complex and a 95-foot tower that serves as the focal point.

CONTINUED ON PG. 8

Presidential Parkway Entrance Way - Fall 2018



CONTINUED FROM PG.7

Even more construction is planned. Construction is scheduled to begin on a new entrance at Park Avenue and Presidential Parkway — Gate 1 — in July 2018 and be completed in October. This gateway onto the campus will include walls of brick and masonry concrete that arch at pedestrian entry points. The new entrance also includes realignment of the existing entry road, a new check-in point and new landscaping. “The University has defined edges, but lacks a sense of arrival off Park Avenue,” said University architect Richard Law. “Gate 1 is the main entrance, and will represent the spirit and pride of the Norfolk State community.”

Another construction project is also underway. A 194,000 square-foot residence hall, located on the former site of the former Norfolk Community Hospital, will provide 740 beds for students, resident assistants and hall directors. Six

hundred beds are expected to be ready in July 2019 and the additional 140 are expected to be completed in December 2019. The residence hall will feature an exercise area, open spaces for study and student activities, a multipurpose room, a gaming area, barber shop and salon, and housing administrative offices.

Each residential floor will include a shared common area with a kitchenette-laundry and seating area. The residential rooms will be arranged into semi-suites with private bathrooms. The facility will also have a memorial garden to the north of the building, which will commemorate Norfolk Community Hospital, which served and employed African Americans in the Norfolk community for decades. The garden will be publicly accessible and accompanied by a narrative plaque describing the history and importance of the hospital to the community.

NSU Timeline

On September 23, 1935, the Norfolk Unit of Virginia Union University opened its doors to 85 students from the Norfolk-Portsmouth area in **3 second-floor rooms in the Hunton YMCA building on Brambleton Avenue**. It was founded as the **Norfolk Unit of Virginia Union University**. **St. Paul Epps** was the **first student** to enroll.

**Hunton YMCA
building on
Brambleton Avenue
1935**





Further down the road, there is also a possibility that the 35,781 square-foot Spartan Station may become a mini-mall for students, faculty, and staff and there’s discussion of a new fine arts building and school of business within the next 10 years.

Once complete, the master plan will likely create opportunities for Norfolk State to attract more students and compete with local and national universities. However, the completion is contingent upon funding. The total cost of the project is an estimated \$574,679,000, and securing that amount can take years, said Anton Kashiri, associate vice president for facilities management.

According to Norfolk State’s 2015-2016 financial statement, state appropriations account for 37 percent of its revenue, so the University needs a

diverse array of resources to meet that goal. Capital building projects must make their way through the state approval process that could include sign-off by the General Assembly. Kashiri, who was chair of the master planning committee, remains optimistic about completing the recommendations in the plan. “Getting money is a political process,” he said, “the implementation is driven by state funds, but we just finished Brown Hall, and the other projects are going just fine.”

“With a master plan,” Kashiri said, “things can change,” and even still, Norfolk State continues to break ground.

—*Josette Compton contributed to this article.*

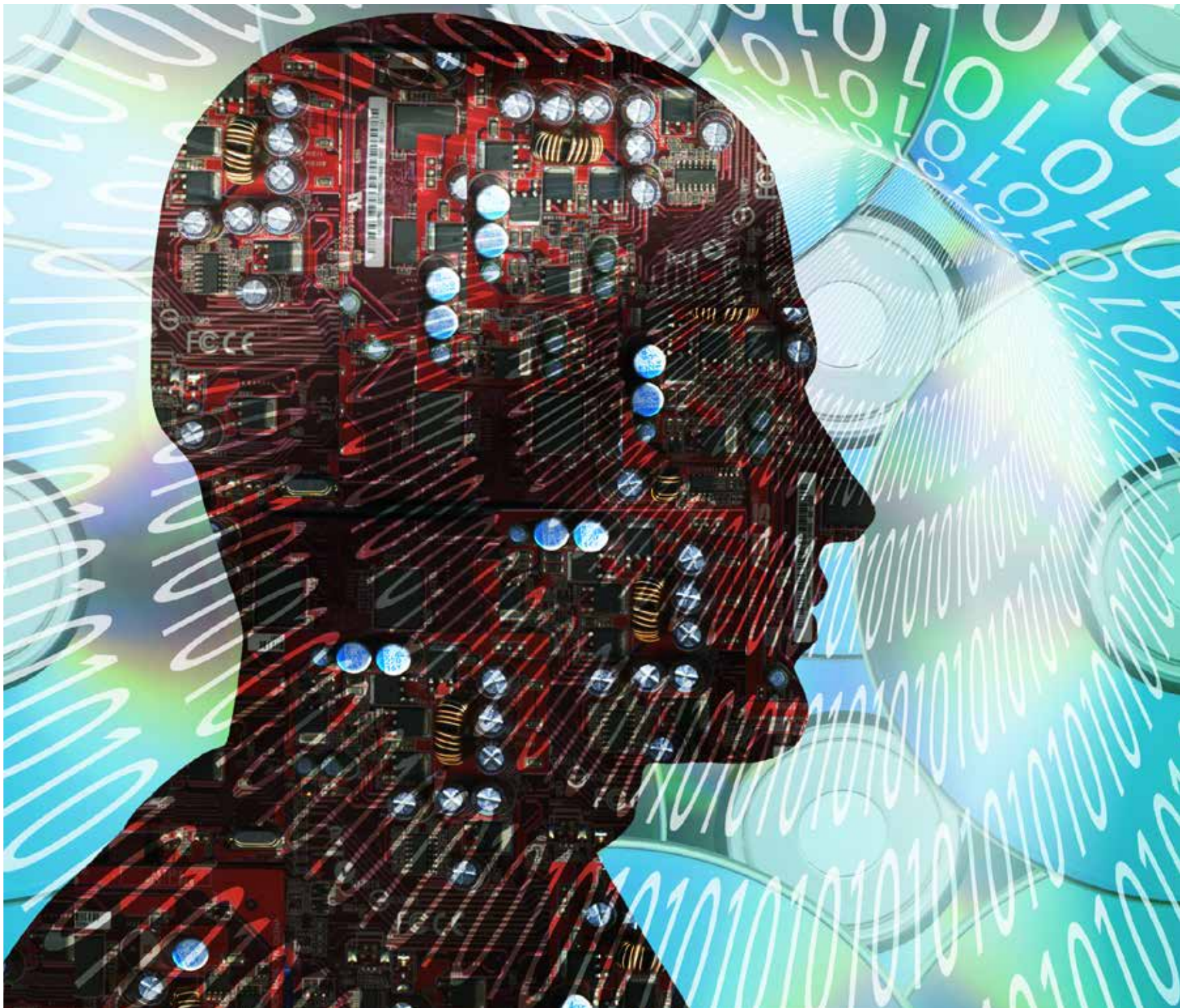


St. Paul Epps, was the **first student** to enroll.

Samuel Fischer Scott, an alumnus of Virginia Union and Portsmouth native, served as the first director for three years. He was constantly preoccupied with maintaining the solvency of the school.

Dr. Lyman Beecher Brooks, a Virginia Union alumnus, became director upon the resignation of Scott. Known as the father of the University, Dr. Brooks served as director from 1938-63, provost 1963-69, **and the first president** 1969-75. Under his leadership, the institution had its greatest growth and development.





NSU Timeline

Brooks immediately moved the college to a larger building on Bank Street. After severing ties with Virginia Union, the school was known as **Norfolk Polytechnic College from 1942 to 1944.**



The institution had two name changes in its first decade, becoming a division of Virginia State College and eligible for state funding in 1944.

The Norfolk City Council, the governor, and general assembly approved and provided a permanent site for the college on Corprew Avenue next to Norfolk Community Hospital.

The college adopted its own mascot, **"Spartan,"** in 1952.



NEW PROGRAMS

Explore Cyber Technology's Affect on Individual, Society

By GAIL KENT

Russia's hacking of Facebook and other social media during the 2016 election may have made the public more aware of how much it is influenced by online messaging, but Russia was only taking advantage of a system that has been in place for more than a decade, says Scott Debb, Ed.D., assistant professor of psychology, a researcher working toward establishing a master's degree in cyberpsychology at NSU.

"Whether it's Facebook or Instagram or whatever, it's all algorithmic, so they feed you information that confirms your own biases and beliefs," he says. "In cyberpsychology, as a research mechanism, we have a responsibility to help the public understand just how these biases are being reinforced."

Debb says the goal of the proposed program, which overlaps cybersecurity and psychology, is to produce students adept at understanding human behavior as it applies to the often unconscious influence of technology. Upon graduation in under two years, students will have a publishable research project that will make an immediate contribution to the field of cyberpsychology, Debb says, and go on to find jobs in the high-tech workforce as behavioral scientists or similar positions.

One example of the type of job a cyberpsychologist might find would be working for a self-driving car company. The cyberpsychologist would study humans' trust of the technology, he says. "Cyberpsychology would be the human aspect behind the decision-making; how we as individuals trust in these existing and emerging structures."

The proposed program is part of the Department of Defense naming of NSU's Computer Science Department a Center of Excellence three years ago. NSU is part of a cooperative agreement, similar to a grant, which provides \$5 million to study cyberpsychology with other disciplines and with cyberpsychology programs in other countries, then to develop a master's degree program. Once approved by the State Council of Higher Education, NSU's program will be the only such program in the country.

A cousin to cyberpsychology – cybersociology – is also making inroads at NSU. While cyberpsychology is concerned with the individual's behavior in regards to technology, sociology considers it from a broader, cultural perspective. Robert K. Perkins, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Sociology, says the department, using a \$500,000 National Science Foundation grant, will open its first senior-level course in cybersociology next semester. Eventually, he hopes to see a degree program.

The Department of Sociology offers three degree programs, including an undergraduate program in sociology, and master's degrees in criminal justice and urban affairs. "So what we're doing with cybersociology is introducing computer technology strategies and all types of computer science information into our undergrad courses," says Perkins. "They're a lead to our graduate program to help students understand the impact of cybercrime in our society."

Norfolk State is poised to become not only a national, but also an international leader in cyberpsychology and cybersociology because these are such leading-edge fields. "We have a really unique opportunity to not just contribute to an existing field, but to be a leader," Debb says. **B**

Tidewater (now Brown) Hall opened as the first permanent building on the new campus **in 1955**. All academic instruction, administration, food service, athletics, and cultural events were held in this multi-purpose building.

The college's academic honors program began **in 1960**.

Norfolk State College became an independent four-year baccalaureate granting institution **on February 1, 1969**.

Nursing was added to the college curriculum in September 1956 and immediately increased overall enrollment.



Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, and Zeta Phi Beta sororities, and Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Omega Psi Phi fraternities established campus chapters **in 1962**.

Norfolk State has long been a leader IN CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION

By JOE GARVEY

The University's stature in the field will only be enhanced with its new Cybersecurity Complex.

"I think this complex and its grand opening give a chance to showcase and talk about the history of cybersecurity and Norfolk State and the great things we've been doing here," said Dr. Jonathan M. Graham, professor of computer science and director of Information Assurance Research, Education and Development Institute (IA-REDI).

The 6,000 square-foot complex, located on the sixth floor of the McDemmond Center for Applied Research, officially opened April 23 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. More than 100 state and local officials, faculty and invited guests were on hand. Gov. Ralph Northam spoke and toured the facility.

He noted that "jobs like cybersecurity, like unmanned aerial systems, like biotechnology, like data collection, data analysis ... are the jobs of the 21st century, so that if we can train our young individuals for these jobs then we can really drive our economy.

"So you all are doing great things here at Norfolk State, and I just have been so impressed."

"The Cybersecurity Complex starts a new chapter in the Norfolk State story," added Interim University President Dr. Melvin T. Stith Sr. Efforts to create the complex began in earnest three years

ago, spurred after the University received a \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

"I strongly believe that the grant confirmed the idea that NSU was fit to build the complex and create a groundbreaking academic ecosystem to train, develop and expose the next-generation STEM workforce focused in cybersecurity," said Cory Stafford-Jackson, program manager for the NNSA Minority Serving Institutions Program, Leadership and Workforce Development Division, Learning and Career Management.

The project came together in two phases. Computer Science Department Chairman and Complex Director Dr. Aurelia Williams said the University, under then-President Eddie N. Moore Jr., invested \$3 million. The Department of Defense's HBCU/MI Program, under the direction of Evelyn Kent, provided two \$500,000 equipment grants. Dr. George Hsieh, professor of computer science, also secured a \$5million cooperative agreement under the HBCU/MI Program to fund the the complex's Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity that he leads as the director.

Money from the NNSA grant has been used to fund some of the complex's activities, such as Malware Reverse Engineering,

CONTINUED ON PG. 14

NSU Timeline

The first master's degree was awarded in **Communications in 1975**, followed by **Social Work** the next year.

Harrison Benjamin Wilson, Jr., became the second president of Norfolk State College, July 1, 1975.



July 1, 1979, Norfolk State College was granted University status by the General Assembly of Virginia.

WNSB, the 1,000 watt non-commercial radio station, first signed on the air **February 22, 1980.**





NSU School of Business was awarded national accreditation by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business in 1990.



Marie Valentine McDemmond was selected as the **third president of Norfolk State University, effective July 1, 1997.** First woman president to lead the institution and the **first African-American president of a public college in Virginia.** She served eight years.

McDemmond became the **first person in the University's history to donate \$1 million to the institution.**





SPA WAR Systems Center Atlantic-Hampton Roads



CONTINUED FROM PG.13

The end result is a facility that brings Norfolk State’s cybersecurity efforts “under one roof”
—Dr. Aurelia T. Williams

Machine Learning and endeavors to encourage students to pursue computer science and cybersecurity disciplines.

The end result is a facility that brings Norfolk State’s cybersecurity efforts “under one roof,” Dr. Williams said.

“We have faculty from computer science, psychology and sociology working together to cover the broad aspects of cybersecurity,” she said. “So this center gives us a home for our collaborative efforts on campus.”

That’s one of the complex’s most appealing features, said Dr. Scott M. Debb, assistant professor of psychology who directs the cyberpsychology effort.

“We’re building something pretty unique here,” he said. “It’s really exciting. There’s got to be less than a handful of places that I know of off the top of my head in the United States that have that kind of direct access to each other. I think that’s going to make the biggest difference in what we can actually do here.

“For all the technology, there’s something to the human touch.”

The complex has work stations for 120 students and offices for 16 faculty members. Among the faculty research areas are Digital Forensics, Cloud Computing, Wireless Security, Wireless Sensor Networks, Big Data Analysis, Security Policy and Intelligent Intrusion Detection Systems.

“We have a lot of dedicated resources that most universities will not have,” Dr. Williams said. “There’s been a huge investment in this environment.”

NSU Timeline

Carolyn Winstead Meyers became the **fourth president of Norfolk State July 1, 2006**. She served until 2010.



Tony Atwater became **fifth president of Norfolk State University on July 1, 2011**

In **August 2009**, the 84,500 square-foot **Student Center** opened.





COMPLEX HIGHLIGHTS

- A closed-network lab for Malware Reverse Engineering. This allows students to “work with malware directly without concern of a leak to the rest of the university.
- The latest commercial and open source forensics software as the as the University works toward becoming a Center for Excellence in Digital Forensics.
- A Cyber Analysis Simulation and Experimentation Environment (CASE-V), which has a broadband connection to Old Dominion University, that provides a high-quality level of modeling and simulation to focus on advanced persistent threats.
- The Center of Excellence for Cybersecurity, where students work with applications designed to counter a variety of attacks. The lab has a huge server room that allows for simulated environments to enhance situational awareness and decision support for cyber defense and cyber training.

Dr. Timothy Kroecker of the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate has been involved with the project since April 2017. He’s impressed with facility.

But, he added, “What sets it apart is the faculty and staff at NSU who have worked tirelessly to bring the lab to fruition. ... The faculty, staff and students have put their all into this program, which I personally appreciate and admire.”

Most of Norfolk State’s cybersecurity partners are with the federal government and Department of Defense. Dr. Williams’ goal is to expand that role to local governments and businesses. In addition to the University’s designation as the Department of Defense Center of Excellence for Cybersecurity, it is also designated as a National Security Agency/Department of Homeland Security Center of Academic Excellence and the lead for the Department of Energy Consortium of HBCUs developing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

“We really want to leverage our national designations and cybersecurity consortium leadership into revenue-generating activities as well,” said Dr. Williams, “to become the University that is known for cyber services in the region.” **B**

The new 132,000 square-foot **Lyman Beecher Brooks Library** opened March 2012.



Eddie N. Moore, Jr. became interim president in September 2013 and **the sixth president of Norfolk State University in December 2015.** Moore retired December 2017.

Melvin T. Stith Sr., Ph.D., an NSU alumnus, became interim president **January 1, 2018.**





PHOTOGRAPH BY LATEEF GIBSON

DANIELS'

CAREER

On a Welcome, but Unexpected Track

By MATT MICHALEC

In 2016, Norfolk State produced a promotional television commercial as part of its rebranding efforts. The commercial featured current students, who took turns telling the camera what their career aspirations were.

One of those students was Brehanna Daniels '16, a Virginia Beach native who had just completed her senior season playing for the NSU women's basketball team. In the commercial which has been viewed nationwide, Daniels, a mass communication major, looked into the camera's lens with a smile, tilted her head to the side and said, "Actress."

Two years later, Daniels still aspires to appear in movies or on television shows one day. But first, she's playing a role of a different kind: Trailblazer. Daniels is the first African-American female to ever serve as a member of a pit crew at a National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) race.

CONTINUED ON PG. 18



Brehanna Daniels at the national Drive for Diversity combine in Charlotte, where she placed in the top 10 out of 20 pit crew candidates.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 17

“It’s a male-dominated sport, but you could tell that she was eager to give it a go.”

—Phil Horton, Drive for Diversity

It is an unexpected twist of fate that Daniels is now two years into a career in motorsports as a tire changer. She serves as a member of the pit crew, whose job is to refuel a racecar and change its tires as quickly as possible so it can resume racing. As a rear-tire changer, she quickly and adeptly removes the lug nuts, sets the 65-pound tire aside and waits for the tire carrier to put the new one on the rim. Then as quickly as she did before, she replaces and

tightens the lug nuts and moves to the other side. Daniels changes both tires within 15 seconds in tandem with the other team members and the car races back onto the track.

How did she get to this point? Thanks in part to a chance encounter in NSU’s Student Center in April 2016. Tiffani-Dawn Sykes, who previously served as the eligibility specialist in the NSU athletics department, used one of her connections to bring the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Pit Crew

Recruitment Tour combine to NSU that spring. The Drive for Diversity (D4D) program seeks to recruit more women and minorities into car racing, and specifically targets colleges and universities as prospective members of their pit crews. Thanks in part to Sykes, NSU was one of the stops on the recruitment tour that spring.

Sykes sought out graduating Spartan student-athletes to go through a series of tests designed to test strength, speed, footwork and agility with the D4D recruiters. After spotting Daniels eating lunch one day in the Student Center, Sykes encouraged Daniels to give the combine a try. The former Spartan basketball guard was open-minded about the possibility.

“I didn’t know anything about cars,” Daniels said. “She (Sykes) showed me a video and it was the end of basketball season and I didn’t really have anything to do, so I decided to give it a shot.”

She and two of her classmates, former NSU football players Lamar Neal and Quinta Funderburk, did well enough at NSU’s combine to be invited to the national combine later that



Daniels is interviewed by Sheinelle Jones of NBC's Today Show. The segment aired in May.



March 3 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.



Daniels with NASCAR driver Jesse Iwuji.

summer in Charlotte, North Carolina. And from there, both Neal and Daniels were selected to participate in the six-month training program that would put them on the road to a career in the discipline. Phil Horton, director of athletic performance for D4D, remembers that Daniels was the only female to show up to the NSU combine. "It's a male-dominated sport, but you could tell that she was eager to give it a go," said Horton. He says that there have been 12 females in the program, but she has been the only African-American. "She's a rarity on pit row."

April 8, 2017, was the day Daniels made history. That's when she competed in her first action as a pit crew member during the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) race in Nashville, Tennessee. Daniels works as an independent contractor not associated with a particular race team, so she can be called to work for most any driver on any circuit, including ARCA and NASCAR.

This year, Daniels has moved up to work races in NASCAR's Truck Series and Xfinity Series, one

step below the Monster Energy Cup series, which is the sport's top level.

"I only worked eight races last year and none before April," Daniels said. "After two months this year, I'd already done more races than all of last year, so I feel like I'm learning and progressing."

People are taking notice of Daniels' milestone achievement. Already this year, she has conducted interviews with ESPN's Outside the Lines, NBC's Today Show, Ebony and The Source magazines, and numerous regional TV outlets to name a few. As someone who is comfortable in front of the camera, Daniels has taken the attention in stride.

"I'm not sure I've ever been surrounded by so many people. After one interview was done, the next person was jumping in," Daniels said. "But I felt natural at it. It's fun to be interviewed by all these magazines I grew up reading." Yet, what seems to touch her the most is the support she receives from fans and those who see her as an inspiration, especially girls, young women and African Americans. Her Twitter feed, which has more than 5,000 followers, reflects the affection

people have for her, with comments like, "You're amazing" and "Thanks for being a role model."



Lamar Neal

Neal has also carved out a niche for himself in the sport. He was signed to work as a tire carrier for Richard Childress Racing, one of the biggest teams in motorsports, and even got to work the Daytona 500, the Super Bowl of

stock car racing.

As for Daniels, she still harbors dreams of getting into acting one day. But for now, she's more than happy to see where her newfound career path takes her.

"I can see myself doing this for a while. I want to perform at the highest level I can and get signed to a Cup team full-time," Daniels said. "It's all about progression. I want to open up doors for others out there who look like me." **B**



Mainstage of the new theatre in the G.W.C. Brown Hall complex

New *Drama & Theatre* DEGREE *Begins in the Fall*

By REGINA LIGHTFOOT

Since his arrival on campus four years ago, NSU Theatre Company Producing Artistic Director, Anthony M. Stockard, has been working to get a Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Theatre degree at Norfolk State. On March 29, his hard work paid off.

That's when the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approved the University's Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Theatre program. Now Stockard and the admissions and registrar teams are busily enrolling students for the fall 2018 semester.

The program will be housed in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts under the College of Liberal Arts. Up until now, students who were interested in drama and theater received a Bachelor of Arts in English with concentrations in Theatre Performance and Theatre Technology. Following that path required many credit hours of English, reducing the number of hours students had available to take in drama and theatre.

"The new program offers much more focused and thorough course offerings," explained Stockard. "The number of unrestricted elective hours also permits the student to declare a minor without having to stay in school an additional semester or so to complete the additional hours."

When Stockard arrived at Norfolk State in fall 2014, the campus — and especially the theatre program and its students — were still grappling with the death of long-time theatre director Dr. Clarence Murray Jr. Many students weren't sure if they would continue putting on theatrical performances. But Stockard went to work and the program has taken off.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NSU THEATRE COMPANY

Scene from the Play "Color Purple"

"Since my arrival, enrollment in the English degree theatre concentrations has gone from seven to more than 50 students," said Stockard. Not only has the program participation increased, but also the impact on students and their success after graduation. Stockard has pushed his students to participate in the University/Resident Theatre Association's (URTA) National Unified Auditions and Interviews — the premiere theatre and drama graduate placement audition with events in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. "I believe that part of preparing students for bright futures is introducing them to post-undergraduate opportunities," Stockard said.

"My first graduate, Juspin Jones, collected more than a quarter million dollars in scholarship offers and chose Temple University from amongst his very impressive list of options. He will graduate this spring from Temple University having been on a full scholarship with stipend." Other students have gone on to graduate study on scholarship at the University of Houston, Brown University, University of Florida, University of Southern California and University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Additionally, students have starred in professional Shakespeare, musical and dramatic productions at professional venues in the Hampton Roads region while pursuing their undergraduate degrees. Stockard has forged a partnership between NSU and Virginia Stage Company. Most recently Jakeetrius Woods, a sophomore who will be enrolled in the new program in the fall, is starring in the lead role of Yolanda in the current Virginia Stage production of *Crowns*. Meredith Johnson, spring 2017 NSU theatre alumna, is also in the production.

All of this unique and focused training and exposure has garnered national awards and attention for drama and theatre at NSU. In the last four years, the program has won two national awards from *The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival*, made back-to-back appearances at *The National Black Theatre Festival* and were selected as the Best Fine Arts Program at the 2017 HBCU Awards in Washington D.C.

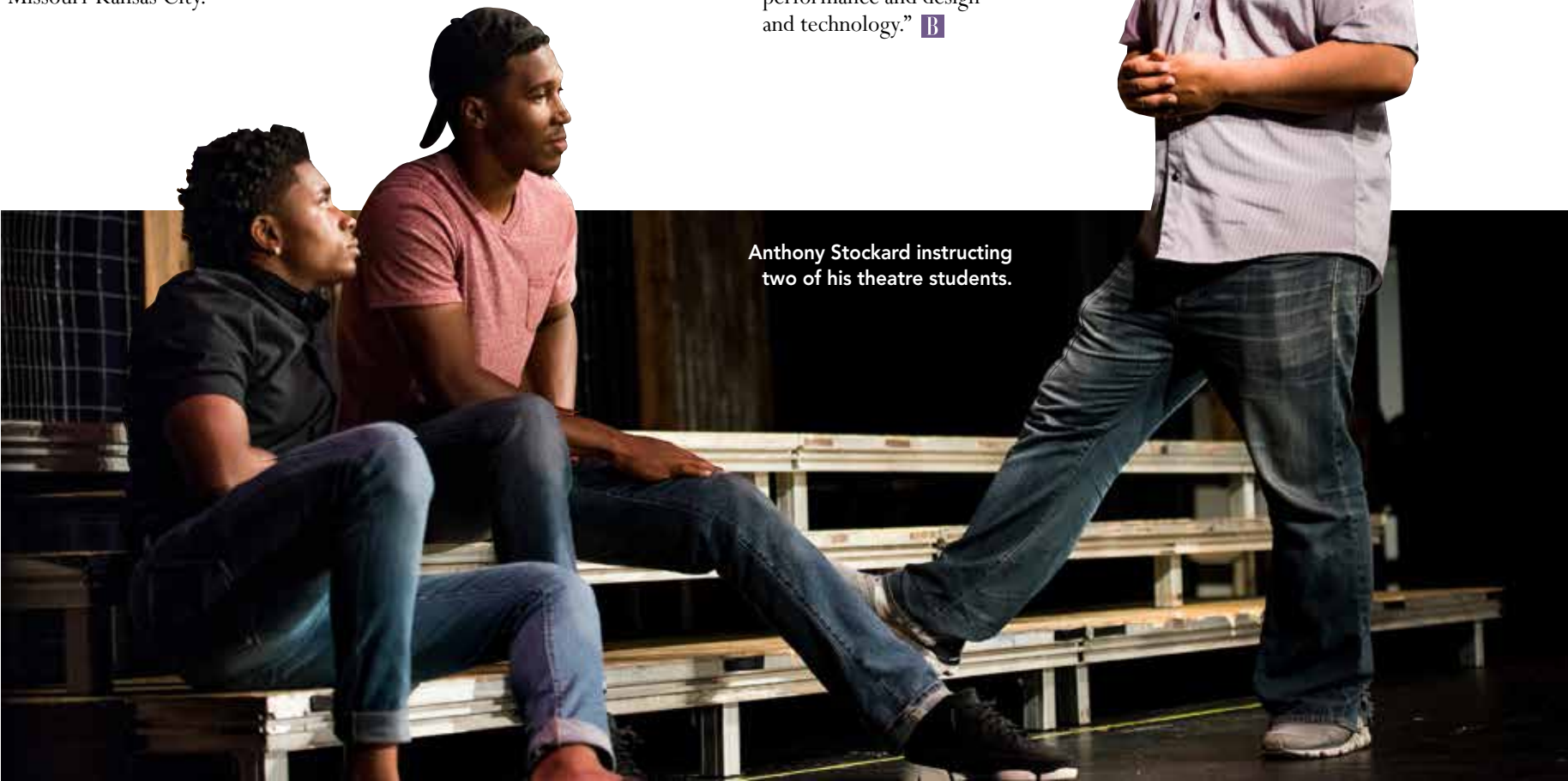
Stockard requires his students to take part in all aspects of a production. They manage, build, provide technical support, direction, acting and marketing. Students have marketed the theatrical productions throughout the region. As a result, the community has responded.

"The community has also been right there with me as I have built the program. We went from a non-existent audience to an entire sold-out run of a show by the end of my first year," Stockard said. "This year, every single performance for every single production was sold out." Stockard also launched a subscriber series for his production season. "Last year that attracted 100 patrons, and this year it jumped to over 300."

During the past academic year, the NSU Theatre Company has performed in their new performance spaces in the G.W.C. Brown Memorial Hall complex. The new 154,000 square-foot building contains a new mainstage proscenium theater, studio theater and amphitheater. "Our new state-of-the-art building and this new program make

NSU primed to be one of America's best programs for training in performance and design and technology." **B**

Anthony Stockard instructing two of his theatre students.



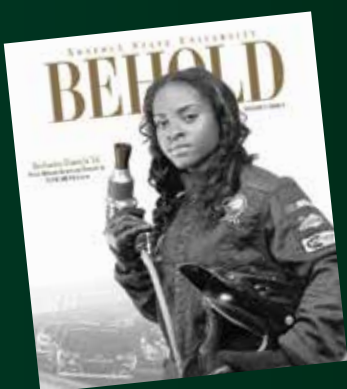
NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NEW PLANNED GIVING WEBSITE

The new interactive website provides information about making a deferred gift to the University and its benefits to you and Norfolk State.

Explore the new NSU planned giving website at norfolklegacy.org

What will be your legacy to Norfolk State?

A member of the University Advancement team is available to answer questions related to a planned gift by calling **(757) 823-8323** for a confidential appointment.



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Viral Video *Tells World* About *Norfolk State*



Student Government Association President Astra Armstrong is telling the world about Norfolk State from a student perspective. Armstrong, a senior business management major, has already created two videos about the University and posted them to social media. Her goal is to create more school spirit among students, faculty and administrators as well as reaching out to prospective students.

Armstrong's first video, a remix of *Dripping in Finesse* by Bruno Mars came out during her campaign for SGA president. "My idea for the first video was simply wanting to bring back school spirit," said Armstrong. "A lot of times students do flyers and pass out candy. I wanted to engage Norfolk State students and students at other HBCU campuses in the area and let students know it's okay to step out of your comfort zone."

Little did Armstrong know that her campaign video would go viral. It has more than 200,000 hits and was also picked up by local media. "It surprised me a lot," said Armstrong. "I thought it would just reach Norfolk State. I posted it to my Facebook page and had three people on my campaign to post it on their accounts, and we also had a twitter account."

With the success of the first video, Armstrong was ready to produce a second one. This time it was to engage students and alumni and show Norfolk State in a positive light. Two weeks before the shoot, she sent out an SGA video call open to all student organizations. This time, the song was *This Is How We Do It* by Montell Jordan. "Rep the green and gold like nobody does," the students sing. "This is how we do it."

"I wasn't going to release it until August 1. It was going to be a welcome back video," she said. But then she decided to use it to invite prospective students to NSU. "If you didn't know what school to go to, I decided to say to them that Norfolk State is your home," And she also wanted to lift the spirits of current students, who may be discouraged.

She plans to continue her video campaign. For her third video, Armstrong wants to get incoming freshmen involved, so they can become engaged early in their college experience. A theme that continued to come back to Armstrong is getting more students and administrators involved and increasing school spirit. "I really want to emphasize the importance of administrators building that relationship with the student body. Faculty and staff have to make this a home as well."

She wants to see administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni at more athletic and student events — singing the same songs and chanting the same cheers. One big Spartan family. One Spartan Nation. BEHOLD. **B**



VIDEO SHOWS HOW

Norfolk State Experience Shaped Lives

By REGINA LIGHTFOOT

When individual students come to Norfolk State, they come for a variety of reasons. Some come for particular academic programs. Some come to play sports. Some come because their family members attended the University. No matter why they come, it seems they all experience the same thing. A professor, staff member, administrator or coach had an influence on their lives.

That's the point of the newest video that the University will release this Summer. The video is a positive and moving testament of the important life-changing role Norfolk State has played in seeing the future in its students. It is a follow-up to what has been titled the "Dreams" video released two years ago.

Six alumni — Glenn Carrington '77, Brehanna Daniels '16, Nicolas Herbert '04, Stephanie Morales '04, Danielle Smith Jones '00 and Melvin Stith '68 — came back to where it all started to tell their stories.

The video also expands on the University's outreach efforts to tell the Norfolk State story to larger audiences.

In the "Dreams" video, students talked about what they wanted to be when they graduated: U.S. ambassador, news anchor, chemical analyst, nurse practitioner, professional baseball player, IT manager. Two of the students who appear in that video have had achievements. Devin Hemmerich, an NSU baseball player, graduated shortly after the filming and was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers, a Major League Baseball franchise. Hemmerich is in his second season pitching for the Dodgers single A team. Meanwhile, Brehanna Daniels, who wanted to be an actress, has made history by becoming NASCAR's



first African-American female to pit a crew (see her story on page 16).

In the newest video, Carrington and Herbert reveal that they weren't engaged in academics until a faculty member made them realize their talents. "A professor looked at me one day and said, 'Glenn do you know how good you are.' That person changed my life," revealed Carrington, who went on to reach the highest levels in the financial world, working for venerable firms such as Ernst & Young and Arthur Andersen. Now he's bringing that experience and love for Norfolk State to NSU students as dean of the School of Business.

In the video, Morales, the first woman to be elected Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Portsmouth, Virginia, describes what Norfolk State is like. "You're joining a community of people who want to see you succeed, and

will provide you with every tool to make that a reality," says Morales, who was elected to a second term as Commonwealth's Attorney in November 2017.

Smith Jones, an educator, explains she needed that extra push her professors gave her and urges students to "Study hard and seek out opportunities to become involved." While Herbert, a business and management analyst, acknowledges that there will be times when studies get hard, and he encourages students saying, "Continue. Push through. Find whatever you need to find to get through to the next point."

In the end, Carrington sums it all up, "It takes a village to prepare a professional."

*That's the Norfolk State story — We see the future in you. **B***



STANDOUT

Heating Up the Track for NSU

Martha Bissah has done what few Spartan women track and field athletes have accomplished. On June 9, Bissah finished in sixth place in the 800 meters at the 2018 NCAA Division I National Outdoor Track & Field Championships. That sixth-place finish earned her first team All-American honors at the Division I level — something NSU women haven't achieved since 2004.

Bissah is coming off a dominant year in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference winning gold medals in the 800 and 1,500 meters at the 2018 MEAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships on May 5. Following up that performance on May 25, she became the first Norfolk State women's track athlete to ever qualify for the Division I nationals in the 800 meters. The sophomore is also the first Spartan since 2013 to qualify for the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field National Championships. A feat she accomplished by placing fifth out of 48 competitors at the NCAA East Preliminary regional meet.

But that is just part of what Bissah's accomplished this academic year. She became the conference cross-country champion in the fall and the MEAC Indoor MVP in February, and has not lost any individual races in MEAC competition during the year.

"She's living up to expectations," said Kenneth Giles, NSU director of track & field programs.

A native of Ghana, she is no stranger to winning gold or to making history. At 16, she won the gold medal in the 800-meter outdoor competition at the 2014 Summer Youth Olympics in China. She surprised just about everyone. And brought Ghana its first Olympic gold medal at any international event.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



It has been quite a journey for the middle-distance runner. She went from celebrated to shunned in her homeland over a dispute with her country's athletic association. Despite that setback, she is building a successful track career at Norfolk State. Bissah is acutely aware that she didn't get to Norfolk State without help and wants to thank Ambassador George Haldane Lutterodt and Kweku Nimako, a couple of her mentors from back home who have helped her along the way.

Once at Norfolk State, Bissah has lit up the track. She earned two first-place finishes in her first meet for NSU and there has been no stopping her since. Bissah ended the year with five gold medals and was named NSU Female Athlete of the Year for the 2016-17 academic year.

"My motivation comes from what I've been through up to this point, and where I want to be down the road," said Bissah. "My coaches just tell me to stay positive and work hard and good things will come."

Her dream has always been to compete on a national level and she has accomplished that. "Her first year was a transitional year, said Giles, "being 5,000 miles from home, for a young 18-, 19-year old, that can be difficult," he said. "She had to get adjusted to how we do things at Norfolk State, the weather, environment and training. But this is the year she catapulted herself onto the national scene."

He credits both Bissah's determination and the work of the team's assistant coach. "Assistant coach Malcolm Watts has done a great job working with her. She doesn't have the raw speed some of the other top young ladies have nationally, but she has the desire and determination to be successful."

What does Giles see for her in the future? "Moving forward into next year, we'd love for her to break her national record, which is 1:59." With Bissah's grit, there's no doubt that she will. **B**



PHOTO BY MARK W. SUTTON

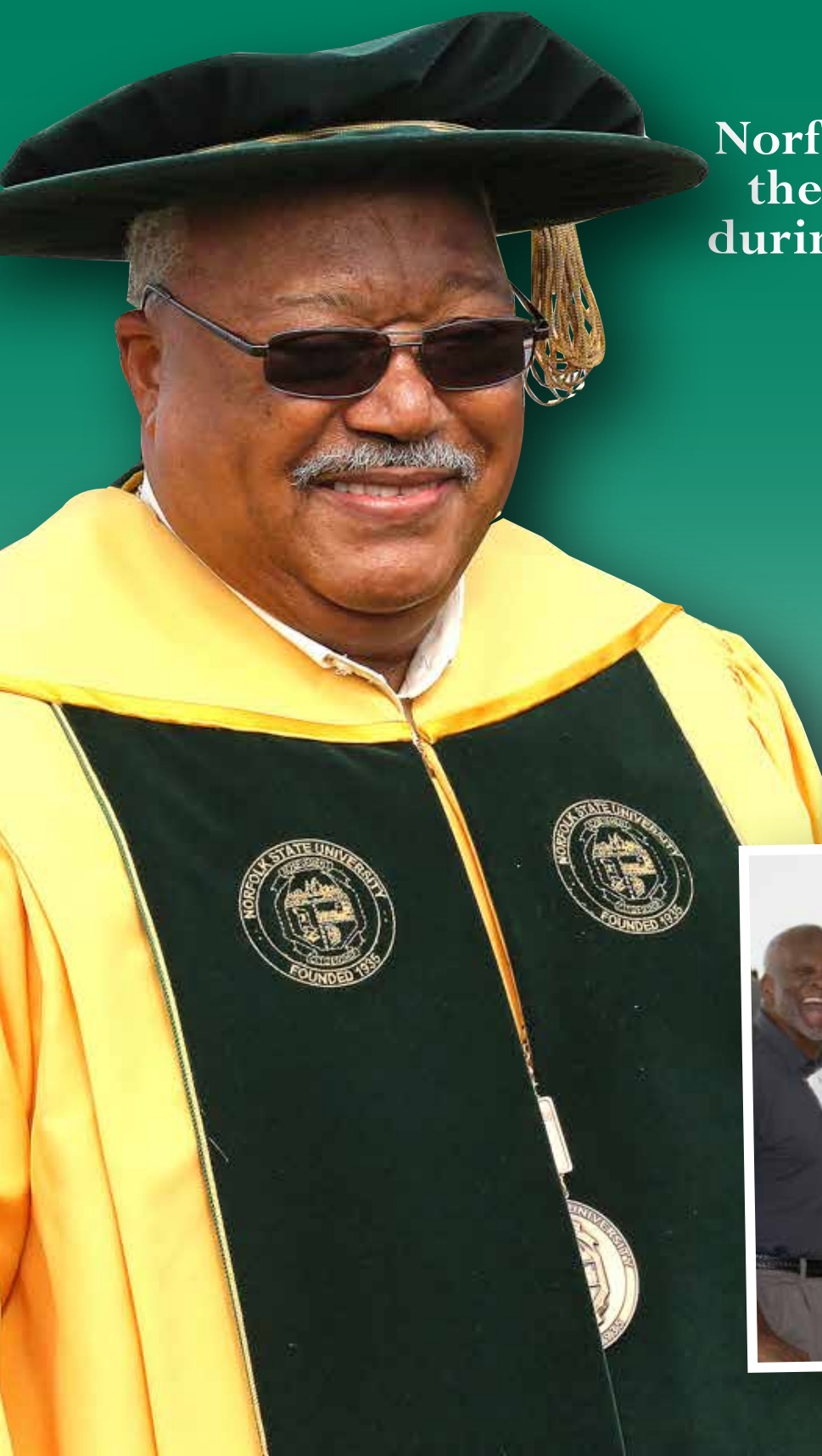
2018 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
September			
Sat. 9/1	Virginia State (Labor Day Classic)	Norfolk, Va.	6 p.m.
Sat. 9/8	James Madison	Norfolk, Va.	6 p.m.
Sat. 9/15	at Liberty	Lynchburg, Va	6 p.m.
Sat. 9/22	at South Carolina St.	Orangeburg, S.C.	6 p.m.
Sat. 9/29	Delaware State*	Norfolk, Va.	4 p.m.
October			
Sat. 10/6	at Florida A&M *	Tallahassee, Fla.	2 p.m.
Oct. 20	North Carolina Central* (Homecoming)	Norfolk, Va.	2 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Savannah State	Savannah, Ga.	3 p.m.
November			
Nov. 3	North Carolina A&T *	Greensboro, N.C.	1 p.m.
Nov. 10	Howard *	Norfolk, Va.	1 p.m.
Nov. 17	at Morgan State * (Senior Day)	Norfolk, Va.	1 p.m.

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

WELCOME BACK CLASS OF 1968

Norfolk State University welcomed the Class of 1968 back to campus during its 102nd Commencement to celebrate their 50th class anniversary.



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Celebrates 102nd Commencement



Justin Fairfax

Degrees were conferred to more than 500 students Saturday, May 5, during Norfolk State University's 102nd Commencement. The ceremony, held at William "Dick" Price Stadium on the NSU campus, also saw the commissioning of six second lieutenants in the U.S. Army and six ensigns into the U.S. Navy as well as recognition of the 50th reunion class.

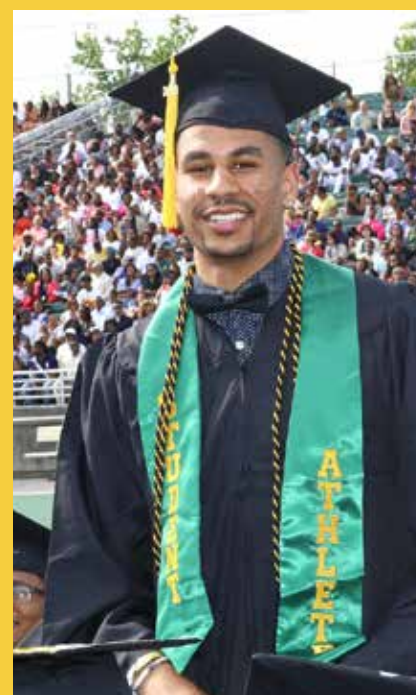
Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax delivered the keynote address. Fairfax — elected November 7, 2017 — is the second African-American in Virginia history to be elected lieutenant governor and the first African-American to be elected statewide in nearly 30 years.

He called upon his family history to demonstrate the significance of the occasion. His great-great-great grandfather Simon Fairfax had been enslaved but was emancipated in 1798. "You are your ancestors' wildest dreams," Fairfax told the graduates.

The Lt. Governor, who chose Norfolk State to provide his first commencement address since his election, spoke of the potential ahead of them as they begin a new chapter in their lives. During the ceremony, Fairfax was conferred with the honorary Doctor of Laws degree. **B**

PHOTOS BY ALVIN SWILLEY, ANITA PEARSON & RANDY SINGLETON





Graduating to Greatness

Norfolk State University honored seven of its alumni at the 2018 Alumni Awards Reception & Dinner. These graduates demonstrated exemplary leadership in their professions and in the community. They personify the mission and goals of the University.



DR. ELLA P. WARD

is a 1969 graduate of Norfolk State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Ward retired from Portsmouth Public Schools after 35 years of service and is currently serving in her 12th year as a member of the Chesapeake City Council.



COL. (RET.) HAROLD L. HAGANS JR.

is a 1971 graduate of Norfolk State College. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education. Hagans is a decorated U.S. Army veteran and current Executive Director of the Military Alumni Chapter Foundation, Inc. of Norfolk State University.



CDR WILLIAM 'LIN' WALTON,

USN (Ret.) is a 1966 graduate of the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. Walton is a U.S. Naval Aviator (pilot), the first African American from NSU and

Norfolk. He is a world-class rugby player and the first African-American member of the U.S. National Rugby Team. It is the area of diversity where he has had a most significant impact on the U. S. Navy, by leading its effort to increase the numbers of African-American aviators to select to the ranks Captain and Admiral.



B. KENNON OUTLAW

is a 1968 graduate of the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. Outlaw had a 30-year career as an engineer at NASA Langley Research Center and served as an instructor of physics and engineering at NSU.



LORIE A. MCCOWAN,

a 1996 graduate of Norfolk State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. McCowan is currently an Executive Director with JP Morgan Chase. She is responsible for internal audit activities within a \$200 billion Consumer and Community Banking (CCB) business unit portfolio.



DR. JAMES W. HOWELL SR.,

who completed the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College in 1956 with an associate degree in English. He is a published author and retired professor of English and Communications. Howell taught at Norfolk State for 46 years.

2018 MEAC Basketball Tournament Distinguished Alumni

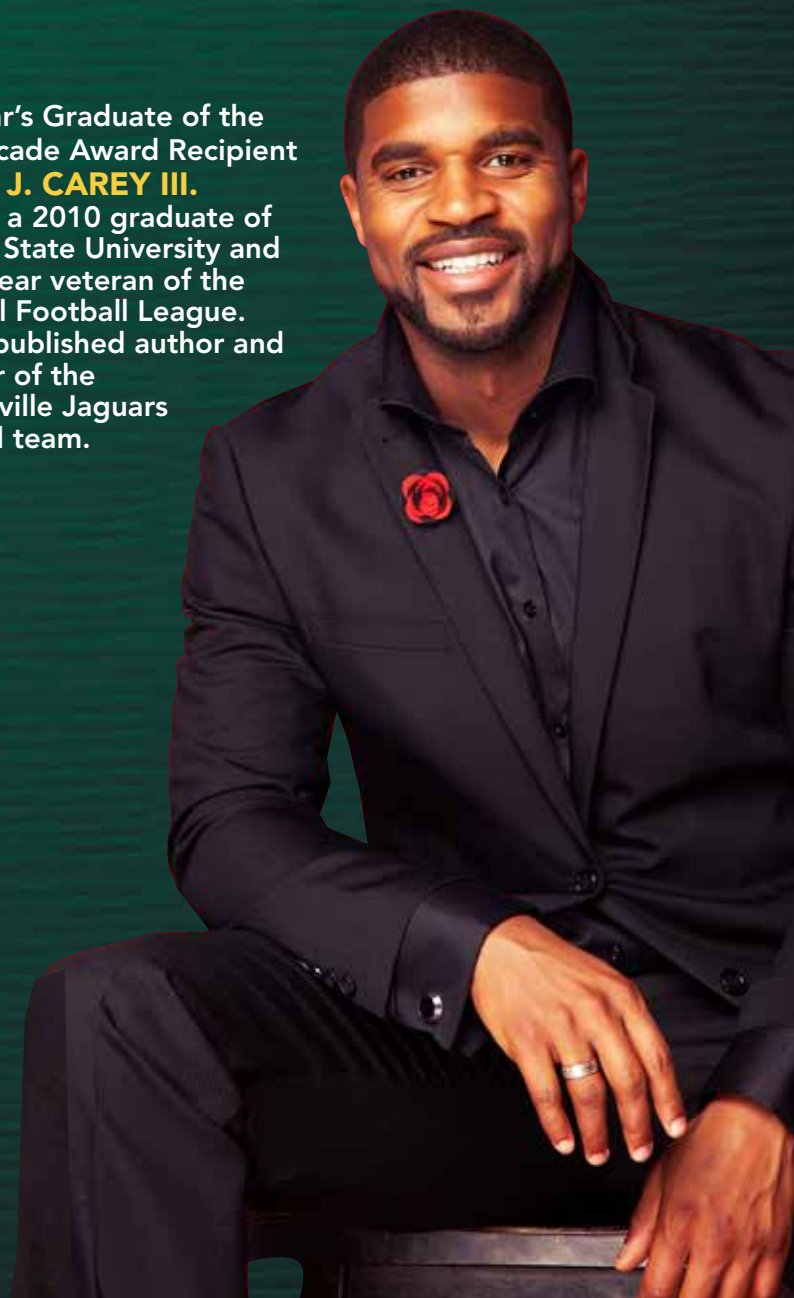


EARLIE P. HORSEY '76 AND CHAROLETTE C. HORSEY '75

represented Norfolk State University as the 2018 MEAC Basketball Tournament Distinguished Alumni. The Horseys have been dedicated to Norfolk State and a part of the Spartan family for more than 40 years...first as students and then as employees. Following their retirement, the Horseys established the Earlie and Charolette Horsey Endowed Scholarship. They are members of the NSU Athletic Foundation and the Norfolk State University Alumni Association.

This year's Graduate of the Last Decade Award Recipient is **DON J. CAREY III.**

Carey is a 2010 graduate of Norfolk State University and a nine-year veteran of the National Football League. He is a published author and member of the Jacksonville Jaguars Football team.





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