Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston
Norfolk State University’s
7th President
The Norfolk State University Board of Visitors introduced the University’s seventh president to community, business, educational and elected leaders May 23 and recognized the hard work and dedication of NSU’s students, faculty and staff.

“This is a grand celebration,” said BOV Rector Joan G. Wilmer ’99. “This is a joyous occasion, especially for many of us here who have personally been involved with the conceptualization in shaping the life of the University.”

Wilmer noted that one of the most important responsibilities of a university governing board is the selection of the university president and said that the board was delighted that Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston has accepted the invitation to lead Norfolk State. “With more than 30 years of higher education leadership,” said Wilmer, “Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston has spent a lifetime leading change at some of the nation’s most respected institutions of higher education.” Wilmer let the audience and Dr. Adams-Gaston know that she has the board’s support. “Dr. Adams-Gaston, we welcome you and...
From the Desk of the Vice President for University Advancement

Shirley Cheslin, the first Black woman in the U.S. Congress and the first Black woman to run for the U.S. presidential nomination, once said that “If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”

Women have been a powerful force throughout history. Black women have led and prevailed through the hardship of times. Striving and achieving, resilient in their spirit and resilient in their spirit.

On the pages of this BEHOLD Magazine, you will read about several amazing women. From our new President, Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, to students who are blazing career paths and impacting our everyday lives, to alumni and faculty who are mentoring and developing girls. Women continue to achieve and innovate.

Norfolk State starts a new chapter with the presidency of Dr. Adams-Gaston (page 16), who is affectionately known as “Dr. J.” Throughout her 30 years of higher education experience, President Adams-Gaston often found when she took her seat at the table, she was the first African-American woman to do so. At The Ohio State University, President Adams-Gaston was the first female African-American Vice President for Student Life. Prior to that, she served at the University of Maryland, College Park, where among other positions she held, Dr. J was the first African American assistant athletic director (Division 1).

Dr. Angela Reddix (page 12), School of Business adjunct professor, wants to put girls at the head of the table. Dr. Reddix, CEO of Envision Lead Grow, has a goal to create 1,000 girl bosses by 2020. Norfolk State was proud to support this goal by hosting an ELG summer institute on campus for 150 support group members.

The Honorable Jean W. Cunningham (page 11), the first female African-American Vice President for Student Life, and Joan Hamilton, professor Dr. Vina Punjabi (page 10), a ground-breaking researcher at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility. Kayla Dio Robinson ’20 (page 11) knows that the table where she wants to sit is in space exploration. Robinson, a computer science major, is charting her career path as part of the next generation to explore space through her internship with NASA.

These incredible women have shared Shirley Cheslin’s words spoken a half-century ago. They are not waiting for an invitation, they are taking their seats because as Cheslin also observed—“Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt.”

While this issue of BEHOLD highlights several women, Norfolk State University has provided, and always will provide, to all who come through our doors the ability and the foundation necessary to sit at the table. And the confidence, if necessary, to bring a folding chair to sit there.
Entrepreneurs are unique people, with an idea that does not stop pestering them. With help from Norfolk State University’s Innovation Center, that idea can come to fruition. Strategically located in Downtown Norfolk, the center offers guidance to entrepreneurs, from the idea to early sales. This includes information about business plans, angel funding and venture capitalist funds, said Akosua Acheampongma, Innovation Center director.

Decorated with the unmistakable green and gold, NSU’s School of Business renovated the location. The City of Norfolk provided the long-time vacant location for a small price, according to Glenn Carrington, dean of NSU’s School of Business.

“Norfolk’s City Council worked to make the Innovation Center a reality,” said Glenn Carrington, dean of NSU’s School of Business. “This is a symbol of our growing partnership with NSU and our deep commitment to entrepreneurship,” said Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander at the opening ceremony.

While it benefits all Norfolk entrepreneurs, Jared Chalk, Norfolk’s interim economic development director, said the city benefits as well. “This is a good business strategy for the city. It allows the city to develop, retain and attract talent. It also supports small businesses,” Chalk said.

For the budding entrepreneur coming to the center for help, the process begins with their idea undergoing a market analysis. Using NSU’s data bank, a determination is made on whether the idea will work. “This discovers the idea’s potential,” he says.

If the market analysis determines an idea should work, an entrepreneur receives advice and support on how to bring it to market. This includes step-by-step guidance, advice from experts and business plan training. Carrington says business plan training is key for entrepreneurs.

“If there can be a big gap between the idea and getting it out there, we give them a helping hand with the business plan to provide direction and focus,” he says. Another barrier can be funding. Information on how to obtain funding with one-on-one advice and workshops are planned. This is important for women, especially African-American women.

“Only 4% of women receive angel capital dollars, and .02% of African-American women get angel capital dollars,” Carrington says.

Assistance to determine pricing for the products is evaluated. Buyers as well as city and business leaders will be invited to entrepreneur presentations. This is an advantage for the city because it will further the relationship between entrepreneurs and city leaders, he says.

“The city and NSU want them (entrepreneurs) to prosper and integrate into the city,” Carrington adds.

However, an entrepreneur can be disappointed if the market analysis determines the idea will not work. In those cases, it is a difficult conversation, Carrington says, but they no longer waste time and money to pursue the project, he adds.

“We cut to the chase and tell them these are our thoughts on it and why we determined it will not work.”

The center’s second aspect is co-working space. "This will allow people to bring their computers and work with others to collaborate on ideas," Acheampongma says. A conference room that allows participants to conduct meetings and video conferences and modular furniture allows for the room set-up to vary. “This makes it easy to have events and meetings,” she says.

In addition to the co-working space, there are three private offices for rent. The rent that includes a private office is $350. Co-working space membership is $60 a month, she says.
Cyber Psychology brings Norfolk State to a New Reality

Norfolk State University hosted the 24th Annual Cyberpsychology, CyberTherapy and Social Networking Conference (CyPsy24) on campus June 24-26. The international conference was organized by the University through the Department of Psychology, along with the Interactive Media Institute. Conference attendees and speakers came from 20 different countries. Thanks to Dr. Scott Dobb, Ernestine Duncan and Karen Holmes for their hard work in bringing this conference to campus.

Dr. Anne-Catherine Sullivan, Health, Physical Education and Exercise Department Chair, has been selected to serve on the Quest editorial board. Quest is the official journal of the National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education (NAKHE). It is the leading journal for interdisciplinary scholarship for professionals in kinesiology in higher education. Expert reviewers greatly contribute to the high standards of the journal. Quest Journals are peer-reviewed and publish research papers in all scientific fields.

New Virginians: 1619-2019 & Beyond

As part of American Evolution, the Library of Virginia is offering the exhibit, New Virginians: 1619-2019 & Beyond. The exhibition, made in conjunction with Virginia Humanities, explores the immigration and refugee experience with Virginia's increasing diversity through video interviews with first-generation newcomers. Solomon Isecieke, professor of fine arts, is part of the exhibit, which runs through December 7, 2019. The New Virginians exhibition explores themes such as opportunity, family, service, faith, and gratitude – and features artifacts related to the interviewees' personal journeys. You can view the interviews at https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/new-virginians.
When Kimberly Wimbish ’19, walks around the campus of Norfolk State University, her bright smile and charisma aren’t hard to miss. She never lets an opportunity to offer an encouraging word, point another student in the right direction, or help other members of the Norfolk State Alumni community realize their dreams pass her by. She’s not only determined to achieve her goals in the classroom, she is also a woman on a serious mission to change the world outside of it.

Wimbish earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in 2019 while she juggled being a full-time mom and business owner. She has been running her own public relations firm for over eight years and decided to return to Norfolk State University as a student after attending an inspiring women’s conference that motivated her to reach the next level in her career.

She has been a part of the Norfolk State University community for several years. Wimbish started in the athletics department, and it was this opportunity that allowed her to grow as a marketing professional and inspired her to branch out on her own. As a nontraditional student, Wimbish knew she would have to balance life responsibilities with homework assignments and a hectic class schedule, but she had no idea that her journey to earn her bachelor’s degree would intersect with another mission that would alter the course of her life and countless others around the nation.

One day she received a call to help a family that had gone through an unspeakable tragedy, and she did not hesitate to help despite her full schedule. In 2017, Ashanti Billie, a 19-year-old college student was abducted from her job at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek. Her parents and the community frantically searched for her, but sadly her remains were later found in Charlotte, North Carolina. After such a devastating tragedy that rocked the entire community, Billie’s parents wanted to make sure that no other family had to suffer through the pain they endured. Wimbish joined them in the fight.

In the United States, if a person goes missing, there are alert systems in place to notify the public. Prior to 2018, there were only two types of alerts. The Amber Alert covered minors and the Silver Alert notified the public when senior citizens went missing. There was no system in place for adults ages 18-64. Billie’s family believes that if this kind of system been in place during the time of her disappearance, it could have saved her life.

The alert law was signed by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam in June 2018 and implemented statewide in July 2018. It was then signed into federal law by President Donald Trump in December. Wimbish worked with the Billie family, other local community leaders and elected officials including Delegate Jerrauld “Jay” Jones (D-Norfolk), then-U.S. Representative Scott Taylor (R-Virginia Beach) and U.S. Senator Mark Warner (D-Virginia) to get the alert signed into law.

“The Ashanti Alert will be a beacon of hope for those that have a loved one deemed as missing under questionable circumstances,” said Ashanti’s mother Brandy Billie, upon the final passage of the federal legislation. “Our dream is to bring as many as possible of those missing back home safely.” Sadly, this alert could not save Billie’s life, but thanks to the Billie family, Wimbish, and the local community, countless lives will be saved thanks to their tireless work on this important legislation.

Wimbish says she will look back on this time in her life filled with pride that not only did she accomplish a major goal by earning her degree, but she also solidified her legacy by working with the Billie family and the community to make a difference in the lives of others forever.
Professor Shines A BEAM ON ONE OF THE UNIVERSE’S Tiniest Objects

By RASHID KHAN

“IT’s so cool seeing a launch...feeling the rocket go up and the heat hit your face; there’s just no other feeling. It’s addicting. Every time I hear about a launch, I wonder if I can spare the money to travel and see it up close because it’s really worth it.”

“I’m interested in planetary science, but also maybe robotics,” she says. “But my favorite part of computer science is programming, so maybe I could write software for spacecraft. There are a lot of opportunities.”

She recently added a couple of other descriptors to the list: National Science Foundation Scholar and NASA intern.

On May 28, Robinson began a 10-week internship at NASA’s West Virginia location, the Katherine Johnson IV&V Facility, recently named after Hampton Roads’ Katherine Johnson of Hidden Figure fame. “I’ve always wanted to meet her,” Robinson says. “She’s amazing.”

During the internship, Robinson improved software and databases that NASA uses for project status briefings and mission updates. She has prepared by taking programming classes at NSU and an online database class.

Robinson says her interest in space began as a little girl when her parents bought her a telescope for Christmas at age 10. “My dad used to stay out all the time with me at night and look at Saturn, Jupiter, the moon, and it just got me really interested in space,” she says.

In 2016 she was accepted to a program called NASA Social that allowed her to view the SpaceX launch in Cape Canaveral, Florida. She’s also seen a launch on Wallops Island, Virginia.

“It’s so cool seeing a launch...feeling the rocket go up and the heat hit your face; there’s just no other feeling. It’s addicting."
It’s still a man’s world — at least when it comes down to business and the statistics prove it.

- Approximately 58% of the U.S. workforce is comprised of women
- Only 25 women were CEOs in the top Fortune 500 companies in 2018, according to Business Insider Magazine
- An all-time high of 32 women were CEOs in 2017, but the number dropped by 25% in 2018
- Black women make up less than 2% of middle managers in Fortune 500 companies
- Only 10 Black women were Fortune 500 CEOs in 2018, according to Business Insider Magazine
- Women are the majority of the U.S. workforce, comprising 58% of the workforce.
- Only 25 women were CEOs in the top Fortune 500 companies in 2018.
- The top Fortune 500 companies saw a decrease from 53 women in 2017.
- Black women make up less than 2% of middle managers in Fortune 500 companies.
- Only 10 Black women were Fortune 500 CEOs in 2018.
- Women are the majority of the U.S. workforce, comprising 58% of the workforce.

Reddix says that Envision Lead Grow was inspired by research she conducted while preparing to complete her doctoral dissertation. “As a result, my desire was to create an organization that focused on developing the entrepreneurial skills of young girls in areas of high poverty, to transform their communities, their cities, states and ultimately the nation,” says the ELG founder and board chair. Reddix discovered through her research that, “fundamentally, young girls just want to be validated and loved. And when successful adults begin to pour that into these young women, we are able to build their competency, their self-efficacy and their confidence. That’s the ultimate purpose of Envision Lead Grow.”

ELG has set an ambitious goal of creating 1,000 new girl bosses nationwide by 2020, providing them with the foundation to become business owners.

Here’s How the ELG Plan Works

Girls are introduced to entrepreneurship through a five-day summer immersion program using Reddix’s Eight Seeds of Success entrepreneurship curriculum. Norfolk State University was one of four sites for this summer’s ELG training camp. “We introduce topics ranging from banking, marketing and business operations to STEM-related training in coding, application design and development,” Reddix explains.

During the second part of the program, the girls are assigned to mentors — professional women in their local communities. Mentors work with the girls for an entire year building on the business plans they developed during the summer. “In addition, once a month, we host virtual training sessions for the girls. We check on their progress and introduce new business topics and strategies.” The final stage in the process is the Entrepreneur Institute. The most motivated girls earn an all-expense paid trip to Maryland where they spend two and half days working with Fortune 100 female executives. “At the institute, we see the fruit of our labors with these impressive young women, who have fully taken advantage of every opportunity they had to learn during the ELG program.”

1,000 Girl Bosses by 2020

As the mother of two daughters and a son, as well as the daughter of a single parent, Reddix believes that she has a particular empathy for and a connection to the struggles young girls face. “As the product of a single mother, I was, statistically, the picture of someone that society said could not become successful. So my desire was to create an organization designed to empower young girls by encouraging them to pursue their dreams while providing them with very practical skills to help them do so.”

Norfolk State was eager to be a part of the program. “In order to give back to the community and improve the quality of life of underserved students entering NSU and other colleges, the School of Business offered a summer immersion camp jointly with ELG on campus in 2019 and will offer multiple camps with ELG in 2020, 2021, etc.,” says Glenn R. Carrington, NSU School of Business dean. “ELG is growing very rapidly. It is expected that 99 summer immersion camps will be offered in 2020 and 1,000 new girl bosses are to be created in the same year.”

Now ELG has plans to expand to Nigeria and Canada. “We recognize the value and importance this program could have for girls beyond our borders,” says Reddix. “And we are looking for strategic ways to expand the program internationally. After we develop sound and effective protocols for delivering our training, we will be ready to take Envision Lead Grow worldwide.”

If you’d like to become a part of the Envision Lead Grow movement as a mentor, donor or sponsor, contact the organization at 757-321-1474 or visit envisionleadgrow.org. You could change the life of a young girl who is patiently waiting to make her mark on the world.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Green and Gold Ball

Dr. Melvin T. Stith and Dr. Patricia Lynch Stith receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award

FOREVER UPWARD AWARDS

Dr. Melvin T. Stith and Dr. Patricia Lynch Stith receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award

LYMAN BEECHER BROOKS SOCIETY

Dr. Carl W. Haywood
Joyce D. Daniel

Dr. Robert and Margaret Lee
Dr. James Savage, Jr.
Cdr. William "Lin" Walton

Eddie N. Moore, Jr.
James A. and Karen Jones Squires
Colvin D. Gibson
Glenn R. Carrington
Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University’s newest President, can’t hide her excitement about the University and its future. It’s a future she envisions that we will reach as a community.

It’s the prospect of this future, at this time and in this place that has connected with her and is connecting her to the University.

“Some of the new programs — cybersecurity, cyber psychology, all of the things happening in nanotechnology — really say that we’re forward facing and thinking about ourselves in the world,” Adams-Gaston said in an interview with HBCU Digest that aired in February shortly after her announcement as NSU’s seventh President.

She was also drawn to the University because of the commitment by members of the Presidential Search Committee and the Norfolk State University Board of Visitors to move Norfolk State to the next level while focusing on students and student success as laid out in the current strategic plan. “I could see that Norfolk State was on the move. And really was focusing on the success of our students and preparing them,” Adams-Gaston said in an interview for BEHOLD during her second week on campus.

CONTINUED ON PG. 18
In her more than 30 years of higher education experience, President Adams-Gaston has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of students through her work at nationally recognized institutions of higher learning. At those institutions—the University of Maryland, College Park and The Ohio State University—she was a pioneer. The first African American female assistant athletic director (Division 1) at Maryland and the first female African American Vice President for Student Life at Ohio State.

Her success has come through her ability and commitment to building meaningful, productive relationships that lay the foundation for collaboration, community building, progress and success. “I want people to know that I am very focused on our goals. How do we meet those goals? But more importantly, how do we support the people component? Because when people are on board and they are able to do their best work or able to contribute their best or students are able to ask questions and get answers about their education, then the enterprise can move. But without the people, the enterprise does not function.”

President Adams-Gaston is inspired by Norfolk State’s history and its legacy. In May at a welcoming reception hosted by the Board of Visitors, she said: “As I enter the space at Norfolk State University, I experience it as a sacred space. HBCUs created a way forward for Black students when there did not seem to be a way. The opportunities to enter higher education and leave with a degree that could change the entire family tree existed only because of NSU and other HBCUs.”

That history and legacy can be seen and is realized through Norfolk State’s graduates. “Alumni are so central to our mission,” she said. “First, they demonstrate to our young students that what has been created here is success. Also they are the individuals who we look to help with guiding us, supporting us and donating so other students can get through this pipeline and be successful.”

Adams-Gaston stresses the importance of giving back. “I have always done a lot of outreach to our alumni. I want to know who our alums are, and I want to know what they see,” she said. “We need our alumni to continue to prove that Norfolk State is a place to be proud of and a place where they helped create that pride.”

As an administrator who has leadership experience at public universities, Dr. Adams-Gaston understands the importance of fundraising and the reality that state appropriations will never match the University’s financial needs. “We should be looking for donors from all over the world and all over the country who can see the potential in Norfolk State and who want to support our future goals and aspirations.” It’s a big commitment, but the President is ready to make it. “And that means being on the road so that people have the ability to talk with me—to meet face-to-face—and for me to tell the story of Norfolk State University,” she said. “And of course, inviting individuals to campus to experience the opportunities and success at NSU.”

Just before leaving Ohio State for NSU, the Columbus City Council recognized Dr. Adams-Gaston’s selection as Norfolk State President with a resolution. Although it was a surprise to her, she noted the importance of partnerships and relationships. “I have to be available to the community here and visible in the community to say there’s something great happening here.”

She wants to encourage Norfolk State students to go out into the community as well. “To do service learning, to do outreach in the community—that is a big part of who we are and what we should be doing. I believe it matters for young kids to see our Norfolk State students out in the community because it gives them something to aspire to.” She also wants to provide more opportunities for young people to come onto campus, “So that they know that this is their campus, and that we fully expect for them to be preparing to come here and to graduate.”

Dr. Adams-Gaston is committed and ready. “I promise that I will work hard every day. I will work smart every day. I will work with each of you every day. I will work to ensure that Norfolk State University, the Norfolk State University, becomes all that it is destined to be,” she said at the reception in May. “We have a mission, and we shall fulfill that mission.”

For President Adams-Gaston, this is our time and this is our future.
As a student at Norfolk’s Norview High School, Garland Simpkins had many of the same concerns as other teens. He was worried about finding a school that was just right for him and he didn’t want to worry about paying for college.

Thanks to his hard work, determination, and supportive mentors, he no longer has to worry about these issues.

Simpkins was offered over $1 million in scholarships, and he was accepted into 25 colleges. He weighed his options and made a decision to go to an institution that would give him the HBCU, family experience he desired.

After visiting Norfolk State University, the choice was simple for Simpkins. He wanted to become a Spartan.

“I had a chance to watch this campus grow and blossom to what it is today. When I came to visit the campus, everybody on the campus was so friendly and I felt welcomed and invited,” says Simpkins. In August 2018, he began college. During his freshman year, he already discovered new things he loves and formed bonds with other students that will last a lifetime.

He is now a student in the Robert C. Nusbaum Honors College studying computer science.

Although he is entering his sophomore year, Simpkins already has big plans for graduation. He is eager to get out into the work world to start his career.

Want to know more about Garland? See his NSU Story here www.nsu.edu/news/behold

By DORIS SHADOHB

When Vice President for University Advancement Deborah Fontaine, Ph.D., announced the $7-million 2018 fundraising goal to her staff in late 2017, she received some incredulous looks from her team.

They had raised $4.4 million in 2017, exceeding that year’s $3-million goal. Despite their looks of surprise her 26-member team rose to the challenge, generating new, creative ideas and improving old ones. By the end of the year, they had raised a historic $7.161 million, exceeding their goal.

“We set a stretch goal that was almost 60% more than we had raised in 2017, and we were fortunate to not only hit that goal, but to exceed it by $3,000,” Fontaine says. “The goal served as a catalyst for us to get creative and do more than if we had set a nice, safe goal.”

In the past five years, Norfolk State has raised $12.4 million from more than 20,000 donors, with alumni donating at least $1 million each of those years. The alumni giving rate has also increased dramatically. Fontaine says the giving rate has more than tripled from 1.9% in 2013 to 5.8% in 2018. She is proud of that rate because the national average for alumni giving at public institutions is 8 to 9%.

Dr. Fontaine attributes the higher giving level to greater alumni engagement. “We’re engaging people; we’re inviting them to campus for Founders Day, for Homecoming, for all the different things happening on campus,” Dr. Fontaine says. “The combination has caused our message to be consistent,” she says.

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By GAIL KENT

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

-Winston Churchill
He’s been featured in commercials for big corporations, written comedy skits for Buzzfeed, starred in movies, and just recently, he was featured in a film that earned an Academy Award. The list of achievements just keeps growing for Norfolk State alumna Zeus Campbell who has even bigger plans for the future.

His hard work, vision, and willingness to take risks in his career are all things he credits for his success, but he remembers where the journey to his dreams began — right here at Norfolk State University.

College was a long shot for Campbell. He struggled in high school and never thought higher education was even possible, but that never stopped him from dreaming about a better life.

Although Campbell is excelling in the film industry, his first love was actually music. He was a drum major in high school and he always held a special place in his heart for the Spartan Legion. His band director was a former member of the Legion, and he saw Campbell’s talent and encouraged him to try out. Campbell took his director’s advice, showed off his skills and it earned him a spot with the band and a partial scholarship. But he had yet to become an official student.

Although he had passing SAT scores, his GPA did not meet the minimum requirement. On the day he graduated from Norview High School, still dressed in his cap and gown, he and his mother marched up to Norfolk State University’s admissions office on a serious mission.

He asked for an emergency meeting with the director of admissions and begged her to give him a chance. She allowed him to go to the University for one semester and told him if he failed any classes he wouldn’t be allowed to continue.

He took on that challenge and never looked back.

“I got into Norfolk State, and I never failed any classes. I had better grades in college than I ever had in high school,” says Campbell.

Since that time, Campbell has been unstoppable. He’s gone on to do incredible things in the film industry and has even started his own company called Tight Rope Zeus and created a brand that he calls “Live Your Dreams.”

Campbell worked on a few projects in Hampton Roads, and later had the opportunity to work with an agent based in California where he currently resides.

He has appeared in several movies including Hump Day Romance, Bad, Confused, the Great Moments in Black History miniseries, he narrated the television show Homicide City, and was featured in the short film Skin, which earned an Academy Award.

Campbell knows what he wants, creates a plan of action and goes for it. He was excited about the Oscar win, but says this was a part of his master plan.

“I ordered it. I saw it. I’m not surprised, but I’m extremely pleased,” says Campbell.

Although he is proud of his accomplishments, he doesn’t spend much time dancing in the end zone; he’s busy working on the next adventure.

“I’m a Renaissance man. Every aspect of my life, I don’t see it for what it is — I see it for what it can be. He is not the only visionary in his family. He comes from a proud line of Spartans who have all had the opportunity to shape their lives after graduating from Norfolk State University.

His mother, Janice Campbell, tirelessly worked her way through school for several years while she continued to care for her growing family.

“I stand on the foundation of her sacrifices,” says Campbell.

Although she still had a few classes to take before her graduation, she continued to push and encourage Campbell who graduated before she did. After they both earned their degrees, she then convinced her husband to further his education as well. All three are now proud Norfolk State Alumni.

Campbell recently returned to Norfolk State for a special screening of the movie Skin and a panel discussion afterward with students and faculty.

In the future, Campbell plans to pour even more back in to the community that gave him a chance. He wants to launch an HBCU workshop for students to help them develop their skills in the film industry. His ultimate goal is to clear a path to make it easier for those also wish to live their dreams as he has done throughout his life.
Spartan Legion Marching Band Gains World-Wide Exposure

Chance YouTube Viewing Nets Band Starring Role in Grammy Award-winning Video

Last fall out of the blue, a man named Filip Nilsson emailed William Beathea, Norfolk State University’s director of bands/assistant professor of music. Little did Beathea know that email, and a subsequent one, would change the trajectory of the Spartan Legion Marching Band for all time. Nilsson, as it turned out, was an internationally known award-winning commercial and music video director. "I ran across a clip of this marching band from Norfolk in Virginia," Nilsson said in an interview for Magnetic Magazine last December. Nilsson’s happenstance exposure of the Spartan Legion Marching Band began.

In receipt of the Heavy Metal track arranged for the Spartan Legion, Sanders made some adjustments to it, and diligently worked with the student musicians to learn the music. "The band can play the entire track," she boasted. Although the Legion only actually plays for about 10 seconds in the video, they learned the entire piece. "We put together a drill field presentation to the music so the video director and team could see it upon their arrival," stated Sanders. "We practiced about 30 minutes a day for an entire week before they arrived. Once Nilsson’s team was on campus, they observed the band performing the drill and tightened up the arrangement."

Global Sensation

"We are elated about the Spartan Legion being seen all over the country and the world," exclaimed Beathea. "In the beginning, the students didn’t have a clue about what it took to work on a major production such as a music video. Stephanie and I understood what it means working with professionals. She kept the students pumped up," he added. Beathea said that the experience exposed the band members to a diverse group of music and production specialists from Europe. "The students got a chance to meet a sound tech from Atlanta, and executive producers from Sweden and London. They have made connections with these people." When Justice picked up the Grammy for best dance electronic album, "The students got calls in the middle of the night," said Sanders. "Texts were flying between the show saying, we won!" The Heavy Metal video featuring the Spartan Legion Marching Band has been viewed on YouTube more than a million times. And, the numbers continue to climb.

"The impact has been overwhelming," replied Beathea when asked the effect of the video. "Recruitment is through the roof. . . sickness of students want to join the band. We could really increase the size of the band. But we have to look at the budget and finances. Interest has been phenomenal," says Beathea. He receives two to three emails from students per day. "We could double the size of the band right now!" The project influenced music video director Nilsson, too. In talking about the whole experience he told Magnetic Magazine that, "It was a very strong and emotional experience working with these musicians and dancers." The Spartan Legion Marching Band is now part of the super bowl of the music world, and the marching band extraordinaire has been seen by millions of people around the world. They bob and with some of the best musicians and video music directors in the world, and the band members have obtained their phone numbers and email addresses! So, what will the mighty Spartan Legion do next?"He’s been asked to do other major projects with several artists. I can tell you that R&B artist Glenn Jones has expressed an interest in working with the band. He heard play one of his songs from a YouTube clip, Jones, a former gospel artist, is best known for the ballads, We’ve Only Just Begun and Here I Go Again. "He’s wants to come to NSU and do a show with us," Beathea said. Stay tuned.

By SHARON RIDDICK HOGGARD (M.A’04)
Here is a look at some of the top accomplishments for NSU Athletics this past year:

**BASEBALL**

Justin Hayes led the baseball team to the MEAC Northern Division title this year and to the championship game of the MEAC tournament. The season was named first-team All- MEAC for the second year in a row while hitting .300 and ranking in the top 20 in the nation in stolen bases.

**ALL-AMERICANS**

The Spartan track and field teams enjoyed a resurgent year, with several athletes making an impact on the national level. In March, the Spartan track and field sent three athletes (two females, one male) to an NCAA Indoor Championships meet for the first time in program history. Martha Bissah earned first-team All-America honors in the 800 meters, where she placed fifth. She became NSU’s first indoor first-team All-American on the female side since 2000. Kiera Grant (60 meters) and Trequan Barnes (400m) both earned second-team All-America accolades.

The success on the track continued during outdoor season. NSU sent 10 athletes to the NCAA East Preliminary Track & Field meet. Grant and Bissah went on to compete at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in June, with Grant earning first-team All-America honors in the 800 meters and Bissah second-team honors in the 800. Grant was the first Spartan to earn all conference distinction for the first time since 2001.

The Spartan football team ended the year as runners-up, just one point out of the championship game for the first time since 2005. The women’s cross country team finished as runner-up, just one point out of its first championship since 2009.

**ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS**

A total of 39 Spartan athletes earned their degrees, including 24 at the University’s spring commencement.

**BASKETBALL**

Derrik Jamerson Jr. led the Spartans to their second-ever MEAC regular-season title with a 14-2 record and up to 10 wins. No. 1 seed finished in the MEAC tournament.

**COACHING HONORS**

Three NSU head coaches were voted as MEAC Coach of the Year by their peers: Spartan men’s basketball coach Robert Jones, softball coach James Inzana and basketball coach Keith Shumate. Jones was NSU’s first coach of the year in men’s basketball since Anthony Evans in 2012, and Inzana became the Spartans’ first-ever MEAC Coach of the Year. Shumate was NSU’s first baseball Coach of the Year since 2015.

**CONFERENCES**

In addition to their numerous athletic successes, NSU student-athletes continued to excel academically in 2018-19, as well. A total of 39 Spartan athletes earned their degrees, including 24 at the University’s spring commencement.

**NATIONALLY RANKED SPARRTSANS**

NSU athletics ranked highly in a number of national statistical categories this past year. Men’s basketball player Derrick Jamerson Jr. led all of Division I in 3-point percentage, at 49.7 percent. Alsonwan Moxom finished 31st in the country in batting average, at .377, while Stephen Bougher was fifth in doubles per game and Justin Hayes was 16th in stolen bases for the explosive NSU basketball offense.

In fact, base stealing was a strength for both NSU baseball and softball. Both teams ranked in the top 15 nationally in stolen bases per game – baseball ranked seventh as a team, and softball was 14th. Sophomore Jazzmine Hammond finished 10th individually among all Division II softball players in steals.

The Spartan football team ended the year as the Division I FCS champion in team punt return average. Led by dynamic All-MEAC returner Marcus Taylor, the Spartans averaged 21.9 yards per return. The NSU basketball teams both stood out on a national level for their defense. The women’s basketball team was fourth in the country in 3-point defense and 11th in field-goal percentage defense. The men’s team placed 20th in the country in field-goal percentage defense.

**WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD**

Naz Karagoz became the first NSU women’s tennis player to earn the MEAC Player of the Year Award. She was also a second-team All-American in the 60 meters at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

**WOMEN’S TENNIS**

Karagoz became the first NSU women’s tennis player to earn the MEAC Player of the Year Award. She was also a second-team All-American in the 60 meters at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

The 2018-19 athletics year at Norfolk State featured a bevy of noteworthy team and individual accomplishments, both on and off the fields of competition.

From high team finishes within conference play, to individual All-American awards, to another strong academic year, Spartan student-athletes excelled in 2018-19, setting the stage for bigger things in 2019-20.
Norfolk State University honored three of its alumni at the 2019 Alumni Awards Reception & Dinner. These graduates demonstrated exemplary leadership in their professions and in the community. They ponerify the mission and goals of the University.

Bishop Kim W. Brown is a 1984 graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering. He is the senior pastor of Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, affectionately known as The Mount, which has locations in Chesapeake, Virginia, Newport News, Virginia, and Elizabeth City and Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Honorable C. E. Cliff Hayes Jr., is a 1991 graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Business/Computer Information Systems. He is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 77th District, which includes the cities of Chesapeake and Suffolk.

Dr. James Savage Jr. is a 1968 graduate of the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Savage, is affiliated with the Institute for Life Enrichment (ILE) PC in Washington, DC. He is also a past president of the National Association of Black Psychologists (NABP).
too can go into STEM,” says Moore, who was recently named a Modern Day Technology Leader at the

“Modern Day Technology Leader

By SUSAN SMIGIELSKI ACKER

Growing up in a small, working-class, textile mill town in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, Stephanie M. Moore ‘96 had very little access to women role models in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, especially those who were African American women.

Now, Moore, a Cybersecurity Systems Engineer with the global consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, D.C., is making sure that today’s African American girls have access to mentors and other critical resources to seriously pursue a career in STEM. While balancing the motherhood of four children, working on a master’s degree in engineering, and being a loving wife to her husband, Dr. James L. Moore III, and their children established the Stephanie M. Moore STEM Scholarship to celebrate her 40th birthday. The scholarship targets South Carolina women studying STEM at NSU. The scholarship provides more than money; it also includes ongoing mentorship and support from Moore. Thus far, six scholarships have been awarded.

Whether in person, by telephone and/or via electronic communications, Moore communicates with the scholarship recipients about internships and career opportunities and offers them resume and interviewing advice. She also has informal relationships in which other women in technical fields share their experiences with younger girls to help them along, as well as stress the importance of building relationships and networking. These relationships have led to various opportunities for the scholarship recipients to interview and even get jobs in STEM-related fields.

One of the most rewarding moments Moore has had was at about 14 years old. The memory has stayed with her because it gave her the opportunity to see up close one of the legends of black college football and an NFL legend in the making: "We would go to all of Norfolk State’s football games, to include going to see the Spartans play against Coach Eddie Robinson and the Grambling Tigers," he recalled. Although the Spartans lost 26-0 before a crowd of nearly 34,000 in New York City’s Shea Stadium, Exum remembers who quarterbacked that day. "They had a quarterback that was decent — some guy by the name of Doug Williams," he said. "He was a big name. He went on to quarterback for the Washington Redskins and set NFL records as he led the team to a 4-1-10 rout of the Denver Broncos as the first African American quarterback to play in a Super Bowl.

Exum has carried the lessons he learned and the opportunities he received at Norfolk State with him throughout his career and his life. "You don’t attend a school that came into existence during the time of the Great Depression and not have that shape your thinking? Quitting was not an option for me. My parents sacrificed too much!"

The lessons he’s kept included being told by professors that not only could NSU students compete with students from other colleges, but that they also were just as prepared or better prepared than those students. Whether as a member of the Spartan Legion Marching Band or the ROTC, it was a mantra that played out over and over again. "When I doubted my abilities, it was people like Mr. Emery Fears who saw something in me and allowed me — a marginally talented musician — to be a part of the band," he recalled.

After seeing combat in the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Exum, who had been a political science major at Norfolk State, became the Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Army. It was then he learned a piece of information that changed his career — an Army officer he could serve as a legislative liaison and Congressional Fellow. "I owed that one day, I was going to work on the Hill," he said. "That was the realization that led to me being elected to more than 60 fact-finding Congressional and staff delegation missions to more than 15 countries, a chance meeting and later a position as a U.S. deputy assistant secretary. "One quiet Saturday morning, I escorted the junior Senator from Illinois to Walter Reed to visit with an Air Force sergeant that had been medically evacuated from the Middle East," Exum recounted. "That senator was Barrack H. Obama." Because the assignment went well, when Obama was elected President, Exum was offered a political appointment as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for House Affairs, supporting Congressional and White House initiatives.

What advice would Exum give to Norfolk State students? "Find your passion and totally immerse yourself in it. Of course, you'll work hard and be self-motivated, but you'll be rewarded in the long run. Be someone who others want to work with and who they want to work for."
AlumniNotes

Joe Butler ’78, retired from Norfolk State on June 1 after 22 years. Butler has been a fixture on campus, serving as the security officer at just about every post across the University from the Gate 1 entrance to the Library, Nursing building and the Student Center. Back in 1996, he was officially nicknamed the “T-Shirt Man” by Coach William “Dick” Price, because in addition to serving in security, he sold Norfolk State-themed t-shirts at campus events.

Dr. Maxine Hankins Cain (B.S. ’68) was honored by Sister Cities International as their 2019 Volunteer of the Year. The awards competition, which is open to over 500 sister city programs nationwide, recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding individuals and community sister city programs that are promoting peace through cultural exchanges.

Louis Cervantes ’01, assistant vice president and a relationship manager for Bank of America, was featured in a profile story in a recent issue of Inside Business. Cervantes earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from Norfolk State University.

Yasmine Charles ‘17 appeared in a WHRO PBS special in honor of women’s history month. Charles shares her story in She’s Coming Home: Women Veterans describing her transitioning from the military to homelessness to graduation from Norfolk State and beyond.

Catherine Coyle ’84, administrative assistant in the Department of Early Childhood/Elementary & Special Education, received the Office Professional of the 2019–20 Year award from NSUAEP. Coyle, who is NSUAEP Chaplain, has more than 30 years of administrative experience.

Derek T. Dingle ’83, senior vice president and Chief Content Officer for Black Enterprise magazine, was named among the top ten most influential U.S. print journalists covering black interests, business, and culture in a listing compiled by Cision Media Research. Dingle is responsible for the strategic planning and editorial direction of the content teams at BE.

Joe Reed ’19 was hired by Entercom as Promotions Assistant immediately following the completion of her internship.

Oscar Gary ’11, an actor and writer who graduated with a bachelor’s in journalism, appeared in the May-6 episode of the TV show Bull that airs Mondays on CBS.

Nursing alumna Jasmine Jordan ’15, a nurse practitioner at Sentara Family Medicine Physicians in Newport News, was featured on WAVY news. Jordan’s mother, Josephine Jordan, inspired her to give back and help others. Doctors diagnosed Josephine Jordan with stage two breast cancer 13 years ago. Now, mother and daughter encourage others to get breast cancer screenings.

NSU FOUNDA TION JOINS THE CFC

In 1971, the NSU Foundation (NSUF) was established to provide ways to support Norfolk State. Now, NSUF has joined the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), to offer Spartans and their fellow federal employees an additional method to designate their support to NSU.

Our designation number is 43837 and the 2019 CFC starts on September 9, 2019. For more information on how to make your NSU gift designation, please speak to your CFC coordinator.

Remember, every investment in Norfolk State University—no matter how small—counts toward continuing our legacy. So, support NSU through the CFC.

Shelley Scott-Johnson professionals (VAEOP) named Dr. Melvin T. Stith Sr. (B.S. ’68) as its 2019 Administrator of the Year.


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 norfolkstategiving.org

What will be your legacy to the NSU family? 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.

Tell us what you think of our BEHOLD Magazine by taking a quick readership survey at www.nsu.edu/BeholdSurvey
A new view of NSU...The main entrance to the University (Gate 1) conveys a sense of spirit and pride in the Norfolk State community.