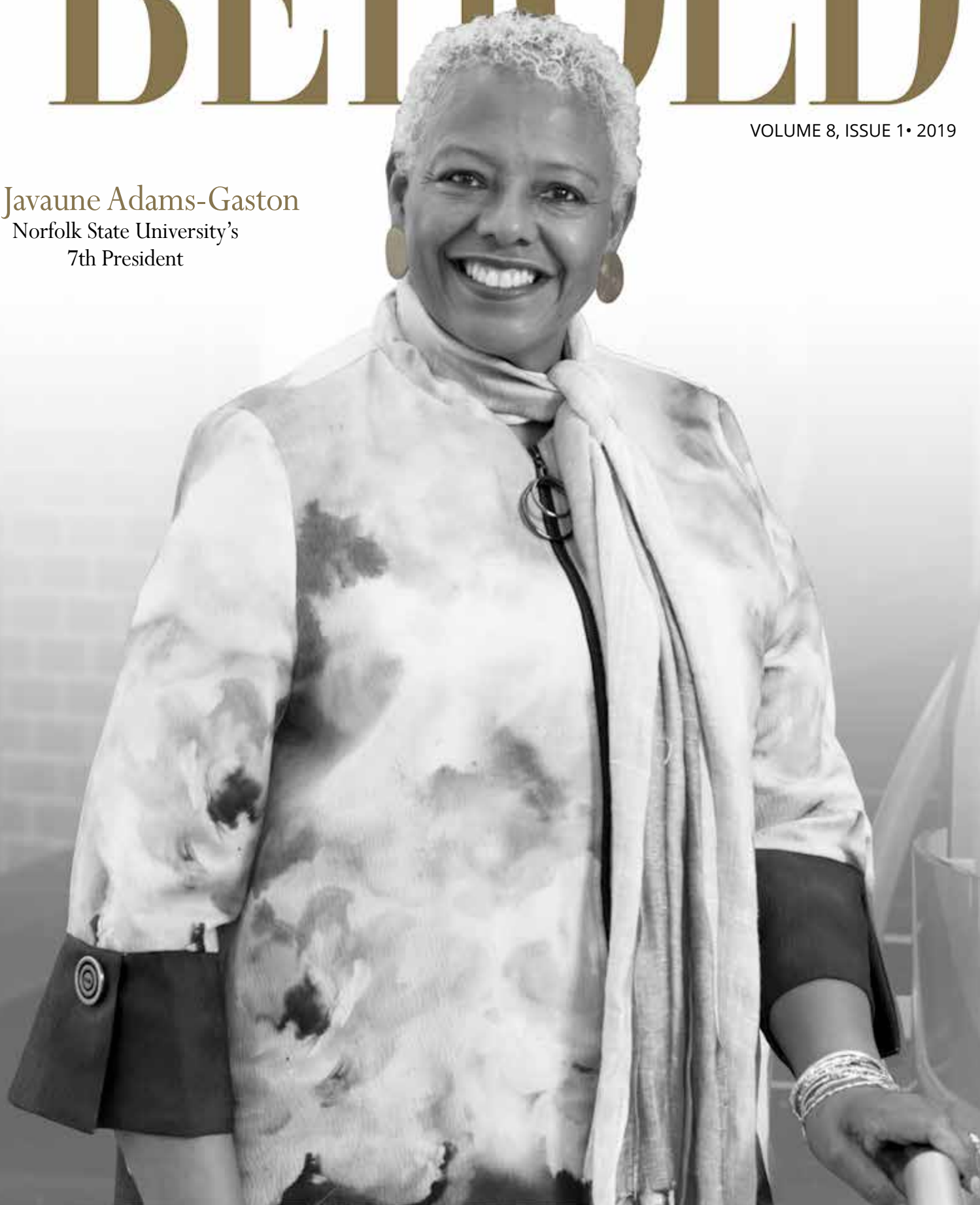


NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

BEHOLD

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 • 2019

Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston
Norfolk State University's
7th President



Contents

2 From the Desk of the
Vice President for
University Advancement

3 **UniversityNews**
BOV Welcomes New President
Honors NSU Employees and Student

6 **Faculty & StaffNews**

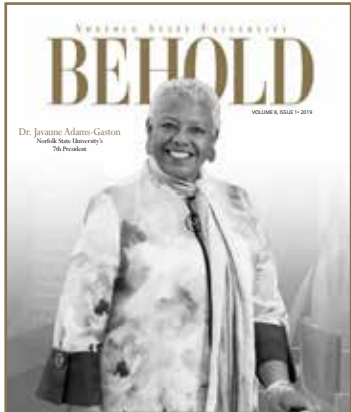
16 **BEHOLD FEATURE**
Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston:
This Is Our Time

22 **UniversityNews**
Zeus Campbell Shares His Journey

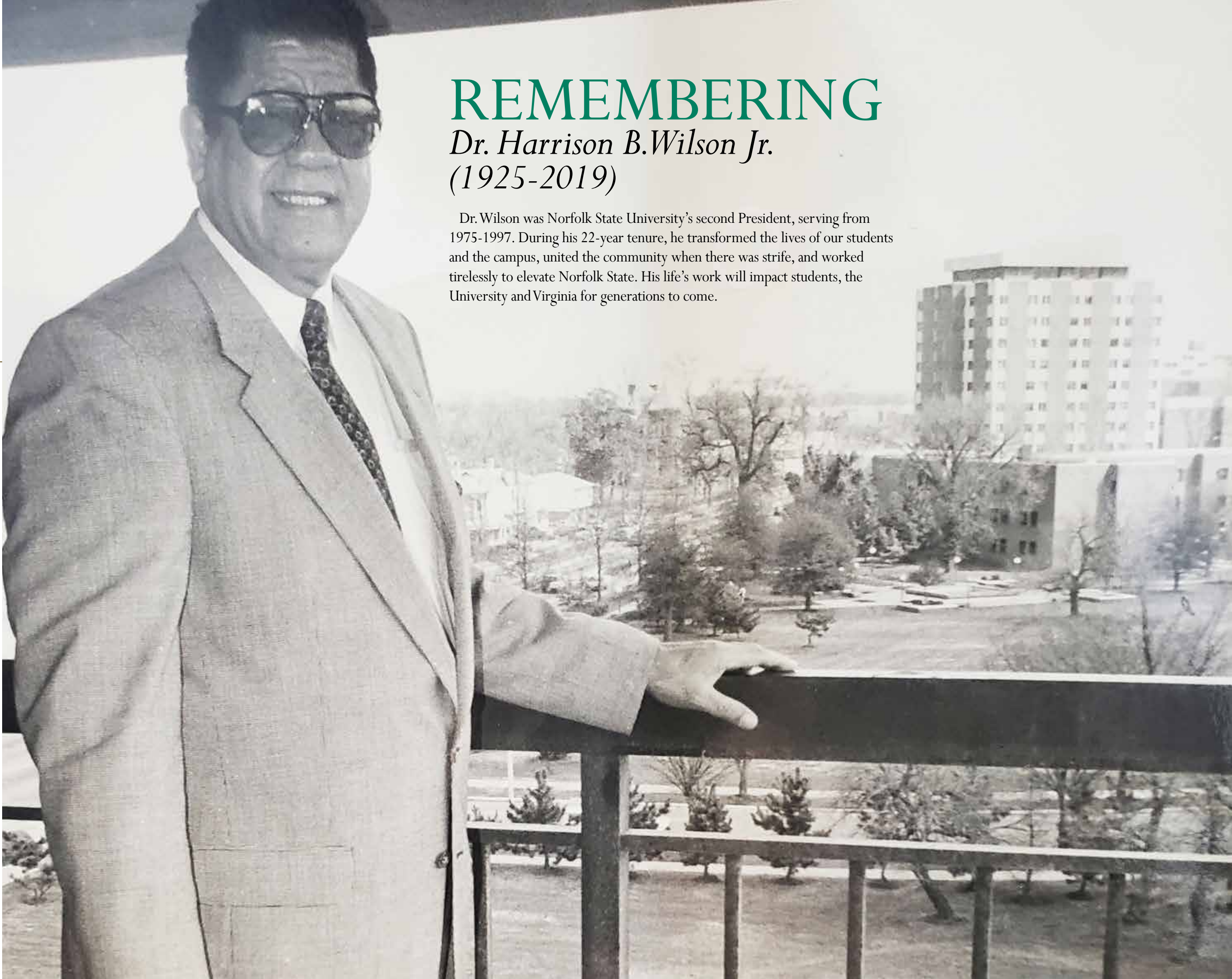
24 **UniversityNews**
Spartan Legion Marching Band
Gains World-Wide Exposure

26 **AthleticNews**

28 **AlumniNews**



President Javaune Adams-Gaston
Photo by Jeannie Hobbs
Hobbs Studio



REMEMBERING

Dr. Harrison B. Wilson Jr.
(1925-2019)

Dr. Wilson was Norfolk State University's second President, serving from 1975-1997. During his 22-year tenure, he transformed the lives of our students and the campus, united the community when there was strife, and worked tirelessly to elevate Norfolk State. His life's work will impact students, the University and Virginia for generations to come.

From the Desk of the Vice President for University Advancement

Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman in the U.S. Congress and the first Black woman to run for the U.S. presidential nomination, once said, “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 harshest of times. Striving and achieving. Relentless in their quest 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 that when she took her seat at the table, she was the first African American woman to do so. AtThe 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 girls. In the same vein, Stephanie Moore ’96 (page 30), a cybersecurity systems engineer with global consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, is showing girls and young women that they can succeed in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). That’s also the goal of physics 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 heeded Shirley Chisholm’s words spoken a half century ago. They are not waiting for an invitation, they are taking their seats because as Chisholm 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.

Behold.

Deborah C. Fontaine

Deborah C. Fontaine



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

BEHOLD

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 • 2019

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.

Javaune Adams-Gaston Ph.D.
University President

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BEHOLD is published twice a year by the NSU Office of Communications and Marketing.
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BOV WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

Honors NSU Employees and Student

The Norfolk State University Board ofVisitors 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

The honorees are as follows:



IDEAL SPARTAN
(Student Leadership)
Astra Armstrong ’19
2018-19 President
Student Government Association



A & P FACULTY LEADERSHIP
Michelle D. Hill ’96
Executive Director
Alumni Relations and
Annual Giving



STAFF SUPERIOR SERVICE
Tammy Q. Johnson
Administrative Office Specialist III
Department of Health, Physical
Education and Exercise Science



TEACHING FACULTY EXCELLENCE
Dr. Aprilfaye Manalang
Department of History and
Interdisciplinary Studies

UniversityNews

support you as you assume the presidency,” said Wilmer.

In response, Dr. Adams-Gaston, told those gathered that Norfolk State University is where she is ordained to be. “You have filled my heart with joy tonight,” she said. “You have created for me the knowledge that I have come home.”

Looking forward, Dr. Adams-Gaston set the stage for what is ahead and the work that is to come. “As we prepare for the next chapter of the Spartan story, let us reflect on what kind of university we will become.”

“It will take the effort of every one of us in this room and those who are not with us tonight, to work hard to fulfill our mission,” she said. “Much of this work will be challenging, and we must encourage one another to bring our best in order to get the job done.”

“Today and every day you will have my unwavering commitment to this University that it will continue to be a place of hope, excitement and discovery,” Dr. Adams-Gaston pledged. “I promise that I will work hard every day. I will work smart every day. I will work with each of you every day,” she said. “I will work hard to ensure that Norfolk State University — the Norfolk State University — becomes all that it is destined to be. We have a mission, and we shall fulfill that mission.”

It was a night of fellowship and recognition. Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander delivered the keynote address, which expressed – as he did much of the evening – his willingness to develop partnerships with the University. “We see the future in Norfolk State as a strategic partner in economic development, workforce development, job training and urban planning, and the many, many other ways that Norfolk State can contribute to the city of Norfolk.”

As part of the program, the BOV also recognized three University employees and a student for their dedication and diligence in service to Norfolk State. **B**



Photo courtesy of the City of Norfolk

Norfolk State University's Innovation Center on Main Street in downtown Norfolk was dedicated in March.

DOWNTOWN INNOVATION CENTER

By SUSAN SMIGIELSKI ACKER

As part of a partnership with the city, Norfolk State opened its Innovation Center in Downtown Norfolk.



Interior Photos by Yuzhu Zheng



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 Acheamponmaa, 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.

"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 talent, support talent, retain talent 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 Carrington says.

"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.

"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," Acheamponmaa 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. **B**



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 **Drs. Scott Debb, Ernestine Duncan** and **Karen Holmes** for their hard work in bringing this conference to campus.



Josh Bowerman, assistant vice president for development, was selected into the **Fulbright U.S.- Germany International Education Administrators Program**. This prestigious grant will provide a 12-day group seminar designed to familiarize U.S. higher education administrators from American universities, colleges or community colleges with Germany's higher education system, society and culture.



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.



Michelle Marable, interim dean of students, has been appointed to the **Census 2020 Committee** by the Norfolk City Council and Mayor Kenneth Alexander. Her term began May 14 and expires Oct. 31, 2020. The U.S. Constitution mandates a count of the U.S. population once every decade. The data collected by the census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives (a process called apportionment) and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities.



Education technology firm, Blackboard Inc., has selected Norfolk State University for a 2019 **Blackboard Catalyst Award**. The annual Catalyst Awards recognize and honor innovation and excellence in the Blackboard global community of practice. Norfolk State was recognized in the Optimizing Student Experience category. **Shelley Scott-Johnson**, Office of Extended Learning assistant director of programs, received the award at Bb World 2019, Blackboard's annual conference.



Norfolk State Hosts Three-day Event as Part of 400th Commemoration



Photo by Pat Jarrett/Virginia Humanities

American Evolution highlights the significance and modern relevance of several important events that occurred in Virginia in 1619. These events strongly influenced the development of the colony and shaped the foundation of the United States. Norfolk State University is playing a prominent role in the telling of this history. The University will host a three-day event on campus September 25–27. The 1619 Making of America summit will explore the 400-year journey of our founding cultures; African, Native, and English peoples; immigrant stories; and the contributions and influences that have shaped the building of America.

At the foundation of the cross-cultural event will be the question, “Who are we as Americans?” Leading with the African American voice, over the course of the 1619 event, scholars, thought leaders, artists, filmmakers, dignitaries and students will delve into America's current and historic chronicle with more accuracy and with a lens towards a more inclusive future.

The Summit will explore four themes through conversations with scholars and media personalities that include:

- **Reimagining Representations of People of Color**
How does media, news, entertainment, and other forms of popular culture play a significant role in shaping perceptions of people of color?
- **America's Future: Citizenship and the Law in America**
What defines citizenship, civil rights, and the American class system?
- **America's Narrative Reframed**
Why is the forced arrival of Africans to Old Point Comfort in the Virginia Colony in 1619, and those hundreds who followed in the 17th century, important in our understanding of the American history narrative?
- **Finding America's Root**
Is there generational power in uncovering who Americans really are?

The 1619 Making of America summit will provide an opportunity to review who we are as Americans and the enduring quality and importance of author James Baldwin's words “Our history is our present, and we cannot run away from it.”

For more information, go to www.nsu.edu/1619MakingofAmerica

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 and Virginia's increasing diversity through video interviews with first-generation newcomers. **Solomon Isekeije**, 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 <http://edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/new-virginians> **B**

PROMOTION POWERHOUSE

Embarks on Journey to Save Lives

By DORIS SHADOUH



UniversityNews

“The Ashanti Alert will be a beacon of hope for those that have a loved one deemed as missing under questionable circumstances.”

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 to 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. **B**

Photo by Don Spencer

Professor Shines A BEAM ON ONE OF THE UNIVERSE'S Tiniest Objects

By GAIL KENT



Physics professor, Dr. Vina Punjabi made a ground-breaking discovery.

Norfolk State physics professor Vina Punjabi, Ph.D., has spent her career studying very tiny things – so tiny, they aren’t visible, except with a very powerful electron microscope.

Punjabi, who joined NSU in 1988, investigated protons, one of the basic building blocks of the universe.

In addition to teaching undergraduate physics classes, Punjabi has conducted fundamental research experiments all over the world in the field of nuclear and particle physics and has published more than 120 articles in prestigious professional journals. Much of her work has been done with the assistance of Department of Energy grants.

She has also nurtured at least 25 undergraduate students with deep interests in physics, all of whom went on to higher studies. “I always have stipend money in my grants for the students, always,” Punjabi says. “One of the main parts of research is to get students interested and to introduce them to world-class research.”

In the early-1990s, Punjabi traveled to France and Russia to conduct experiments, but in 1998 she began conducting her most important research using the electron accelerator at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility – or Jefferson Lab – in Newport News. Since it came

online in 1995, scientists from all over the world have flocked to the Department of Energy-owned facility to conduct experiments. It is home to one of the world’s most powerful tools for studying subatomic particles – known as the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility.

“The Jefferson Lab is like a big electron microscope, so it produces the electron beam with very high intensity and energy,” Punjabi explains. “Not only that, the beam is also polarized, meaning the electrons align like a spinning top in the same direction.”

She and a partner, Charles Perdrisat, Ph.D., a College of William and Mary professor, enlisted about 80 scientists from around the world to investigate the internal structure of the proton.

They focused the beam on a source of protons, a liquid hydrogen target, held at very low temperature. Using special instruments, they detected the electrons and protons that scattered from the bombardment, as well as measured the electrons and protons’ momentum, energy and position.

The experimental results revealed information that was previously unknown about the proton. Previous proton experiments had measured only cross sections. By using the polarized electron beam, they were able to measure the spin on the proton that was kicked out of the target. This revealed that the charge and current distribution are quite different than previously known, Punjabi explains, allowing a better view of what is inside the proton.

The results of their first experiment was so interesting, they conducted a second the following year to confirm their findings and a third similar experiment in 2007. Punjabi’s last grant ended in 2016, and she decided not to reapply because she plans to retire soon.

Now, she looks back over a very productive, satisfying career. But when she was growing up in India, her family wanted her to become a doctor.

“I did biology for about two weeks, and then I couldn’t eat my food because my hands smelled like formaldehyde from dissecting the frogs,” she says, explaining her switch to physics. After moving to the U.S. with her husband, they both pursued their doctorates at The College of William and Mary.

She encourages minorities – and especially women – to enter the sciences, in general, and physics, specifically.

“I had some young women in my physics classes (at William and Mary), but I wished there were more,” she says. “There also needs to be more people of color in the field, according to the population. But physics is not as glamorous as being a doctor or lawyer or businessperson. And it’s a hard subject.” **B**

Photo courtesy of Jefferson Lab

Student Launches SPACE CAREER with National Science Foundation Scholarship

By GAIL KENT

It’s not an insult to call Kayla Dio Robinson, ’20, a space cadet.

When you check out the NSU junior’s blog, it’s right there in the description of herself: “Computer science student. Space cadet. Artist.”

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

The Virginia Beach native graduated from Tidewater Community College in December with an associates degree in science with a specialization in computer science. She began the spring semester at Norfolk State, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science with a specialty in information assurance.

TCC professors alerted the 23-year-old to the National Science Foundation CyberCorps Scholarship for Service, which pays tuition and fees to complete her bachelor’s degree, provides books and health insurance allowances, gives her \$22,500 for living expenses and sets aside \$4,000 for professional development and travel.

“It’s an incredible opportunity,” she says. “It includes job fairs and conferences every January.”

After graduation, Robinson is guaranteed a government job – in fact, she is required to serve in a branch of the government for at least two years. Her dream job is working at Johnson Space Center in Texas, but over the summer her focus was a little closer to home.

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 Figures” 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,” she says. “I’ve seen a couple of them from far away, but it’s not the same as being close, just a couple of miles from the launch site and



Photo courtesy of NASA

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.”

Her artistic side was in conflict with her scientific interests, so she initially majored in interior design at TCC, but after seeing the movie “Interstellar,” she switched her major so that she could work at NASA, she says.

She thinks the computer science path she’s on will allow for a lot of versatility. “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.” **B**

“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.”



Angela Reddix, Ph.D., a CEO of A. Reddix and Associates (ARDX)

ENVISION LEAD GROW

*Prepares
Young Girls
for Business
Leadership
Roles*

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

Photo courtesy of ELG



*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**

Angela Reddix, Ph.D., adjunct professor in Norfolk State University's School of Business and CEO of A. Reddix and Associates (ARDX), understands the obstacles women face in the business world. After a long career in healthcare and government contracting, she made the decision to start her own company. ARDX is an award-winning healthcare management and IT consulting firm dedicated to improving the lives of the nation's most vulnerable populations. "After achieving a measure of success with ARDX, I decided to step out on faith in 2017, and created three additional entities: Envision Lead Grow, ARDX Health Solutions and the ARDX Foundation," stated Reddix during an interview after the second annual fundraising event for Envision Lead Grow. ELG is an organization that works with young girls, providing them with the tools to create and run their own businesses. The philosophy and mission of ELG is to break the cycle of poverty by developing and implementing comprehensive entrepreneurship programs for middle school girls across the country. "We are creating Girl Bosses!"

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 49 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. **B**



Approximately 150 girls took part in ELG's Summer Institute held at Norfolk State University.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



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

Green and Gold Ball

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:

This is our Time

By REGINA LIGHTFOOT

Photography By JEANNIE HOBBS

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



CONTINUED FROM PG. 17



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.”

Alumni also provide a wealth of knowledge. “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. **B**

NSU *Exceeds* FUNDRAISING GOAL

By GAIL KENT

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 \$7.361 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 \$22.4 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 3.9% in 2013 to 12.8% 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 asking for and getting increased financial support from our Alumni," she says. "We're holding receptions across the nation, sharing the Norfolk State story,

telling them the good things that are going on, and asking them to support us financially."

She says other changes have included sending the BEHOLD magazine to all alumni rather than to only donors, as had previously been the practice; better use of social media; more communication with alumni, in general; and increased development staffing to support fundraising, infrastructure and operations.

"The combination has caused our message to be consistent," she says.

"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 is excited that alumni and guests will see a new entranceway to the campus on Park Avenue. This beautiful, lighted gateway, which opened in May, provides a defined presence for Norfolk State on Park Avenue.

But the changes at Norfolk State are not just skin-deep. Dr. Fontaine cites new programs, such as the Innovation Center on Main Street, Master of Science in Cybersecurity, and the University's excellent music and theater programs as real attention-getters.

Since 95% of NSU's students need financial support to attend college, most of the funds raised support student scholarships. The remainder is used to fund faculty development, such as conferences and travel.

This year's fundraising goal is also \$7 million. In addition to academic scholarships, there are plans to use some of that money for athletic scholarships, Presidential Scholarships and student study abroad.

"All of these things combined create a lot of energy around Norfolk State, which gets people excited," she says. "When you tell people the good things that are going on, they want to help the University Succeed." **B**

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

-Winston Churchill

NORFOLK STUDENT

*Who Earned \$1M in
Scholarships Finds a
Home at Norfolk State*

Photo courtesy of FuseIdeas

By DORIS SHADOUH

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 also encouraging other students to work hard toward their dreams and to strive to become the best versions of themselves every day.

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 **B**



ZEUS CAMPBELL SHARES HIS JOURNEY

*from the Big Band
to the Big Screen*

By DORIS SHADOUH

NSU Alumnus and
former member of
Spartan Legion stars
in Academy Award
Award-Winning Film

Photo by Lateef Gibson

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 alumnus 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*, *Bird*, *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. **B**



Spartan Legion Marching Band *Gains* WORLD-WIDE *Exposure*

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

*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 view of the Spartan Legion is courtesy of a fan-based video posted on YouTube. "Somebody shot a video of the band after a home game," noted Beathea. "That clip got more than 10 million views. Nilsson told me when he saw that video, he

got the idea for a new video featuring music from *Justice*."

And so, this story of the Spartan Legion Marching Band began.

Nilsson said in the same magazine interview, "I immediately knew that these guys had something special and that I wanted to make a music video with them one day. Months passed then suddenly the *Heavy Metal* track by *Justice* came my way." Justice is a French electronic music duo consisting of Gaspard Augé and Xavier de Rosnay and is well-known for impactful music videos. *Heavy Metal* is a track from the duo's Grammy award-winning album *Woman Worldwide*.

Bethea recalled that he didn't know who Filip Nilsson was, but after receiving a second email from the music video director, he emailed Nilsson and they arranged a phone chat. In the meantime, "We looked him up," Beathea reminisces. "We saw all of the accolades he had received and we nearly fell out of our chairs," he laughs, also describing the reaction of Stephanie

Sanders, associate director of bands/assistant professor of music. After Nilsson shared his vision for the *Justice* video, and the fact that he had researched other HBCU marching bands around the country, the real work 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 understand what it means working with professionals. She kept the students pumped up," he added. Bethea 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 even during 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 . . . hundreds 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 hob-nob 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? "We've 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 us 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. **B**

2018-19 SHINING MOMENTS



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 senior 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 team sent three athletes (two females, one male) to an NCAA Indoor Championship 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.

Kiara 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 100 meters and Bissah second-team honors in the 800. Grant is the first Spartan 100-meter runner to qualify for a Division I championship meet. She set a school and Jamaican junior record with her sixth-place finish in the finals.

SHOCKING THE WORLD, PART II

The NSU **men's basketball team** is no stranger to historic upsets. The Spartans became just the fifth No. 15 seed to upset a No. 2 seed in NCAA tournament history in 2012 by beating third-ranked Missouri.

The 2018-19 Spartans pulled off a

Here is a look at some of the top accomplishments for NSU Athletics this past year:

BASKETBALL

Derrik Jamerson Jr. led the Spartans to their second-ever MEAC regular season title with a 14-2 record and to up upset of No. 1 seed Alabama in the NIT first round. The senior led the nation in 3-point field goal percentage at 49.7 while averaging 10.4 points per game.

monumental upset of their own, but this time in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT). After winning the MEAC regular-season title, NSU fell just short of its first conference tournament title since that magic 2011-12 year, as N.C. Central downed the Spartans in the tournament title game. But NSU bounced back quickly in the NIT. An eighth seed in the nation's oldest postseason tournament, the Spartans went on the road to shock No. 1 NIT seed Alabama in Tuscaloosa, 80-79, in overtime.

According to at least one expert, the win over Alabama was the biggest upset in terms of point spread in NIT history. The Spartans also still hold that distinction in the NCAA tournament, as well, for the 2012 win over Missouri.

CONFERENCE SUPREMACY

Spartan teams achieved a number of notable finishes within conference competition. The following teams won regular-season MEAC titles (overall or divisional): men's basketball, women's tennis (Northern Division), softball (Northern Division) and baseball (Northern Division).

In addition, the women's basketball team advanced to the MEAC tournament 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. The baseball and men's basketball teams also advanced to the championship round of their respective MEAC tournaments.

The **men's tennis** also placed second in the Northern Division during the regular season.

NSU finished third in the MEAC all-sports standings for both men's and women's sports.

CONFERENCE SUPREMACY, PART II

Senior **Naz Karagoz** made NSU tennis program history when she won the Spartans' first-ever MEAC Women's Tennis Player of the Year honors. The graduate transfer went 9-1 in singles play to help NSU earn the No. 1 seed from the Northern Division in the MEAC tournament.

Martha Bissah began her year of MEAC dominance in the fall. The junior from Ghana became the MEAC's first repeat women's individual cross country champion since 2002-03 when she breezed to a first-place finish at the MEAC meet in October. She led NSU to a runner-up team finish, its best result since winning the MEAC title in 2009.

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 baseball 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 in softball. Shumate is NSU's first baseball Coach of the Year since 2015.

Jones also was awarded the Skip Prosser Award, given annually by College Insider to a Division I coach who not only achieves success on the court but also displays moral integrity off of it.

NATIONALLY RANKED SPARTANS

NSU athletes ranked highly in a number of national statistical categories this past year. Men's basketball player **Derrik Jamerson Jr.** led all of Division I in 3-point percentage, at 49.7 percent. **Alsander Womack** finished 31st in the country in batting average, at .377, while **Stephen Baughan** was fifth in doubles per game and **Justin Hayes** was 19th in stolen bases for the explosive NSU baseball 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 **Jazzmaine Hammond** finished 10th individually among all Division I 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 punt 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 35th in the country in field-goal percentage defense.

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

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.

Additionally, 114 student-athletes earned a spot on the Athletics Director's Honor Roll for the spring semester for having a semester GPA of 3.0 or better. One hundred five earned the same distinction in the fall 2018 semester.

Also in the spring, the NSU athletics program ended the academic year with an overall department GPA of 3.05. Seven Spartan athletic programs have a team cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

For the third year in a row, NSU landed a student-athlete on the Google Cloud® Academic All-America Team. This year, the honor went to baseball player **Caleb Ward**, who maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA and earned second-team Academic All-America honors.



AthleticNews

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

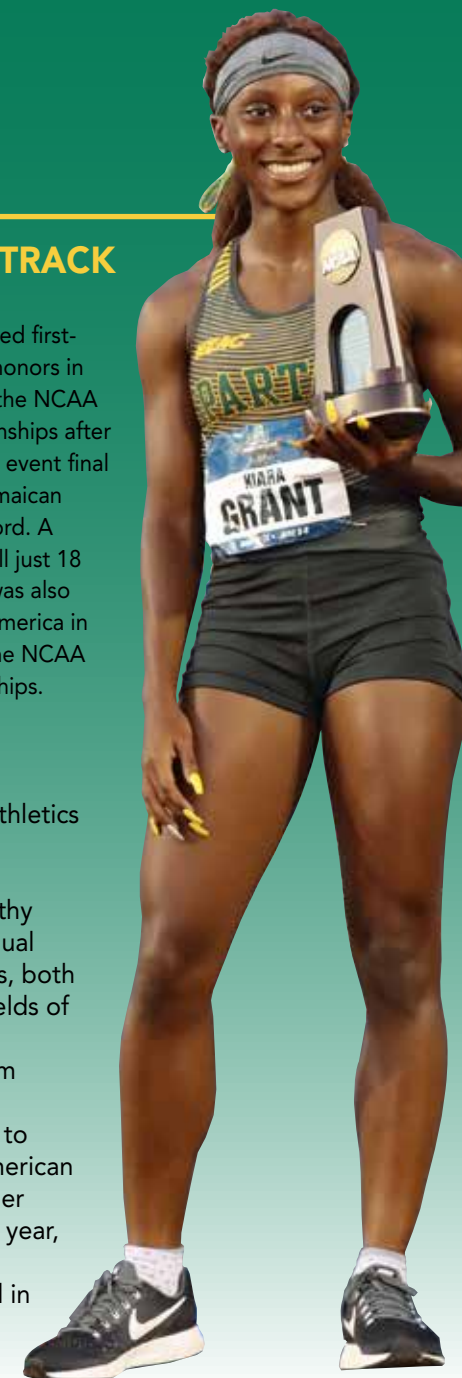
Kiara Grant earned first-team All-America honors in the 100 meters at the NCAA Outdoor Championships after placing sixth in the event final and setting the Jamaican junior national record. A sophomore and still just 18 years of age, she was also second-team All-America in the 60 meters at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

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. **B**

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Naz Karagoz became the first NSU women's tennis player to earn the MEAC Player of the Year Award. The graduate student led the Spartans to their second-ever Northern Division Championship after going 9-1 in singles play this year, all at the No. 1 position.



WELCOME BACK CLASS OF 1969

Norfolk State University celebrated its 104th Commencement and welcomed the Class of 1969 back to commemorate its 50th class anniversary.



During the 104th Commencement Ceremony, Norfolk State University conferred more than 470 degrees. The ceremony, held at William "Dick" Price Stadium on the NSU Campus, also recognized the Class of 1969, who were the first graduates of Norfolk State College.

Journalist Yamiche Alcindor, a White House Correspondent for the PBS NewsHour, delivered the keynote address. Alcindor, covers the White House and U.S. President Donald Trump for the PBS NewsHour, which airs weeknights at 7 p.m. on the public television channel. During the ceremony, Alcindor and Drs. Melvin T. and Patricia Lynch Stith were conferred with the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.



Graduating to Greatness

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 personify 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 (ABPsi).





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, she still makes time to volunteer at girl-focused STEM development activities, sponsored by FIRST Robotics, Black Girls Code, Girls in Technology, and Delta Academy.

"I am committed to giving back and being present so they (AfricanAmerican girls) can realize they too can go into STEM," says Moore, who was recently named a Modern Day Technology Leader at the

2019 Black Engineer of the Year Awards held earlier this year.

Reared by both her mother and grandmother, Moore chose Norfolk State University because she wanted to attend a historically black college and university and felt that NSU offered the nurturing college environment that she desired, as well as the cultural-educational experience that she did not have growing up in South Carolina. Moore felt that she not only received an excellent education at NSU, but also established lifelong, transformative relationships with numerous former professors, administrators and student peers.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in business, with an emphasis in management computer information systems. A life member of the Norfolk State University Alumni Association, she is repaying NSU for that experience. In 1998, Moore's dear line sister, Lurectia Erin Smith, was slain. To honor her, she and her sorority sisters' established a book scholarship in her memory for NSU students.

In 2012, Moore's 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 résumé and interviewing advice. She also has informal conversations about college life. But, she always stresses the importance of building relationships with younger girls to help them along, as well as encourages them to be active contributors to NSU's alumni association upon graduation. Yet it's not all one-sided. Mentoring gives Moore a chance to learn as well. "Mentees, especially the millennial generation, bring a fresh perspective to new ideas for solutions," she noted.

In the end, Moore, hopes her efforts result in an increase in the number of African American women in STEM and wishes to see an increase in the number of diverse and meaningful mentoring relationships in which other women in technical fields share and solve challenges. "It really does my spirit a world of good," says Moore "to know that I have contributed in some form or fashion to change the trajectory." **B**

Working ON THE HILL

By REGINA LIGHTFOOT

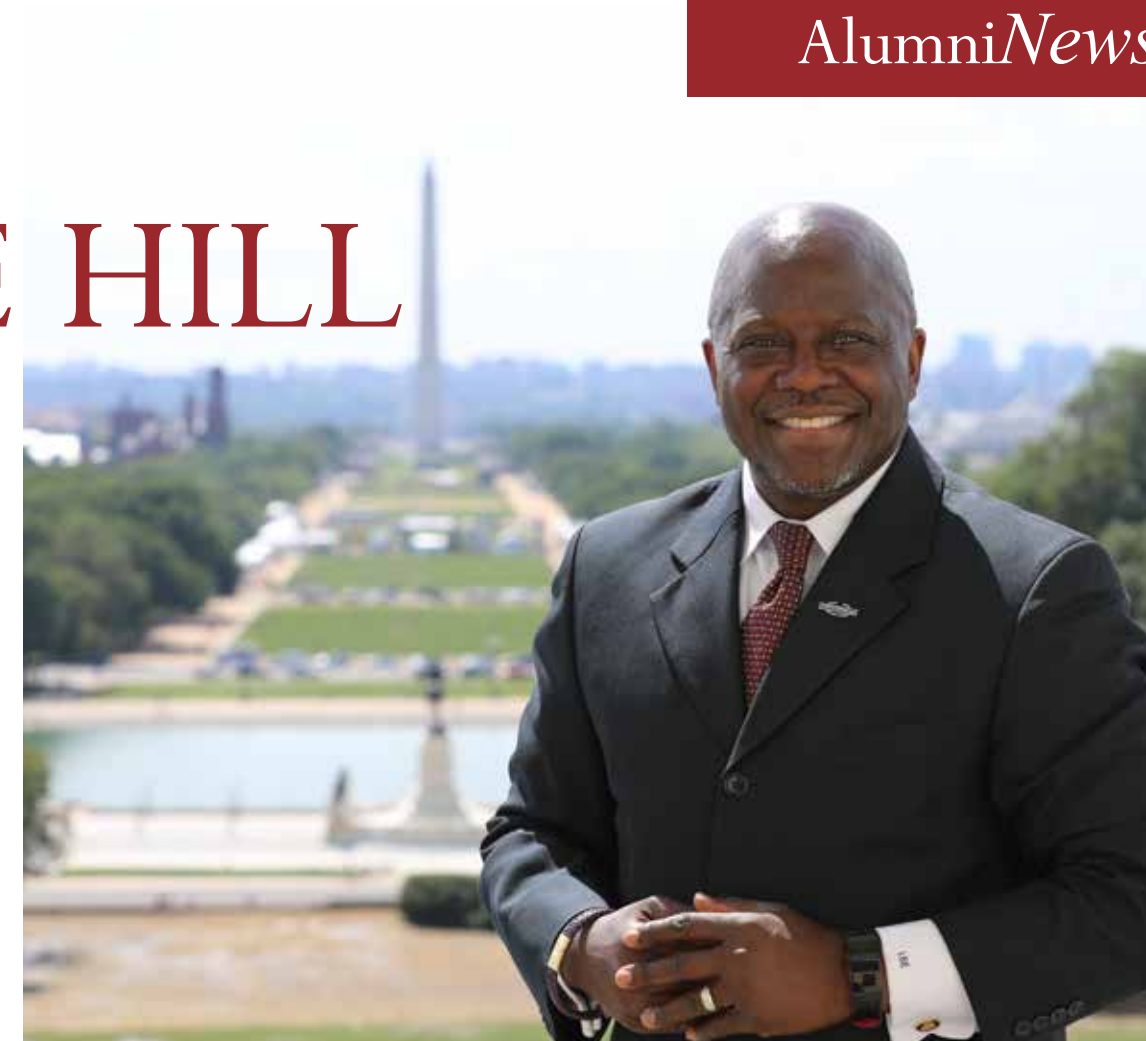
As a boy growing up in the Liberty Park housing project and then Park Place in Norfolk, Virginia, Larnell B. Exum '85 never dreamed that he would be leading Congressional delegations on fact-finding tours abroad. Exum, a Norfolk native and retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, is the Director of Travel, Security and Facilities for the United States House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

A willingness to follow his passion and leverage his military service has brought Exum to where he is today, and has included serving the nation in the upper echelons of government — working on Capitol Hill with the U.S. Congress, in the Pentagon and even serving a U.S. President.

But it all started with Norfolk State.

Exum has had a lifelong love for Norfolk State, and it's a love and a legacy that he continues to pass on. His mother, Eva Mae (Maryland) Exum; his sister, Brenda Exum, a retired Norfolk State professor; his brother, Edward Exum; and his twin brother, Darnell Exum; his sister's in law, Senora Exum, deceased and Rosalyn Exum also attended Norfolk State. Now his nephew, Julian Exum attends. I have fond memories of running around the campus of Norfolk State College," he said. "Frankly, it was the only school I ever thought of."

One of his fondest memories happened when he was about 14 years old. The memory has stayed with him because it gave him 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 wryly. Williams went on to quarterback for the Washington Redskins



and set NFL records as he led the team to a 42-10 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 Operations 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 — as an Army officer he could serve as a legislative liaison and Congressional Fellow. "I vowed that one day, I was going to work on the Hill." That vow has led him to serve on more than 60 fact-finding Congressional and staff delegation missions to more than 35 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! Your GPA will either open or lock doors of opportunity. Be proud of being a Spartan! And, finally, be an active and financial alum!" **B**

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 mutual respect, understanding and cooperation.



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 NSUAEOP. Coyle, who is NSUAEOP 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.



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.

David S. Lomax '94 recently began a new position as a graphics operator at *Court TV*.



Dr. Vanessa Peters (Ph.D., '17 and B.S. '12) was featured in the PREM Research Highlights of the National Science Foundation (April 5, 2019) and in the Lawrence

Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) News (March 26, 2019). Dr. Peters, currently a post-doctoral researcher at the Livermore Lab, contributed to the development of a new technique for electroplating copper and gold to create tiny, smoothly spherical inertial confinement fusion target shells.

Former professional football player and alumnus **Ricky Ray** was profiled in a story in the *News Virginian*.



Ray now works for the World Bank. He is in charge of print and multimedia and leads a team of 40 employees. Ray is also president of the Washington, D.C., chapter of the NFL Players Association

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



Shelley Scott-Johnson '14, assistant director of programs in the Office of Extended Learning, was accepted into the Online Learning Consortium's Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning Program to begin in July. The IELOL program is designed for those in positioned-for-leadership roles within an individual's institution.

The Norfolk State University Association of Educational Office Professionals (NSUAEOP) and the Virginia Association of Educational Office



Professionals (VAEOP) named **Dr. Melvin T. Stith Sr. (B.S. '68)** as its 2019 Administrator of the Year.



Tracy D. Whitehurst, '83 was named The Primary Requirements Systems Engineer for the Marine Air Defense Integrated System (MADIS-FWS) Future Weapons System Anti-Aircraft

System. Currently, he works with Parsons Corporation and Polaris-Alpha on the Systems Design Specifications and other Systems Engineering components.



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.



NSU FOUNDATION 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.





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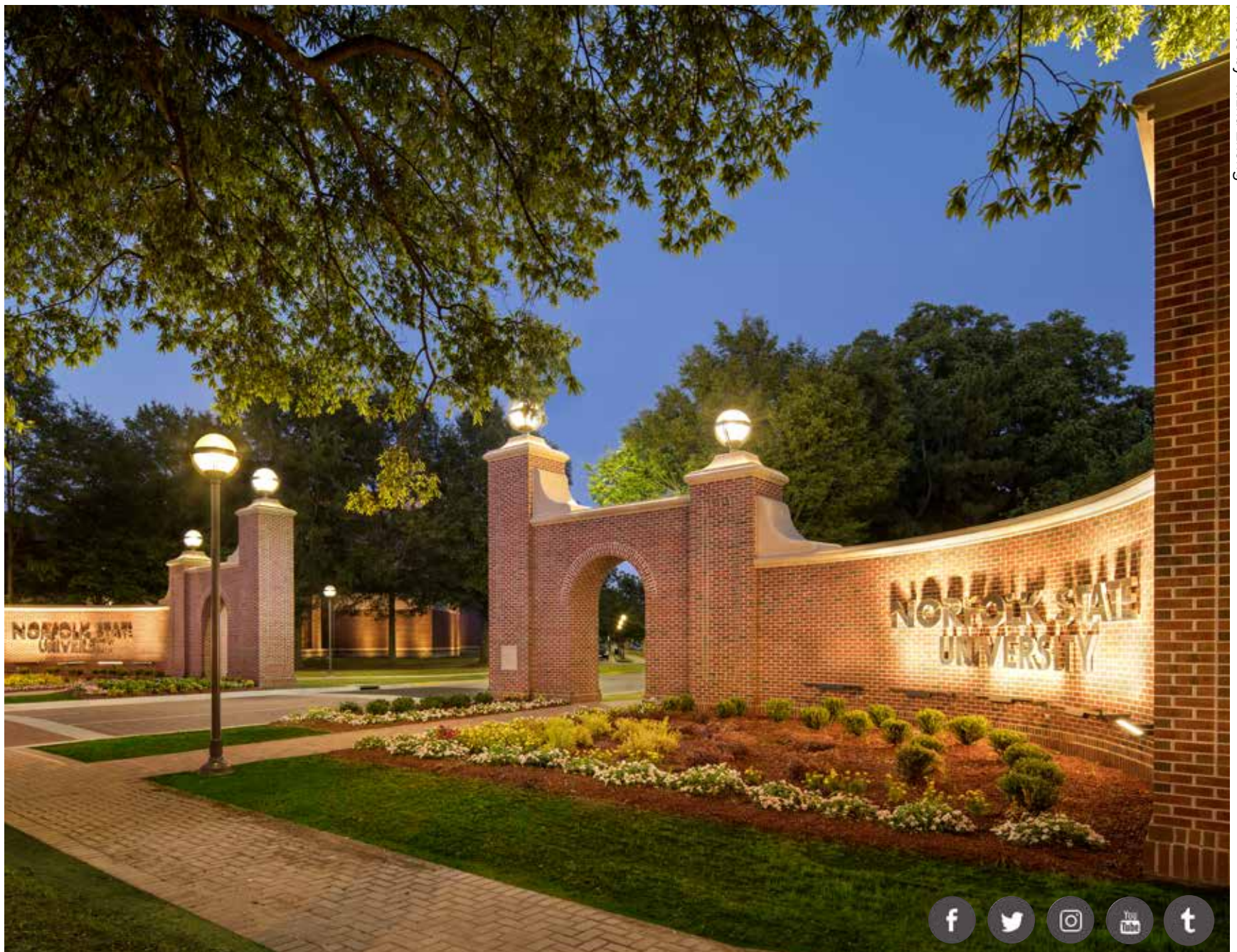


Photo by Yuzhu Zheng

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.