

# NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY. MAKING WAVES

Dr. Tony Atwater, President | A Semi-Monthly Newsletter for Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends of Norfolk State University

Achieving Excellence. Success Beyond Measure.

## NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY NAMED EMERGING SCHOLAR BY DIVERSE: ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**D**r. Frances Williams, associate professor of engineering at Norfolk State University, is among the 2012 class of Emerging Scholars named by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education Magazine.

"This prestigious national distinction demonstrates the outstanding abilities of Dr. Williams as an exemplary teacher-scholar. Her national recognition brings pride and distinction to Norfolk State University and Norfolk State's faculty," said NSU President Tony Atwater.

"Dr. Williams' leadership has been instrumental in the development of NSU's research and development cleanroom, which will be open for business in the near future," he said. "This facility, which is devoted to nanotechnology research and development, will be one of a handful of centers operated by a

public university in the Commonwealth of Virginia," he added.

Each scholar named was selected based on research, educational background, publishing record, teaching record, competitiveness of field of study, and uniqueness of field of study. Dr. Williams joins 11 other scholars from prestigious institutions and universities located throughout the world.

Diverse, formerly Black Issues in Higher Education, first published its Emerging Scholars edition in 2002. It has remained one of the magazine's most popular editions since its inception. Diverse editors select honorees from a pool of candidates recommended by various scholars, department chairs, university public information officers, and others.



## STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE GUIDES DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSITY PLAN

The time has arrived for the next visionary strategic plan for Norfolk State University. On November 1, 2011, President Atwater appointed the members of the Strategic Plan Committee. Executive Vice President Kim Luckes and Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Sandra DeLoatch serve as co-chairs of the planning process. Members of the Strategic Plan

Continued on page 5



## CELEBRATE INAUGURAL WEEK

Norfolk State University's Inaugural Week is March 12-17. The investiture ceremony, installing Dr. Tony Atwater as the fifth president of Norfolk State University, will take place Fri., March 16, 10 a.m. at Joseph G. Echols Hall.

For a listing of Inaugural Week events and activities, see page 4.

## Willis Named Interim VP for Student Affairs



Willis

Edward M. Willis has been named interim vice president for student affairs. Willis, who has 30 years of diverse student affairs experience, most recently served as associate vice president for student affairs at Florida A&M University.

His university experiences also include the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of Missouri-Columbia, Rutgers University, St. John's University, North Carolina A&T State University and The University of Toledo. His student affairs administrative responsibilities have included student housing, multicultural student affairs, Greek life, student judicial affairs/conduct, orientation, accessibility services, women's center, veteran affairs, student unions, student activities, leadership programs, career services and student development/tutorial services.

He also has a wide range of university experiences beyond the student affairs arena, serving on numerous university-wide committees

such as strategic planning, executive enrollment management council, athletic council, fiscal advisory, university food service advisory, several search committees and a presidential inauguration committee. Willis has also partnered with faculty to create a first academic/reading experience for new students, which invited new students, faculty and staff to read a selected novel during the summer and culminated with a luncheon and book discussion with the author.

A native of New Jersey, Willis earned a bachelor's degree from Montclair State University in Northern New Jersey and a master of education degree from Rutgers University. He is a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, American College Personnel Association, Association of College Unions – International, Midwest Dean's Conference, Blue Key National Honorary Fraternity, Golden Key International Honour Society and Omicron Delta Kappa.

Achieving Excellence. Success Beyond Measure.

# 75 Students Inducted into Golden Key

*President Atwater made an honorary member*



Seventy-five of the University's top ranking juniors and seniors were inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society, which accepts the top 15 percent of academically high achieving students.

President Tony Atwater, Vice Provost Mildred Fuller and faculty members Michael Cotter and Ronald King were inducted as honorary members of Golden Key. "This society recognizes and encourages your achievements and excellence," Atwater told the students. "NSU students are among the best and the brightest. It is an important honor for you to be selected to this distinguished body of scholars." He noted that Golden Key symbolizes academic excellence, which directly relates to NSU's motto of Achieving Excellence. Success Beyond Measure.

Judy Lawrence-Lamb, the NSU president of Golden Key, spoke very highly of Atwater. "His presence has made a profound difference on this campus," she said. "He is a person that any student would aspire to be."

President Tony Atwater addresses members of the Golden Key International Honour Society.

## HONORSFORKIDS HELPS CHILDREN FIND THEIR VOICES

**By Regina Lightfoot**  
| Office of Communications and Marketing

On Mondays children from ForKids, a nonprofit organization that helps homeless/at-risk families and children, spend their afterschool hours at Norfolk State University. While on campus, they dabble in art, write poetry, explore various topics and reflect on that day's experience. The program, HonorsForKids, is the brainchild of Cedrick Garrett, '08, who is the ForKids children's education program manager.

Garrett realized that the participants' situations prevented them from participating in afterschool and educational enrichment programs, and he set out to find a way to make that experience possible. "As an NSU

alum, I knew that I could use my network and deliver a positive program in a small window of time," said Garrett. As luck would have it, he had a chance meeting with Honors College Dean Page Laws. Shortly thereafter, the Honors College, the Kendra Butler Association of English Majors and Spartan Epidemik began partnering with ForKids to offer a creative writing and literature program to six children. Its purpose is to encourage self-expression and expose them to positive male and female role models.

After two semesters, Garrett is pleased with the effect the program is having on the children. "The biggest impact for the students," he said, "is that they have a voice which is heard while expressing themselves freely." If you ask the children directly, they may tell you that they have learned how to write poetry or have experienced a college campus, but in less guarded moments, Garrett said it is extremely evident how much the program means to them. Said one student: "Poetry has so much power, and it can tell your whole life."



Two girls participating in HonorsForKids study art in one of the cases at the University's African Art Gallery. After studying the pieces, the participants wrote about their experiences.



**Making Waves** is published twice a month by the Office of Communications and Marketing.

**Dr. Tony Atwater**  
President

**Phillip D. Adams**  
VP for University Advancement

**Cheryl Bates-Lee**  
AVP of University Relations

**Stevalynn Adams**  
**Regina Lightfoot**  
**Christopher Setzer**

[marketing@nsu.edu](mailto:marketing@nsu.edu)

# NSU Expands Online Degree Offerings

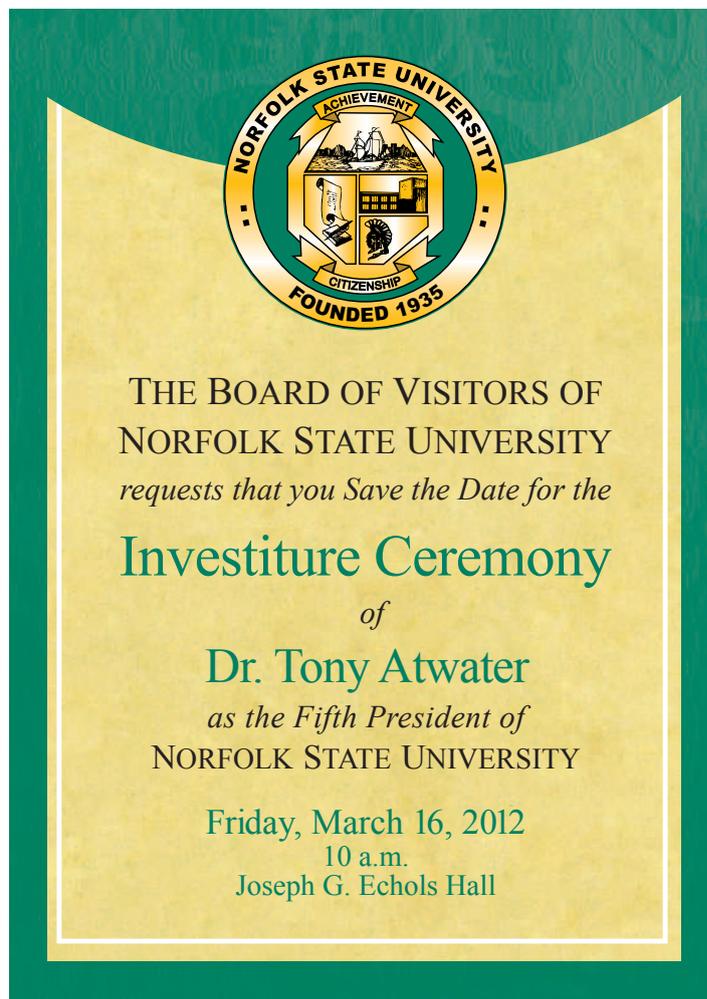
By Keona Prude  
| Office of Communications and Marketing

The Department of Nursing and Allied Health has launched an online bachelor of science degree in health services management. It is Norfolk State University's second fully online degree program. The health services management degree prepares students to gain managerial knowledge and skills and qualifies them for positions in hospitals, nursing homes, physicians' offices, health clinics, assisted living and other medical agencies. In addition, it provides a solid foundation for students who expect to attend graduate school.

Last semester, seven students were enrolled online. But Marie St. Rose, allied health programs coordinator, expects it to grow quickly, based on the growth of the traditional health services management program. From 2008 to 2012, the traditional program was projected to grow 15 percent, but it has exceeded that, according to St. Rose.

If NSU's first online degree program is any indication, St. Rose has nothing to worry about. Started in 2007, the bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies was one of the first interdisciplinary studies degree programs offered in the Hampton Roads area. Since it began,

Continued on page 5



## NEWS FROM OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs announces the following:

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

**Dr. James T. Walke** joined Norfolk State University on January 3, 2012 as the Interim Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning. He is responsible for overseeing the collection, analysis, and distribution of institutional data to support strategic planning, decision-making, program development, and assessment of student learning, accreditation, and program review. Previously, he served as the director of Institutional Research at Norfolk State University (NSU) and most recently was director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Thomas Nelson Community College. Dr. Walke received the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Virginia and the Ph.D. in Educational Policy, Planning and Leadership from the College of William and Mary.

**Dr. Alona Smolova** was selected as the Director of Institutional Research (IR) at Norfolk State University in November 2011. She leads the preparation of accurate and relevant statewide and regional data and reports that are needed to meet federal, state and other

compliance requirements. She reports to the Office for Research and Planning. Her most recent administrative experiences include serving as Director of Assessment and Accreditation, College of Education and Human Development, Radford University, and as Director of IR, Planning and Assessment at the University of North Carolina Pembroke. Dr. Smolova received the Ph.D degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), the Master of Arts degree from Kherson State University (Ukraine), the Master of Science from Radford University, and the Postgraduate Certificate in Institutional Research from Florida State University.

**Ms. Katrice Hawthorne** was named Testing Services Manager in December 2011. NSU's new Testing Center will be housed on the first level of the Harrison B. Wilson Hall and will be operational during the spring semester. Ms. Hawthorne is a doctoral candidate at Old Dominion University and she earned the Master of Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University and the Bachelor of Arts from Virginia Union University. She previously served as general education assessment specialist at NSU and the Testing Center Manager at Tidewater Community College.



NSU President Tony Atwater and NSU students Hope Strachan and Rondek Boyer-Spikes accept a \$25,000 check on behalf of Norfolk State University from Junius H. Williams Jr., managing director of Dominion-Virginia Power, for the Spartan Crusade for Academic Success (SCAS) program. SCAS is an educational initiative that involves strategic alliances with regional school districts, high schools and community colleges and other external partners.



# “Norfolk State University: Taking the Lead in Educational Attainment”

**Dr. Tony Atwater**  
Fifth President of Norfolk State University

## INAUGURAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### MONDAY, MARCH 12

**MOU Signing with Northern Virginia  
Community College**  
10 a.m.  
McDemmond Center

**Martin Luther King Dreamscape Forum  
- Advancing Democracy in the Twenty-first Century**  
1-4 p.m.  
New Student Center

**Meet the President Reception**  
4-7 p.m.  
Chrysler Museum

This reception will represent the community's official welcome of Dr. Tony Atwater to the Hampton Roads region.

Featuring the Preview of 30 Americans Exhibit

From Robert Colescott and Jean-Michel Basquiat to Kehinde Wiley and Nina Chanel Abney, the 30 Americans Exhibit surveys the most significant artistic contributions of the past three decades. Drawn from the Rubell Family Collection in Miami, this exciting exhibition brings together 75 works by 31 emerging and established African-American artists, who work within a variety of mediums, from painting and sculpture to photography, video and installation.



**Dr. Tony Atwater**  
Fifth President of Norfolk State University

### TUESDAY, MARCH 13

**Undergraduate Research Symposium**  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
New Student Center

**Reception with Dr. Angel Harris, Associate  
Professor of Sociology and African American  
Studies at Princeton University; Author, *Kids  
Don't Want to Fail: Oppositional Culture and  
the Black-White Achievement Gap***  
5-6 p.m.  
L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center

**Educational Attainment Symposium  
(Dr. Angel Harris, Keynote Speaker)**  
7 p.m.  
L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

**Academic Program – Faculty Colloquium**  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
New Student Center

### THURSDAY, MARCH 15

**Library Dedication and Reception**  
1 p.m.  
Lyman Beecher Brooks Library

The Lyman Beecher Brooks Library is a 134,000-square foot campus centerpiece with the latest technological infrastructures and the amenities to further enrich the NSU experience. The Library houses the Harrison B. Wilson Archives on the second floor, which specializes in collecting and preserving original historical records pertaining to the experiences of African-Americans in Virginia; and the African Art Gallery with a collection of over 600 museum-quality art pieces from many different cultures in West Africa.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 16

**Investiture**  
10 a.m.  
Joseph G. Echols Memorial Hall  
Installation of Dr. Tony Atwater as  
Norfolk State University's Fifth President

**Investiture Luncheon**  
12:30 p.m.  
New Student Center

**“Triumph of the Human Spirit” Voices Concert**  
7:30 p.m.  
L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center

Featuring the Norfolk State University Concert Choir and the Virginia Symphony

### SATURDAY, MARCH 17

**Community Forum, Reception, and Book  
Signing with Bill Strickland, President and CEO,  
Manchester Bidwell Corporation; Author, *Making  
the Impossible Possible***  
11 a.m.  
New Student Center

**VIP Reception**  
6 p.m.  
Norfolk Waterside Marriott

**Gala**  
7 p.m.  
Norfolk Waterside Marriott

This elegant evening of celebration and entertainment will feature tributes and toasts in honor of the Inauguration of Dr. Tony Atwater, and is intended to raise funds for scholarships and programs. Individual tickets cost \$150 and sponsorships range from \$2,500 to \$50,000. (Net proceeds will be matched from the “Strengthening the NSU Endowment” challenge grant from the Department of Education, which supports student scholarships).

**INAUGURAL EVENTS**  
[www.nsu.edu/inauguration](http://www.nsu.edu/inauguration)



Committee bring multiple perspectives, a depth of knowledge of NSU and higher education and are invested in the future of Norfolk State University.

**They are as follows:**

- Dr. Belinda Anderson**, Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts
- Cheryl Bates-Lee**, Assistant Vice President, University Relations
- Dr. Tommy Bogger**, Director, University Archives and Acting Director, Lyman Beecher Brooks Library
- Lajuana Collins-Morgan, M.D.**, Board Member, NSU Foundation
- Mrs. Davida Harrell-Williams**, Director, Auxiliary Services
- Ms. Michelle Hill**, Director, Alumni Relations
- Ms. Janee Jones**, Representative, Student Government Association
- Mr. Charles Hunt**, Associate Professor, Department of Technology
- Dr. Page Laws**, Dean, Honors College
- Ms. Lakeisha Mayes**, Director, Recruitment and Admissions
- Dr. Carl McGowan**, Professor, School of Business/Faculty Senate
- Mr. Courtney Mitchell**, Instructional Technologist, School of Extended Learning
- Dr. Adebisi Oladipupo**, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology
- Dr. Martha Sawyer**, Professor, School of Social Work
- Mrs. Paula Shaw**, Director, Sponsored Programs
- Ms. Paula Thompson**, Legislative and Community Liaison, Legislative Affairs
- Ms. Tarrye Venable**, Director, Student Activities & Leadership
- Ms. Regina Williams**, Interim Vice President, Finance and Administration

The Strategic Plan Committee guides the development of Norfolk State University's next comprehensive five-year plan. The entire



University community has an opportunity to examine the internal and external factors that affect NSU, and build upon existing strengths. At the initial meeting of the Strategic Plan Committee, Dr. Atwater charged the committee members to provide suggestions for some key components of the Strategic Plan: 1) mission statement, 2) vision statement, and 3) a set of core values.

The University solicited proposals for strategic planning consulting services. In December 2011, MGT of America, Inc., a national consulting firm founded and incorporated in 1974, was selected. MGT has assisted several colleges and universities with addressing strategic priorities and other critical factors that impact future direction and academic and administrative operations.

The final plan will be completed this spring. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, local community members, area business, educational and municipal leaders, and Board of Visitors and Foundation Board members will be called upon to participate extensively in generating this new plan that will influence and guide NSU's priorities and funding as well as establish significant and measurable goals for the next five years.

Dr. Atwater and the Strategic Plan Committee look forward to working with the entire NSU community as it develops a blue-print for promoting a prosperous future for Norfolk State University.

---

**NSU Expands** Continued from page 3

approximately 15 online-only students have graduated and as of the spring 2011 semester, the degree program had 75 students.

Khadijah O. Miller, chair of the interdisciplinary studies department and an associate professor, believes the tireless efforts of the faculty and staff have made this online program effective. "We have been successful because despite budget cuts, loss of faculty and other challenges to the education system, we have never cut nor

compromised on value, integrity, or quality of instruction."

Based on her experience with the interdisciplinary degree, Miller predicts that the health services (HSM) management program will indeed grow quickly. "HSM will be successful as it continues to demonstrate itself as a competitive worthwhile discipline, much like the field of interdisciplinary studies."

---

# 92 Student-Athletes Named to Athletics Director's Honor Roll

A total of 92 student-athletes from Norfolk State University have earned a spot on the Athletics Director's Honor Roll for the fall 2011 academic term by virtue of recording a 3.0 or higher grade-point average for the semester.

"I am extremely happy with the progress that our student-athletes are making in the classroom," NSU Athletics Director Marty L. Miller said. "The academic success that we experienced last semester and our improved graduation success rate reflect the hard work and commitment of not only the student-athletes, but also the athletics department staff. The athletics department wants its student-athletes to set the standard of academic excellence for students to emulate at Norfolk State University."

Football led all teams with 22 members on the Athletics Director's Honor Roll, followed by baseball (13), men's track & field/cross country (10), volleyball (9), softball and women's basketball (8 apiece), women's track & field/cross country and bowling (6 apiece), women's tennis (5), men's basketball (3) and men's tennis (2). Women's tennis had the highest percentage of its roster make the honor roll (83 percent), while the bowling (60 percent), volleyball (53) and women's basketball (50) teams also had at least half their athletes earn the distinction.

Four student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.00 grade point average for the semester: Kent Austin (men's tennis), Everett Goldberg (football), Rebecca Graff (women's tennis) and Alex Killam (football).