



The Veterans Affairs Office and active duty military members honor Staff Sgt. Shawnta Johnson for her participation in the nursing program at Norfolk State University. (From left to right: Gunner Sgt. Antonio Hairston, Lt. Richard Gillick, Mr. Nash Montgomery, Staff Sgt. Shawnta Johnson, Lt. Col. Evangeline Rosel, Master Sgt. Rob Ferguson). Photo by Jules Dean.

Military veterans to be honored at Pre-Veterans Day program

By Danielle Kirsh

Norfolk State University Veterans Affairs will be honoring veterans and their families at the annual Pre-Veterans Day program.

This program is in recognition of the sacrifices made by military service members and their families over the years.

The program will begin in a standard military ceremony with the color guard and a student choir, consisting of Norfolk State and Old Dominion University students, singing the National Anthem. A few keynote speakers and a guest speaker will be attending as well.

Honorees have to meet a certain criteria to be honored at this event.

Director of Veterans Af-

fairs and Career Services Nash Montgomery said, "Why not recognize someone right here?"

Active duty Staff Sargent Shawnta D. Johnson is being honored at the program. She is highly decorated and has served in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

"It's an honor," Johnson said. Johnson said she is glad she gets to "tell and show people it is possible to have a career in the military and go to school."

As of Oct. 27, Johnson has served for 16 years in the military; she is also an NSU nursing student and a mother.

The Pre-Veterans Day program will take place on Nov. 5 in the Student Center room 147.

Gov. accused of racial bias against NSU

By Danielle Kirsh

Gov. Bob McDonnell is asking for the resignations of some Norfolk State University Board of Visitors members in a way that some people are calling racially biased.

The spokesman for the governor, J. Tucker Martin, told the Richmond Times-Dispatch "The governor and all the members of the board believe Norfolk State must do much better moving forward. The current situation at the school is unacceptable. Norfolk State students deserve an improved university."

One board member, Henry D. Light, who supported Dr. Atwater has already resigned, but Rector Thomas Chewning is not aware of any individual board members that have been asked to resign by McDonnell.

The McDonnell administration is requesting the resignations from supporters and opponents of Dr. Atwater, the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Bill Thomas, a member of Christopher Newport University's Board of Visitors, started a group for networking and mentoring that consists of the minority members of the board of visitors at public universities throughout Virginia and insists that because Norfolk State is an historically black college and university (HBCU), the NSU board is being treated differently than other schools, especially predominantly white universities (PWI).

Thomas told the Richmond Times-Dispatch "We think everything ought to be treated equally."

He also said McDonnell should have followed the same approach at Norfolk State that he did at the University of Virginia when he demanded that their board of visitors resolve their issues, or he would demand all of them to resign together.

At Norfolk State, the governor has only requested the resignations of a few members, according to Thomas.

A member of the Virginia State University Board of Visitors told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that McDonnell seems to be "cherry-picking" Norfolk State's board instead of treating them the same way he treated UVA.

"The governor thinks it's the right thing for the university," Del. S. Chris Jones, R-Suffolk, told the Richmond Times-Dispatch. "This is not about an individual or individuals. This is about the university moving forward."

"Let's face it for what it is. It is a black school. It is an HBCU. There are connotations that go along with that and we just don't want it to be that way," Thomas told the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Presidential search

Continued from front page

fidant that Moore will run the school as well as any president they choose. "[Moore] has full command of the school," Chewning said.

"We already can see that he has a lot of energy and is pretty much on top of everything," Chewning said.

Having served as State Treasurer from 1990 to 1993, Moore was appointed interim president on Sept. 13.

The Board of Visitors contacted Moore because of his reputation at Virginia State University. After a couple weeks of deliberation, Moore

was appointed the interim president.

Moore has allotted one and a half to three years to help the university fix its problems.

In the wake of audits and accreditation issues, Chewning said he was "really excited and delighted" and felt "Norfolk State is very fortunate" that Moore could serve as president.

We have a current university president and the Board of Visitors is going to let Moore do what is important.

"Plenty of people could do the job, but he fit the job better," said Chewning.

NAAAHP

Continued from front page

posal abstracts to be eligible to attend the NAAAHP, but only five were chosen.

The students selected are Uwem Etuk, Yasmaine Eason, Tiara Davis, Tyla Morris and Delnecia James.

Each of their abstracts related to something from one of their courses.

Dr. Laws said it is "fairly rare for undergrads to participate in scholarly conferences. We are very proud of them."

The NAAAHP Conference will be held Oct. 31 through Nov. 2.