

NSU's chapter of AΦA wins BIG

By Worship Chaleka

Norfolk State's very own Epsilon Pi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity won five out of a possible seven awards presented at the Virginia Association of Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Conference (VACAPAC) on February 7. VACAPAC is a competition between all the active chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In the history of this conference, it has been a rarity for a chapter from an HBCU to collectively win that amount of awards in a year, yet the Epsilon Pi chapter has managed to win in this fashion over the past four years.

Norfolk State's Epsilon Pi Chapter won the Step Show Competition, Scholastic Bowl, the Brother with the Highest GPA (Benjamin Aso-ba), the College Brother of the Year (Richard Tran), and – to top it all off—they also won Chapter of the Year.

In the step show, six Epsilon Pi Brothers participated, competing against VCU, VUU and Virginia Tech. Af-



The Epsilon Pi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. recently won five of the eight awards presented at the Virginia Association of Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity conference. The awards included College Brother of the Year, College Brother with the Highest GPA, Step Show, Scholars' Bowl and Chapter to Travel the Longest Distance. Members (l-r) are D'Shaun Vance, Richard Tran, Laron Smith, Ben Osoba and Shane Dawson. Photo credit: The Office of News and Media Relations.

terward came the three-round Scholastic Bowl competition where NSU defeated VCU in round one, University of Richmond in round two and James Madison University in the final round.

Later on, the award for College Brother of the Year went to Richard Tran for his stellar academic standing and his extra-curricular contributions to Norfolk State and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The award for Brother with the Highest GPA was given to Benjamin Aso-ba with a GPA of 3.892 majoring in engineering as part of the DNIMAS Program.

And, to cap off all the awards presented, the Chapter of the Year award was given to the Epsilon Pi Chapter for their dominance in competition at VACAPAC.

Other than just the realm of Alpha Phi Alpha, College Brother of the Year winner Richard Tran believes that these wins help bring recognition to not only the Epsilon Pi Chapter, but to NSU as a whole.

"It's raising the standards, because with us beating other chapters from big name schools in the scholastic bowl, it shows we have a lot of intellectual people at this university and it's giving them a representation of who we are," Tran said. "We all come from different walks of life and, when we get together and compete, we win. It's in our DNA as Spartans that we work hard to get what we want."

The Epsilon Pi Chapter will now advance to regionals for this same completion, competing against other chapters from schools like Yale, Cornell and University of Pennsylvania. If the Epsilon Pi Chapter wins the regionals, as they did in the state-wide competition, they move on to the nationals.

"It resonates with our new members," Tran said. "...who may have the best chance to win these same awards for us next year and keep it consistent."

College invites shooter back to class

By Danielle Kirsh

Eastern Florida State College has invited a student suspected of shooting another student back to class less than a week after the incident took place.

Police told *Florida Today* that Amado Contreras, 25, and Landyer Contreras, 24, attacked Eastern Florida student Landrick Hamilton, 24, with a pool cue near the college's main building on Thursday, Jan. 30. In a rage, Hamilton went to his car to retrieve a gun and fired one shot, hitting Amado Contreras.

All three men are claiming their attacks were in self-defense. The injuries Amado Contreras received were not life threatening, and Hamilton was allowed to return to classes the following Monday.

Norfolk State University freshman Rognee Gardin thinks stories like this are shocking.

Gardin said, "I wouldn't be too comfortable" if that happened at Norfolk State.

He also said he would be concerned for not only himself, but everyone else on campus as well.

It is against Florida law to have guns on school campuses, and that law includes college and university campuses.

With school shootings around the country happening more frequently, it's hard to say if legislators will strengthen the existing firearm regulations.

All 50 states have different laws regarding carrying concealed weapons; however, there are 21 states that ban

carrying a concealed weapon on a college campus. A few of them are locations of past school shootings. Such as, the 2014 murder at South Carolina State University where a fellow student shot another student outside of their dormitory and the 1966 University of Texas tower shooting where Charles Whitman shot 43 people, killing 13.

In the 29 other states, the decision to ban or allow weapons on campus is left to the discretion of the college or university. This is the law that Virginia currently upholds.

Virginia Tech is the location of the deadliest campus shooting in history. Senior Seung-Hui Cho shot and killed 32 students and wounded another 17 before killing himself in April 2007.

According to their Weapons Policy, Norfolk State "prohibits the unauthorized possession, carrying, maintaining, storage, control, brandishing or use of firearms and weapons or any reasonable facsimiles thereof."

The policy applies to students, faculty, staff, transient personnel, invitees or other third parties that are on university property of university-sponsored activities.

Norfolk State senior Shayla Jennings says she is aware of the current gun policy at Norfolk State. Jennings also thinks it is a good policy that will help prevent any shootings from happening.

Since 2010, there have been two arrests related to illegal weapons possession on campus.