



## Celebration of Graduate Student and Faculty Achievements 2020 - 2021

### OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

**Marnee McClellan**  
Cyberpsychology

Outstanding Research

*Marnee has gone far beyond any expectations of a first year masters student in the cyberpsychology program. She is engaged in a high level of research, collaborating with doctoral students in the clinical psychology program, and doing it all virtually as the program she's in is completely online. She's navigated the virtual divide and made herself available to the needs of the lab, the program, and the research in general.*

**Niambi McCoy**  
Mass Communication  
& Journalism

Outstanding Research

*Niambi is one of a kind. She consistently works/volunteers her time to assist the Sociology Department, Graduate Studies, the Master of Arts in Urban Affairs program, the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program, the WEB DuBois Sociology Club and many other initiatives at NSU. She also has organized panel discussions regarding systemic inequality in our society, focusing on the nexus and exclusion of race and gender. Ms. McCoy is also a tremendous scholar with a keen and focused vision for success. She has accomplished all of this while navigating a pandemic, relocating out of state and bringing a new "Spartan" to life. She is more than deserving of this award.*

**Morgan McKenzie**  
Ethelyn R. Strong School of  
Social Work

Outstanding Service

*Morgan has continued to greatly contribute to her Field Practicum at EVMS. She is also the President of the Carrie R. Waites MSW Graduate Organization. Under her direction, the organization has completed various activities, including: Creating forums to foster professional development within the School of Social Work. Engaging in community service activities to address the needs of disadvantaged populations in the local community. Facilitating a Food drive to address needs caused by a food desert in a local low income community. And, engaging in the planning and implementation of activities for incoming MSW students.*

**Albert Aninagyei Ofori**  
Engineering

Outstanding Research

*Since January 2020 when Mr. Ofori joined NSU as a masters student, he has published one international peer-reviewed conference paper as the first author in IEEE CCNC 2021 (acceptance rate 34%) and two international peer-reviewed journal papers as the second author in IEEE Internet of Things Magazine and IEEE Open Journal of the Communication Society. His research is supported by the National Science Foundation and was selected by Amazon in Seattle to serve as a software engineer intern during Summer 2021. Mr. Ofori is highly self-motivated, creative, and hardworking. He has also made a difference at NSU by helping undergraduate students with their research and exemplifying the mission of NSU. Above all, he is a kind and gentle person who is well regarded by his peers and faculty in the Engineering Department. When I reviewed his application for admission to our program, I knew then that Albert would be an outstanding student; no doubt, he proved me right.*

**Jared Sutphin**  
Music

Outstanding Research

*Jared has excelled creatively this year. In addition to always doing well in his classes, his music compositions have matured and show great promise. He consistently chooses to challenge himself, writing for new combinations of instruments as well as exploring diverse compositional styles with each new piece. The fruits of his labor have become evident in his most recent work for clarinet and piano, which shows professionalism and maturity beyond that of a student work.*

## OUTSTANDING FACULTY



**Dr. Sharon Alston**, Assistant Professor  
Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work

Alston is recognized for being clear about goals for the class and working with students to ensure they are met.



**Dr. Messaoud Bahoura**, Professor  
Materials Science & Engineering

Dr. Bahoura is recognized for going above and beyond for his students. As the professor of the Materials Science Seminar, he requires students to present and engage, using an active approach that encourages growth. Dr. Bahoura always makes himself available to students despite his busy schedule and is an exceptional faculty member who inspires his them.



**Dr. Melendez Byrd**, Associate Professor  
School of Education

Dr. Byrd is recognized for being awesome and being there for everyone and ensuring that all students have the information they need to be successful.



**Dr. Mary Hoppa**, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator  
Cybersecurity

Dr. Hoppa is recognized for being supportive, friendly and caring and having a passion for what she does. She goes above and beyond to ensure students have everything they need to be successful. Specifically, Dr. Hoppa delivered a top notch approach to the virtual learning experience, motivating her students to achieve greatness by being responsive to student inquiries and well organized throughout the course.



**Dr. Willie Marsh**, Assistant Professor  
Mass Communication & Journalism

Dr. Marsh is recognized for going above and beyond for students, listening to them and helping them move beyond his own abilities. He does all that he can to ensure that his students do not fail.



**Dr. Patricia Mead**, Professor and Chair  
Engineering

Dr. Mead is recognized for being knowledgeable and taking her students interest to heart. She sacrifices her time to make sure students understand things and are happy or stress-free. The department needs more people like Dr. Mead.



**Dr. Vivian Moore, Adjunct**  
Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work

Dr. Moore is recognized for going above and beyond for her students and for her communication, passion and dedication, which ROCKS! Dr. Moore takes the time to help students understand their academic work while teaching and showing empathy AND demonstrates knowledge and skills based on her experiences. She exudes all of the qualities, skill and character of a social worker, wife, mother and grandmother.



**Dr. Natalia Noginova, Professor**  
Physics

Dr. Noginova is recognized for involving students in her research and encouraging them to contribute their own ideas. She motivates and helps students, including providing a nudge when needed. She also believes that a balance between personal and academic life is important. She is amazing. We need more women like her in science who can reach the stars and also uplift others.



**Dr. Robert K. Perkins, Associate Professor and  
Graduate Program Coordinator**  
Criminal Justice & Urban Affairs

Dr. Perkins is recognized for going above and beyond for his students. He has a way of making his students feel like he is truly invested in their success so that they leave class feeling inspired. Dr. Perkins has also inspired students to not only dream, but to make their dreams a reality. He pushes them to be better leaders by setting the standard and being an example of genuine leadership. Thank you, Dr. Perkins for being you!!



**Dr. Sam-Shajing Sun**, Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator Materials Science and Engineering

Dr. Sun is recognized for consistently demonstrating that he really wants his students to push themselves and be able to apply the materials and lessons learned from his instruction.



**Dr. Doyle Temple**, Professor  
Physics

Dr. Temple is recognized for being supportive and helping his students achieve their best. He is a great mentor.