

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nigel Parkinson, Sr. Receives Prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award from College of Social Sciences and Public Policy

Washington, DC - The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy at Florida State University is proud to announce that Nigel Parkinson, Sr., President and CEO of Parkinson Construction Company, was selected as one of the recipients of the prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award. This esteemed recognition was presented to exceptional graduates who demonstrated outstanding professional achievements, made significant contributions to society, and provided unwavering support to the college and university.

The 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award honorees, including Nigel Parkinson, Sr., were celebrated during the Annual Distinguished Alumni Gala held on November 18, 2022. This gala event served as a tribute to the remarkable accomplishments of these graduates and their remarkable impact on their respective fields and communities.

Nigel Parkinson, Sr. stood as a testament to the transformative power of education and determination. He arrived in the United States from Freetown, Sierra Leone, at the age of 17, armed with an unwavering determination to broaden his horizons. Beginning by selling magazines door-to-door in New York City, his journey led him to Florida A & M University and, later, to Florida State University, where he earned his master's degree in Public Administration and Management in 1975.

As the President and CEO of Parkinson Construction Company, Nigel Parkinson, Sr. has spearheaded the growth of the oldest and largest African American owned, self-



performing construction company in the Washington metropolitan area. His company's notable projects include the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, Nationals Ballpark, the Pentagon, and BWI Airport, among others. Throughout his career, Nigel Parkinson, Sr. exhibited exemplary leadership within the construction industry. He was actively involved with the DC Contractors Association and served as the past president of the National Association of Minority Contractors. In addition, he supported high school STEM programs and established a program aimed at empowering returning citizens to acquire construction trades skills after their incarceration.

In response to receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award, Nigel Parkinson, Sr. expressed his pride and humility. He fondly recalled his time on the FSU campus, where the valuable knowledge, encouragement, and inspiration he received played a crucial role in shaping his path to success. Nigel attributed much of his achievements to the nurturing learning environment and the invaluable mentorship he received at FSU's College of Social Sciences and Public Policy.

Dean Tim Chapin stated, "Last year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients exemplify the profound impact that our college's graduates make on society. Nigel Parkinson, Sr.'s remarkable journey from Freetown, Sierra Leone, to the pinnacle of success in the construction industry is an inspiring testament to the transformative power of education and dedication. We were honored to recognize his outstanding contributions to his field and community."

The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy extended its heartfelt congratulations to Nigel Parkinson, Sr., and the other esteemed honorees – Cecelia Bonifay, Daniel M. Gropper, and Jimmy Patronis – for their outstanding achievements and contributions.



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For more information about the Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Annual Distinguished Alumni Gala, please visit the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy's official website at <https://coss.fsu.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni/> For more information on Nigel Parkinson, please visit <https://www.parkinsonconstruction.com>.

About the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy:

The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy at Florida State University is dedicated to fostering excellence in research, teaching, and public service. It offers a wide range of programs and initiatives aimed at addressing complex societal challenges and advancing knowledge in various fields, including political science, economics, public administration, and more.

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