

The Observer

Express

Enlighten

Entertain

The official student newspaper of Southern University at New Orleans

The SUNO Observer Presents

Saturday Knight Live

By The SUNO Observer

The SUNO Observer, the voice of the student body, is BACK!!!! We're fired up and ready to bring you all the news on and off-campus. Our team has been working hard to put your tuition to work and opinions front and center. Through that motivation, S.K.L. was born. S.K.L., Saturday Knight Live, is a bi-weekly interactive live news stream. The episodes are streamed via social media on our Instagram account suno_observer. In each episode, we uniquely bring you all the latest and most relevant information around. The concept of our Editor-In-Chief was made a reality by the collaboration of The Observer staff. Our Executive Producer Elyssa Willis (Sr. B.S. Criminal Justice) and Production Advisor Pauline Storms (Sr. M.A. Criminal Justice) pulled together and created a true work of art. Each episode highlights various topics important to a SUNO Knight. Content highlighted on the show can include scholarship opportunities, internships, employment opportunities, research opportunities,

training workshops, resume tips and so much more. Guest are always welcomed to showcase their businesses, events, resources, and knowledge. The goal of S.K.L. is to deliver news, hold conversations, and tell the truth with your people. No FAKE NEWS on this stream. We're consistent and dedicated to making SUNO and ALL Knights elevate through information.

The SUNO Observer Presents

SATURDAY KNIGHT LIVE

Hosted By
SUNO KNIGHT

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Our Logo Needs A Refresh!

The SUNO Observer's logo needs a refresh. Staff are encouraging local artist to join the contest and submit their version of a logo refresh.

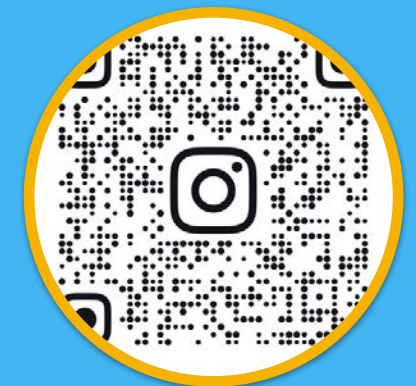
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In this Issue...

JAMES H. AMMONS, JR., PH.D.
The New Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans

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Adjusting to the New Normal
Mask & Fashion
Mental Health

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Phase 1.2.3.
Saints 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

by Malery A. Louis

How refreshing it feels to be back, SUNO! This semester I am honored and grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your Editor-In-Chief for the *SUNO Observer*. Journalism is an essential part of any society and one of my passions. It is my goal to use this platform to inform and educate my community and fellow Knights. We have been through so much this past year. But, if you are reading this message, you endured and made it!

Resilience is a key characteristic of a SUNO Knight, and one the *Observer* and its staff embody. We are working hard to transform our university and remain innovative in the process. Our innovation is what produced S.K.L (Saturday Knight Live) SUNO's 1st Live Newscast! We are working hard to manifest editorial greatness with initiatives meant to improve the management of *The Observer*: strengthen its editorial perspective and expand its readership. I believe the stature of

The Observer resides not only in innovations but also in the quality of the material that it publishes. We will NEVER substitute our quality when presenting the facts and opinions of Southern University at New Orleans, its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

As we continue to overcome the challenges life presents, let us remain focused. Let us draw from our history and accomplish the goal to maintain, support, and nourish Southern University at New Orleans, for future generations.

Go, Knights!!!











Sincerely,

Malery A. Louis

Editor-In-Chief

THE OBSERVER STAFF 2020-2021

The staff of *The SUNO Observer* is honored to manage the official student newspaper of Southern University at New Orleans. We accept the challenge to serve all SUNO students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters. We take our journalism duty seriously and work hard to report news and information that is accurate, relevant, and beneficial to our readers. We cannot do this without your input and support. **WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK, OPINIONS, CAMPUS EVENTS, CAMPUS NEWS, IDEAS, AND CONTENT SUGGESTIONS!!** Email us today at sunoobserver@suno.edu and let us know what you want to see in *The Observer*.

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The Observer is proudly under the advisement of the Office of Student Activities. We are a student publication. Although we are an entity of the Student Government Association, we operate independently.

-THE SUNO OBSERVER

CORRECTIONS

Facts and accuracy are our goals. As the voice of the Southern University at New Orleans student body, we are committed to our job. We are committed to ensuring the fairest, truthful and accurate accounts of our work. In the event of an error, we will place all corrections in this area in each edition. Please email corrections to the *Observer* at sunoobserver@suno.edu.

The Observer is written, edited, and published by a member of the student body of Southern University at New Orleans.

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SUNO's New Chancellor James H. Ammons, Jr., Ph.D.

by Malery A. Louis



Courtesy SUS

On January 8, 2021, the Southern University System Board of Supervisors appointed James H. Ammons, Jr., Ph.D. as the new Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans. Dr. Ammons is no stranger to the world of academia or SUNO. He currently serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of the Southern University System. Before his appointment to SUNO, he served as the Executive Vice Chancellor of Southern University and

A&M College, the System's flagship campus.

Before joining the SU System, Dr. Ammons served as the president of Florida A&M University (FAMU) from July 2007, until his resignation in July of 2012. In June of 2001, he served as the Chancellor of North Carolina Central University (NCCU). He served in this position until 2007.

Dr. Ammons began his college career in the 1970s at Florida A&M University (FAMU). In 1974, he graduated cum laude receiving a B.S. degree in Political Science. He was awarded the Minority Graduate Fellowship from the American Political Science Association. He then earned an M.S. in Public Administration in 1975; and a Ph.D. in Government in 1977 from Florida State University. Dr. Ammons is a native Floridian but now resides here in Louisiana. He spends most of his time between the cities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

What's Mardi Gras without Mambo!

by Elyssa Willis

The pandemic may have stopped Mardi Gras parades from rolling in 2021, but that did not stop the celebration on SUNO's campus. On a rainy afternoon on February 11th, the Knights Dining Hall, in conjunction with the SUNO SGA, held a SUNO Mardi Gras Mambo. This event focused on keeping the carnival spirit alive for students, faculty, and staff.

The SGA and its President, Jamaal Williams, delivered plenty of Mardi Gras goodies to all attendees. They invited students to join the Mambo and celebrate carnival season responsibly by following all CDC guidelines. Due to heavy rain, students who usually travel by foot from housing on the Lakeside campus could not make the trip. But this did not stop the SUNO Cafe from celebrating. Cafe members celebrate Mardi Gras in any weather! With all the changes to this Mardi Gras season, New Orleans Mayor Cantrell offered cheer and some sense of normalcy to residents by stating, "Mardi Gras is still on, it's just different."



Staff Photo By Elyssa Willis

From Left to Right: Eric Trishe, Veronica Celestine, Karen Garner, Mickey Cornin



SUNO PD

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| 3. New Science Building | 10. Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Building |
| 4. Tennis Courts | 11. Cafeteria (Knight's Dining Hall) |
| 5. Central Plant | 12. University Center |
| 6. Old Science Building (Brown Hall) | 13. University Gymnasium |
| 7. Emmett W. Bashful Administration Building | |

Lake Campus

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16. Mille M. Charles School of Social Work
17. Multipurpose Complex (Modular Building)
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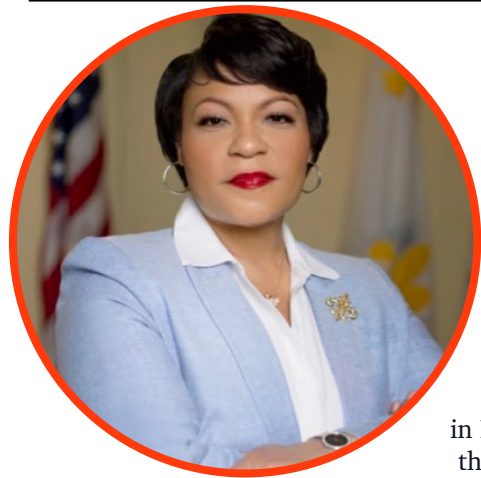
Departments / Schools Phone Extentions

African American Studies Center	5006	Graduate Studies	5484
Arts & Humanities	5154	Health Info Management	5083
Business	5331	Natural Sciences	5245
Education	5351	Social Sciences	5478
General Studies	5484	Social Work	5376

Other Units' Phone Extentions

Admissions	5235	ITC / Helpdesk	5237
Athletics	5197	Registrar	5175
Bookstore	5324	SGA	5358
Cafeteria	5317	Student Activities	5388
Cafeteria Menu	5301	Student Development	5360
Cashiers	5322	Student Support	
Community Outreach	5341	Services / TRIO	5108
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Communications Center		Students w/Disabilities	5335

Last updated on August 6, 2019



Courtesy The Mayor's Office

Mayor LaToya Cantrell's Mighty Stance Against COVID-19

by Pauline Storms

The massive nationwide rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations is steadily happening, and New Orleanians are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. To say that New Orleans, a major international tourist destination, has taken major hits by the virus would be an understatement. The city that never sleeps and loves a good time is on airplane mode. Locals felt this especially during this year's carnival season when Mardi Gras parades were not permitted to roll. Even Bourbon Street was shut down! Both at the behest of New Orleans Mayor Mrs. LaToya Cantrell. Mayor Cantrell had great reasoning to ban parades of any kind, limit traffic (other than residential) into the historic French Quarter and going as far as fencing off the popular local gathering space under "The Claiborne Bridge". However, many people believe that she has gone too far. But with human lives at stake, can one go too far when it comes to protecting lives?

A study released earlier this year, supported by many prominent medical institutions, confirms that Mardi Gras 2020 in New Orleans was a major U.S. super-spreader. The super-spreader event is said to have been started by just one source. Since then, over 10,000 Louisiana's have lost their lives, and over 434,000 residents have been infected with COVID-19. African Americans nationwide are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. This number is especially high in Orleans Parish where African Americans make up 59.5% of the population, according to the 2019 U.S. Census. The University of Southern California (USC) and Princeton University researchers have found that COVID-19 reduced U.S. life expectancy most significantly among Black and

Latino populations. Researchers analyzed deaths for which race and ethnicity were reported to the National Center for Health Statistics, and 21% of COVID-19 deaths were African Americans.

One reason behind the disproportion is the large number of underlying health conditions in the African American community. Diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and high blood pressure are all common in the black community. Each is like a smoke signal to COVID-19, making you more susceptible to catch the virus. These conditions increase the chances of hospitalization and death. Also, many African Americans have multi-generations households. How many of us have our grandparents living with us right now? I can name quite a number of my friends who live in multi-generational homes.

Also, it is a known fact that access to healthcare has been a significant issue within the African American community for decades. Unfortunately, this fact coupled with underlying health conditions, and multi-generational black homes were nothing short of a recipe for disaster that COVID-19 found, seasoned, and exploited.

Mayor Cantrell was swift to act at the beginning of the pandemic by partially closing the city and issuing city-wide stay-in-place ordinances. Nationwide, she was praised for her actions and featured on numerous late-night and nationally syndicated newscasts. Locally, she is supported by her constituents and given the title of endearment, "Teedy Cantrell." Mayor Cantrell was determined to save the people of New Orleans. The heartbeat of this city is the people we make New Orleans what it is.

Her actions have not come without backlash. It is not out of the ordinary to see individuals spewing vitriol and blaming her for the city's COVID-19 related fallout. On her popular Instagram account, people have no problem taking shots at her policies and expressing their discontent.

Entertainment has always been an economic crutch for the city. The pandemic wreaked havoc in all industries (except parcel) but heavily in the entertainment sector. Many unemployed workers in entertainment, service, and hospitality were greatly affected as their industry came almost to a screeching halt. She is blamed for this too and high unemployment rates across the board. Mayor Cantrell has even picked up the moniker "LaToya the Destroya" by some of her unhappy constituents. But one has to ask, what is New Orleans without the people who make it New Orleans? What are red beans and rice without the trinity, creole seasoning, and a living citizen stirring the pot?

Her actions may not have been respected by all, but her intention to protect this city is lauded. Orleans Parish is beginning the journey back to new normalcy and lifting COVID-19 limitations. We all have to wonder, what is the rest of the year going to look like for the city of New Orleans?

2021 is also an election year for Mayor Cantrell. She can guarantee that her actions, positive and negative, regarding COVID-19 will affect her re-election. One thing is for certain Mayor Cantrell is not afraid to speak her mind and go up against the opposition when it comes to protecting the most vulnerable. As the first African American female mayor of the city of New Orleans, she leaves a legacy. Her leadership and love for this city helped her looked COVID-19 in the face and say, Not my city! Through all the Phases ("Phase 2, MAW!") we are still standing, and New Orleans is ready to thrive through whatever else may come.



2021 Season Outlook: The New Orleans Saints

by William White

The Saints go into the 2021 season with many questions. For the first time in fifteen years, there is no definitive starter at the quarterback position. It all comes down to Jameis Winston or Taysom Hill. Who will be the Saints franchise quarterback for the future? If my predictions are correct, Winston will have the position due to a few key performance indicators. His arm strength, his football IQ, and his leadership skill sets him apart from his competitor. Stats in his career include his position as the 8th QB in NFL history to eclipse five-thousand-passing yards in a season. In the 2019 season, he threw thirty-touchdown passes. But he also coughed up the ball thirty-five times (thirty interceptions, five lost fumbles). His 2019 record made him the 1st QB in NFL history to have the same amount of touchdowns and turnovers in the same season. Most notable of his achievements was his position as the first pick overall in the 2015 NFL Draft.

Nobody questions Jameis Winston's talent, but people have concerns about his decision-making. Hence the reason why the Tampa Bay Buccaneers did not pick up his fifth-year option. Since the start of the 2015 season, Winston has had a large number of turnovers when compared to other QB's in the league. Did sitting behind Drew Brees and learning from Drew and Sean Payton fix his turnover problems? Nobody knows, but you must hope it did, to a certain degree. Winston is front and center, learning from one of the best Quarterback-Coaching combos in NFL history. How can you not improve? He went to the Harvard School of quarterbacks!

I believe Winston gives the Saints the best chance to win. While Taysom Hill is favorable, he was not all that impressive in his four starts last year. He has a few good plays during those starts, but you could see that the offense was limited. There is only so much the Saints can do with him as a quarterback because he does not read defenses well. If his first or second read isn't there, his instinct is to run with the ball.

Hill, while agile on the field, does not throw with any anticipation and takes too many sacks. Like Jameis, he too is turnover prone. It is true, Hill has not

developed as a quarterback because he wears many hats on the field. But at the same time, when has he ever been a quarterback? At BYU, he was more of a playmaker than a quarterback. Hill is perfect where he is now: being a jack of trades. Taking him out of that will limit the offense. I am all in on Jameis Winston. Assuming the team solves the turnover issue, Winston will be the Saints' quarterback in the future.



AP Photo/Butch Dill

How will The Saints look in general? Due to cap restrictions, they lost a lot of depth and a lot of valuable pieces. This is why this upcoming draft is so essential for them in rebuilding the team. They must restock the talent that is gone. I believe they will do it. Since 2006 the Saints have been notorious for hitting their early-round picks (Jordan, Ramczyk, Ingram, Thomas, Lattimore, Jenkins, Kamara, McCoy, Peat, and Williams). They have been good at discovering gems with their late-round choices (Garnder-Johnson, Armstead, Nicks, Evans, Strief, Evans, Colston, Hendrickson). Lastly, finding players that went undrafted (Shuttle, Callaway, Pierre Thomas, Moore, Harris, Granderson, etc.). So, restocking the shelves is not going to be a problem. Even with all the losses this offseason, the Saints will still be good. The cupboards are not bare. The Saints still have elite talent on both sides of the ball. The team is still loaded. Like what Sean Payton and Mickey Loomis once said, "We're not rebuilding, we're retooling." I fully expect this team to be good next year. Is it still a 12- or 13-win roster? No, but is it still a 9- to 10-win one? Absolutely!! With Sean Payton and Mickey Loomis are running the show, the Saints will always be competitive. The Saints are going to be good. They will make the Playoffs next year. Book it!

Fashion and Face Mask: Spring Forward

By: Duwandalyn Ruffin



Getty Images

As the leaves turn from green to bright colors mimicking the sun, the air buzzes with a warm mist of promise and growth. The seasons let us know it is time to change. Spring has opened her eyes and warmed the air with her glow. We must dress accordingly. Spring influences fashion. We only shed the layers and don lighter apparel; we crave the color of the season. Living in a time of a pandemic, racial tension, political turmoil, climate shifts, and just unrest period, one can feel devoid of color. Still, the latest fashion trends are screaming, let us celebrate living!

Bobby Schuessler, Author of "Who! What Wear! This" suggests that the spring/summer fashion will be exploding with rich, booming colors straight from a garden in bloom. Hues of yellow, which typically depict spring, will be muted shades yellows, less bright but bold! Another color of spring's fashion rainbow includes Magenta. Magenta is as beautiful as sounds. A rich tone of purple with a red tinge, it is one of the spring favorites that students can wear in any style. These colors are as bold as their names and equally as spring/summer campus ready!

The world is in a constant shift, like the seasons, we have seemed to pick up a new fashion trend in the wake of a worldly pandemic, Face mask! Who says protecting oneself from COVID-19 cannot be a fashion statement! Black-owned business owners brothers Chase Morgan and Bespoke tailor rich, fresh trends that have indeed made the mask a necessary fashion statement. Henry Masks has turned the dismal thought of your familiar face covering and made it into something beautiful. These masks give life to plenty of celebrity faces, such as LeBron James, J-Lo, Jordan Clarkston, and many more. The world is in a frenzy, but who says it must be fashionably boring? Who does not awake in the morning and wants to set the world ablaze? Let us do it in style!

Student Health: How's Your Mind Today?

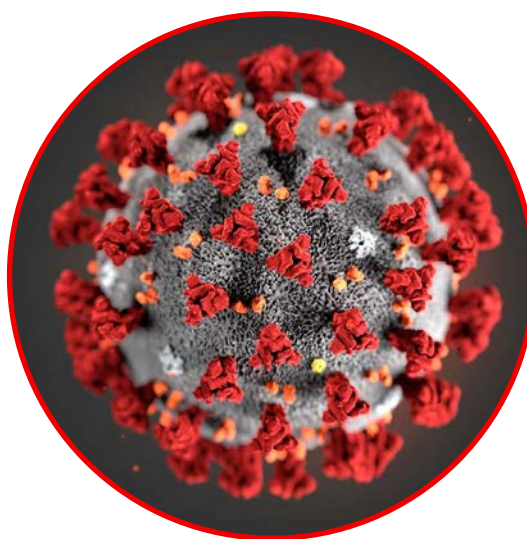
By Kenneather Cooper

When people think of mental health, some think of only the negative aspects. However, do you truly understand what mental health is? Mental health is a state of well-being, which shapes how we cope with the world around us and the stressors of life.

As a student, many things can cause the mind to wander and overthink. If your mind is left uncontrolled, this can affect your overall mental health and lead to mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety.

According to the Psychological Association, more than one-third of students in their first year of college are affected by mental illness. According to the Mayo Clinic, Depression (Major Depressive Disorder) is common among students. Depression is a disorder that affects a person's mood and can cause them to lose interest in everyday life. Depression can feel like falling in slow motion. Most people tend to feel sad. In students, depression can affect their ability to learn and socialize. Interacting with others is an important aspect of college life and future success. Activities you once enjoyed no longer interest you. It is an uncomfortable place to be in mentally and physically.

Also common among students is anxiety. According to Healthline, anxiety is a natural occurrence in the human body. It is your body's response to stress. It often occurs in the form of a sense of fear associated with future events. The feeling of anxiety can fog your thinking, increase your heart rate, and throw you completely out of your routine.



FDA.Gov Photo

Depression and anxiety can be triggered by several situations or events. These situations may include living away from home for the first time, meeting new people, managing classes and assignments, taking tests, working while enrolled as a full-time student, or a global pandemic.

In a scenario such as living away from home for the first, the process of adjusting to a new environment can be scary. Students may experience a sense of fear and doubt, which if not addressed can lead to depression and or anxiety.

When dealing with mental health issues, most people feel isolated and alone. "Guess What," you are not alone! Mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, are normal. These issues become dire when they are untreated and start to interrupt your daily living.

There is help! Always remember to stay calm and positive. When you need to (as often as you need to)

STOP, BREATHE, and THINK. There are activities to help manage anxiety and depression. Activities like swimming, biking, dancing, journaling, painting, and so much more. The goal is to keep the mind occupied with positive energy. In life, the best things for us are simple things.

If self-help methods are not working, you can seek professional health. There are both national and local agencies to assist you on your mental health journey. Remember, if you are ever feeling nervous or "just not yourself" We are here!

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Facts & Stats

Black Owned Businesses

by Jasmine Boskent

- There are more than 2 million Black-owned businesses in the United States.
- Black-owned businesses generated \$150.2 billion in gross revenue as recently as 2012.
- 58% of Black business owners said their business's financial health is "at-risk" or "distressed" during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Businesses owned by Black women earn significantly less than companies run by other women.

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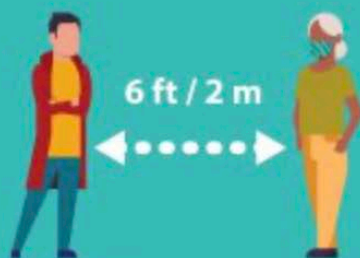


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