



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS

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### For Immediate Release

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### SUNO to induct inaugural athletics Hall of Fame class

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** – The Southern University at New Orleans Department of Athletics inducts its inaugural Hall of Fame class, Monday, **February 6, 2012** during the break between the SUNO women's and men's basketball games (approximately 7 p.m.) versus Xavier University of Louisiana. Tip-off for the women's game is 5:30 p.m., followed by a 7:30 p.m. start-time for the men. Both games take place in "**The Castle**" on SUNO's Park Campus, 6400 Press Drive. Inductees include Dr. Artis Davenport, the 1975 NCAA Division III Men's Outdoor National Champions, and Brenda Barabino. Biographical sketches on the inductees appear below:

#### **DR. ARTIS DAVENPORT**

Under Dr. Davenport, who coached the University's track and field and cross country programs, SUNO enjoyed multiple championships. Most notable are the men's outdoor national championships in the NCAA Division III in 1975, 1976, and 1977 as well as the NAIA Division I women's outdoor national championships in 1995 and 1997 in addition to the women's indoor championships in 1995 and 1997. Southern University at New Orleans is the only institution in the state of Louisiana to have won national championships in both the NCAA and the NAIA in any sport. During his tenure, Dr. Davenport was named NAIA Coach of the Year in 1995 and 1997. Nearly 100 of SUNO's runners were named NCAA and NAIA All-Americans under Dr. Davenport, as well.

#### **1975 NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S OUTDOOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

Although SUNO achieved national prominence with a second place finish at the 1974 NCAA Division III men's outdoor national championships, the Black Knights accomplished their mission of reaching the top in 1975. Team members Joe Franklin, Leon Smothers, Herman Verdin, Donald Clark, Lee Birden, Roy Denson, and Joe Blazer were all named NCAA All-Americans.

## **BRENDA BARABINO**

With a women's basketball team that gathered strength in the mid-1980's, SUNO discovered a treasure in Brenda Barabino. The New Orleans native, who played for the Lady Knights from 1985 to 1989, became the leading scorer in the University's history. She was also the first Lady Knight named to the GCAC All-Conference team in 1989 and led the team to their first post-season appearance in 1988.

Southern University at New Orleans is a four-year public institution founded in 1956, categorized as an SREB Four-Year 5 institution, as a Carnegie Master's College and University I, and as a SACSCOC Level III institution. Located in the Gentilly area, the University is an accredited liberal arts teaching institution. SUNO, known for its highly-engaged faculty and personal academic support, offers a wide range of baccalaureate programs and is committed to graduate education through the master's degree, offering graduate programs to meet regional or state needs. The University is a member of the Southern University System. More information about Southern University at New Orleans is available at [SUNO.edu](http://SUNO.edu).

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