



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY *at* NEW ORLEANS COMMUNITY OUTREACH/UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### *SPECIAL REPORT ARCHIVE*

*Dr. Emmett W. Bashful, the first chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans, passes  
February 28, 2011*



Visitation for Dr. Emmett W. Bashful, the first Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans, will be held on Friday, March 4th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the University's gymnasium at 6400 Press Drive. Dr. Bashful passed away Saturday morning, February 26th, in Baton Rouge at the age of 93. He led SUNO from 1959 to 1987, and had served as Chancellor Emeritus since his retirement.

Dr. Bashful was born in Oscar, Louisiana on March 12, 1917, and he was raised in Baton Rouge. A product of the Baton Rouge public school system, he went on to Leland College in Baker before receiving his Bachelor of Science from Southern University and A&M College in 1940. Dr. Bashful would later receive both his master's and his Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.



*Dr. Bashful and former Registrar, Herman Plunkett.  
(left) observe construction on campus, circa 1963.  
Courtesy of Mike Meehan*

Before becoming an educational leader, Dr. Bashful served his country as a member of the United States Army. He had begun his career as a public school teacher in Allen Parish but was drafted to fight in World War II in 1942. First Lieutenant Bashful served the United States in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations until 1946.

Upon returning to America, Dr. Bashful resumed his career in education. Having received his advanced degrees, Dr. Bashful taught political science at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee then moved on to teach political science at Southern. In 1959, Dr. Felton G. Clark, president of Southern, asked Dr. Bashful to open Southern

University at New Orleans. It was there that the University started as a one-building campus with 158 freshmen, ten courses, and fifteen motivated faculty members. Dr. Bashful began as dean of the University. In 1969, he was named vice president, and he was eventually named chancellor in 1977.

Of SUNO's founding, Dr. Bashful wrote, "In August, 1959, Dr. F. G. Clark, then President of Southern University at Baton Rouge, presented my name to the Louisiana State Board of Education as Dean of the projected New Orleans Campus. Several days later, I came to New Orleans and after examining the campus, realized what a monumental task I faced.

"The one building under construction was hardly near completion; the faculty had been only partially recruited; no office space was then available on campus; and it was expected that classes would begin sometime in September."\*\*

Despite the initial challenges, SUNO would grow impressively. At the time of his retirement, SUNO had conferred more than 5,000 degrees, it had grown into a 17-acre campus of ten buildings (the Multipurpose Building was added in the 1990's), and a student population of approximately 4,000 students. SUNO had also established five academic divisions (Business, Education, Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences). Often overlooked was the progress that SUNO's athletic department had made. The University won three NCAA Division III national championships, all in men's outdoor track and field with a 2nd place finish in 1974 and 3rd place finishes 1980 and 1982. SUNO would

[www.SUNO.edu](http://www.SUNO.edu)

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later add four NAIA national title in women's track and field in the '90's.

During his life, Dr. Bashful demonstrated a significant commitment to leadership via public service. He had served as a board member of the New Orleans Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, he had served on the boards of directors of the Salvation Army, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Southern Institute for Education and Research, the New Orleans Public Schools Scholarship Foundation, the National Conference for Community and Justice, and a host of other distinguished organizations. Dr. Bashful was a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the NAACP; and he was chair of the Southern University at New Orleans Foundation.

Of his death, Herman "Skip" Mason, General President of Alpha Phi Alpha, wrote on February 27th on Twitter, "We lost a giant . . . Dr. Emmett Bashful."

So beloved was Dr. Bashful that SUNO's major annual fundraising effort, The BASH, was named in his honor.

\*\* "Southern University at New Orleans: Twenty-Eight Years of Stewardship 1959-1987"

***U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan to serve as 2011 commencement speaker  
February 10, 2011***



U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan will serve as the commencement speaker at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 4 p.m. in the Lakefront Arena. Secretary Donovan officially accepted the invitation on Friday.

Secretary Donovan last visited SUNO on March 5, 2009 along with U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and several other local and state leaders.

"We are elated that Secretary Donovan will join us at our 2011 commencement. It speaks volumes of his commitment to SUNO, higher education, and the Gulf Coast," said Victor Ukpolo, Ph.D., chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans. "Our graduates, who have worked hard to achieve the dream of earning their respective degrees, deserve to be addressed by a leader of Secretary Donovan's stature."

***University's enrollment at its highest since Katrina  
February 9, 2011***

The official 2011 Spring enrollment for Southern University at New Orleans is 3,318, representing the University's highest enrollment since Hurricane Katrina. This figure also signifies a 91% return of SUNO's pre-Katrina enrollment of 3,647 students. Additionally, this marks a 6% increase in enrollment from Spring 2010 to Spring 2011. When the University resumed its on-campus operations in Spring 2006, the enrollment was 2,037.

"This signifies that students remain confident that we are a great fit for them as they pursue their respective undergraduate and graduate degrees," said Victor Ukpolo, Ph.D., the chancellor of SUNO. "We are thankful for the continued student support as well as the continued resilience of the administration, faculty, and staff. We had more than 3,500 students registered, but financial difficulties prevented some of them from finalizing their commitments to the University." Per University guidelines, students are required to pay their fees by the fourteenth day of classes.

Spring 2011 is the second semester that SUNO has implemented selective admission mandated by the Louisiana Board of Regents, and the University's enrollment has increased even with those standards in place.

***SUNO selects logo for QEP campaign  
October 25, 2010***



After several weeks of designs and surveys, Southern University at New Orleans has selected an image to represent its Quality Enhancement Plan. The plan, which bears the topic "E-Focused! Enhancing Student Learning in Online Courses by Improving Institutional Readiness", is a vital part of the the University's reaffirmation of its accreditation.

"This logo represents a significant step in the accreditation process," says Eddie Francis who serves as chair of the Publicity and Marketing subcommittee of the QEP Task Force. "The process to create the logo required input from the SUNO community as well as the community-at-large, and that's what we got. I'm especially proud of the (publicity and marketing) team and one of our students, Chauncey Phillips." Phillips helped with several drafts of potential logos.

The process of selecting the logo consisted of several elements. Drafts were created by Phillips, Francis, and Mr. Charlie Johnson, an assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Development. The drafts were then included in several electronic surveys, which were made available via SUNO.edu, SUNO email, and the University's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/sunoknights56](http://www.facebook.com/sunoknights56)).

Francis admits that the process was frustrating. "We got great suggestions in the surveys, including a student sitting at a laptop in a knight's armor. One design got ripped at a QEP Town Hall meeting. Ironically, the design that seemed to grab the most attention, was one of the simplest. The students, faculty, staff, and administration deserve a lot of credit for their involvement in this process."

***U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu announces \$1 million for SUNO's academic resources  
September 30, 2010***

Southern University at New Orleans received word from the office of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu that the University will receive \$1 million to strengthen its academic resources. The funds are a part of more than \$6.8 million distributed among Louisiana Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), and part of the U.S. Department of Education's HBCU Institutional Aid Program. The purpose of the HBCU Program is to provide financial assistance to establish or strengthen academic resources, financial management, endowments and physical plants to enhance these academic institutions.

"We thank Senator Landrieu for showing this kind of commitment to SUNO as well as our fellow HBCUs," said Dr. Victor Ukpolo, Chancellor of SUNO. "These funds, along with our increased enrollment, improving retention, and addition of campus facilities, all show that SUNO is headed in a great direction, despite the obstacles we continue to face. We have a job to do in continuing to provide a talented but socio-economically challenged student population with an affordable quality education, and the funds from the HBCU Program will help us continue to do this critical work."

In a September 30th news release distributed by Sen. Landrieu, she stated, "I have long supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities and fought to provide them with the resources they need to build up their facilities and academic programs. Louisiana has a rich tradition of strong HBCUs. The funding awarded today will allow these schools to continue to grow, both physically and academically to provide a better education for their students."

SUNO reported on September 15th that its enrollment climbed to 3,166 students, even with projections that enrollment decrease to approximately 2,900 students due to new criteria for admission. The University will also be opening its new Information Technology Center while its College of Business & Public Administration is under

construction on the Lake Campus.

***The community visits SUNO for an evening with CNN's Soledad O'Brien and an advanced screening of "New Orleans Rising"***  
***August 3, 2010***

SUNO served as the host site for a preview of CNN's New Orleans Rising August 2, 2010. An overflow audience watched the report that is hosted and produced by CNN's Soledad O'Brien. New Orleans Rising primarily focuses on the post effects of Hurricane Katrina on Pontchartrain Park, the historic African American neighborhood that surrounds SUNO.

"It was an honor for us to host this important event," said Victor Ukpolo, SUNO's Chancellor. "We are proud to share a wonderful history with the residents of Pontchartrain Park, and it is this pride that inspires all of us to strive to make this neighborhood and our institution even more viable for the immediate and long-term future."

The evening was hosted by veteran stage and screen actor Wendell Pierce, who grew up in Pontchartrain Park and currently stars in HBO's critically-acclaimed series Treme. At the conclusion of the report, Pierce, Ukpolo, O'Brien and others participated in a panel discussion. New Orleans Rising premieres Saturday, August 21st, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Central on CNN.