Fall 2021, what a semester it has turned out to be! Amid an ongoing global pandemic, the 2021 Hurricane season turned out to be more than we all anticipated. As we geared up for a great fall semester and the celebration of SUNO’s 65th birthday, our plans quickly changed. Two weeks into the Fall semester our campus and the entire Southeast Louisiana region were shut down. This time COVID-19 was not to blame. This time it was due to a Category 4 hurricane named Ida. Initially, no one took Ida seriously and doubted her ability to form into a Major Hurricane. However, she showed us all that she packed more than a punch. Her potential to make landfall as a Category 4 Hurricane triggered our anxiety and aroused a bit of nostalgia. As the storm continued to develop, all models concluded that Ida would make landfall on what has become a sacred day here in the city of New Orleans: August 29. Yes, Ida’s slow-moving pace, intense winds, and heavy rain arrived on the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Just as Katrina left her mark on the city forever, Ida made sure to write her name in history. She packed a punch and exposed the crumbling infrastructure of New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana. However, just like SUNO and its Knights, the city has shown its resilience. Together we are all on the long road to recovery. While Ida halted a few of our 65th-year celebrations, it reminded us of what it takes to be a SUNO Knight. Just as our university founders had grit, guts, and determination to build something better for African Americans in this city, we too must rebuild and keep pushing forward after the storm. On September 21, 1959, classes at SUNO started with 158 freshmen, one building, fifteen faculty, and ten courses in four academic disciplines: Humanities, Science, Social Science, and Commerce. Look at us now! 65-years later, Southern University at New Orleans has grown and has so much potential for the future. It is resilience and agility that define a New Orleanian and a SUNO Knight. Together those characteristics in our people will continue to help the city and SUNO grow and thrive for many years to come. All that to say, HAPPY 65TH SUNO. We love you!
FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
by Malery A. Louis

Hello fellow Knights! I am honored and grateful 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 these past years. 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 Newscaast! 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 2021-2022

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 sunobserver@suno.edu and let us know what you want to see in The Observer!

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 sunobserver@suno.edu.
Homecoming Welcomes the 62nd Miss SUNO
Ms. Jessica Thomas and Royal Court
by Malery A. Louis

Homecoming 2021 felt like homecomings of the past. As with everything around the world, COVID-19 restrictions affected the 2020 homecoming celebration. In spite of this, organizers persevered and crowned the 61st Miss SUNO, Ms. Brianne Nelson. With lightened restrictions in the city this year, students were eager to see what events were in store.

The return of on-campus events is a welcomed sense of normalcy for students, faculty, and staff. The SGA, led by Ms. Amber Foucha, put together a week of fun, entertaining events to engage students and get them excited about being a SUNO Knight. Things kicked off with the carnival in the quad. Students who attended enjoyed carnival food favorites such as nachos, hot dogs, and cotton candy. Queen on Wheels food truck was also on-site and served free traditional BBQ dishes fresh from the grill. Students were entertained with sounds by DJ Joe with the Dreads, a student dunking booth, face painting, and inflatable bounce houses. Other events for the week included Throwback Tuesday with the theme of “For the ‘99 and 2000”, a Halloween turned post-coronation silent party, and the coronation of the 62nd Miss SUNO.

A weather delay couldn’t stop the stars from shinning for a Knight in Paris. Selected by her peers, Ms. Jessica Thomas was crowned the 62nd Miss SUNO. Ms. Thomas is the perfect balance of brains and beauty. She is a senior majoring in Mathematics and Biology and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. This semester she represented SUNO in the Ebony Magazine and OLAY HBCU STEM Queen competition. Along with her royal court, she shined during the coronation held in the new Arts and Humanities Auditorium.

Members of her royal court included Miss Senior Briana Brooks (Ronnie Dwyer); Miss Junior Hailey Washington (Jared Roark); Miss Sophomore Briana Robinson (Alton Harris); and Miss Freshman Keimonde Kendric (Shivers Nelson).

SUNO opens The Center for Grief & Trauma Therapy
by Jamal Burns

On Tuesday, August 24th, SUNO opened the doors of The Center for Grief & Trauma Therapy. The TG Center provides high-quality, compassionate counseling to children and adults suffering from grief or trauma. All services are free and open to all members of the public. The therapy services are performed by licensed clinical social workers and graduate interns. Clients who visit can get professional help to resolve issues such as; stress, anxiety, depression, and strained family relations through individual, family, or group counseling. The Center also provides community education on vital topics affecting the people of SUNO and New Orleans.

Free services at the TG Center are made possible through a $10,000 donation from The Wisner Foundation. The Center for Grief & Trauma Therapy is run by Dr. Torin T. Sanders, LCSW, Associate Professor of Social Work. It is located in the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work on the university’s campus. All services performed are confidential and considered privileged communications with specific exceptions.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call 504-286-5076 or email the Center at TGCenter@suno.edu.

Stay Alert and Aware Knights

SUNO PD

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergencies: 504.286.5291

@sunopolice
@southernuniversityatneworleans

Photo by A Solid Photography

Photo by Southern University at New Orleans
A LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dr. James H. Ammons, Jr.

As I reflect on Hurricane Ida and the devastation that it brought to New Orleans and surrounding areas, I am heartened by the resiliency of the SUNO community. The impact of this Category 4 Hurricane on our lives will linger in our minds for a while. My personal experience will be a memory that will last a lifetime. My wife and I rode Hurricane Ida out in New Orleans. And I decided to stay because I wanted to be close to the University and students if something happened. I also knew that it would be difficult to travel back in a timely fashion if something happened.

I am genuinely inspired by the faculty, staff, and students by their strength to return to campus after Hurricane Ida in this ongoing COVID-19 environment; this shows commitment to academic excellence. Because of our instantaneous response to the global pandemic, I was confident that SUNO would come back stronger than ever. Overcoming a Category 4 Hurricane makes it easy for us to go out in the community and explain why they should invest in the University.

Remember, Knights; we are in the fourth quarter. Let’s remain steadfast and finish the rest of the semester the most efficient way that we know-how. #WeAreSUNO
Hurricane Ida’s Effects on New Orleans
By William White

As if COVID-19 wasn’t enough, the city of New Orleans and its residents must deal with the results of Hurricane Ida. Hurricane Ida was one of the most destructive storms to ever hit the United States. Already dealing with the downward trajectory of the economy due to COVID-19, the storm’s aftermath continues that trajectory.

Tourism is what drives New Orleans’s economy. This city is a rich tourist attraction: Music, food, and culture all play an integral part in that. Visitors know they’re getting an experience unlike any other. The New York Times echoed this sentiment, “While COVID-19 has forced stuff like the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival to cancel, most businesses and hotels were expecting this Labor Day, a tourism bonanza that the city hasn’t since pre-pandemic.” But Ida dashed those plans; instead, it was another setback.

The uphill climb for local businesses since Ida has just begun. With power being out for almost three weeks, many stores had to throw out food, which meant re-ordering everything amongst a global shipping crisis. For grocery stores and restaurants, this proved costly. A Washington Post article, “Hurricane Ida has passed, but for New Orleans Restaurants, The Problems Have Just Begun”, describes Michael Gulotta, an owner of two restaurants in New Orleans. He expects to lose thousands of dollars in spoiled or donated ingredients alone. And he figures that he’ll lose another $240,000 between both restaurants. For business owners like Gulotta, losing money has recently become all too common.

According to “Hindsight for Foresight Insight: COVID-19 and Its Effects on New Orleans Festivals”, “In previous years, the Carnival season has an economic impact of over $1 billion on New Orleans. During Mardi Gras, more than ten thousand people worldwide travel to the city, spending more than $61 million on food and transportation and $70 million on hotels annually, thus Mardi Gras is not just a celebration; it is an industry.” Many businesses in New Orleans rely on carnival season to make money, yet entities that depend on revenue from festivals had to close down, which cost jobs. For working-class people, the last year has seen perpetual stress in paying their rent and bills. As job growth slowed and companies lost significant amounts of money, people were in dire need of work, which proved hard to come by.

No one wants to lose money, whether you have a little or a lot. We need a home, food, healthcare, and a solid education. Businesses need it to pay their employees, repay investors, and continue growth. States and cities need money to improve education, public health, public safety, and infrastructure. Economically, through the COVID-19 pandemic, no one was unscathed. Now Ida has added a fresh layer to an already dreadful year-and-a-half. Will we ever see the light at the end of the tunnel with all of this bad luck? All we can do right now is move forward. As Napoleon Hill says, “Every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed of an equal or greater benefit.”
2021-2022 Season Outlook: The New Orleans Pelicans
by William White

After finishing last year with a 31-41 record (11th in the West), The Pelicans are looking to rebound after a disappointing season. Their roster went through some significant changes. With player adjustments made in the off-season, The Pelicans are hoping it will be enough to reach the playoffs for the first time since the 2017-2018 season. However, one of the major concerns is the health of Zion Williamson. Williamson, who broke his foot while training in the off-season, will miss the first games, and there's no exact date of his return. His absence is a devastating blow to The Pelicans. It’s going to be all hands-on deck until he comes back. One of the players who expects to step up in Williamson's absence is Nickell Alexander-Walker.

Pelicans' fans are expecting a breakout season from Alexander-Walker. He'll need one if The Pelicans have a shot at meeting their playoff goal. Alexander-Walker is the X-Factor of The Pelicans. Besides Williamson and Ingram’s records from last year, there wasn’t a third consistent scorer on the team, so if he can become that this year, The Pelicans will be a strong force.

For the third time in four years, The Pelicans have a new coach, Willie Green, a first-year head coach. An assistant coach last year in Phoenix, Green takes over a team that has missed the last three playoffs. While The Pelicans finished 11th in the West, they saw several double-digit leads and games they should’ve won. But talent wasn’t their problem last year. Execution was the issue. Last year, they weren’t a high-IQ team. They turned the ball over too much in critical situations and had lapses in defense. One of the expectations of Green is to bring back discipline, but we will see if that happens.

What are realistic expectations for The Pelicans? Though they can be a play-off team, they will struggle without Zion at the start of the season. But I believe they're going to make a run for a play-off spot when he comes back. The current team will be worth watching; under Willie Green's leadership, I trust the team to fix its three points and free-throw woes from last year. But even if this happens, they can be the tenth best team in the Western Conference. The Lakers, Trail Blazers, Jazz, Nuggets, Mavericks, Warriors, Suns, Clippers, and Grizzlies are all teams I would put my chips in over The Pelicans. While this team is talented, they aren’t good enough to be a threat in the West.

A New Mayor for the Big Easy? No. Mayor LaToya Cantrell Wins A 2nd Term. SUNO's Dr. Patricia Boyd-Robertson Shakes up the Clerk of Courts race.
by Jasmine Boskent

The mayoral election for New Orleans is complete, and the city congratulates LaToya Cantrell on her reelection win. The number of votes for other candidates articulated, though, that not all New Orleans residents felt the election was a guarantee. It also showed that not everyone was satisfied with Cantrell’s first term performance. Nevertheless, Cantrell is setting standards as an upstanding mayor and a symbol of New Orleans’s pride. The city has spoken, and it welcomes back Mayor Cantrell with open arms.

During the mayoral election, fourteen candidates took on the election challenge, three women and nine men. The majority were from the New Orleans area, which is always a plus for any candidate. But city residents genuinely want to see how New Orleans’s economy will fare, especially emerging from the pandemic. Since the pandemic, the city’s economy has predictably dropped drastically due to canceled events and the loss of jobs. For the last year and a half, the town has been at a standstill, and residents are in an uproar. Although recently things have gotten better, there are still concerns for the future. The mayoral election allowed the city to revoice that it wants someone who will strive for its residents. We need someone who will hear the calls of the people they serve.

Successfully, Cantrell seems up for the task.

But the mayoral elections were not the only ballot to create buzz in the city. One of SUNO’s very own, Dr. Patricia Robertson, Associate Professor for College of Business and Public Administration, ran for Orleans Parish Criminal Court Clerk. However, Robertson fell short behind her contenders, Austin Bandon and Darren Lombard. Nevertheless, we at SUNO appreciate her courage and determination to support and serve the city of New Orleans. It is a clear sign that our faculty, staff, and students give their services outside the university to show SUNO’s excellence.

Though election season is ending, residents must pay close attention to city officials and their contributions to the community. If we want to see our city’s progress, we must participate in events such as elections. In the end, we choose how our city will run in the years to come. So please, always get out and vote for the pride of The Big Easy!
As the temperature and autumn leaves fall, the need for companionship slowly tugs its cosmic pull on our heartstrings. The strong desire to cling to another, share a meal, or hold hands in the park are signs that we are at the beginning of “Cuffing SZN”. During this time, we feel less pressure to achieve a summer body. However, the season may become tiresome while searching for suitable partners, so choose carefully. Online dating has made the search easier. From the comfort of our home, we can connect with our fingertips. One must simply create a profile, add a few sparkling photos, click Next, and you are on your way to swiping right or left. Cuffing SZN has become a year-long event for apps like Tinder, Bumble, POF, Match, which have made it easy to cuff recklessly.

Yes, my friends, cuffing season is amongst us, but I suggest you tread this season on apps wisely. Here are a few tips for safe cuffing:

1. Meet at a safe, neutral place for the first date. This way, there are plenty of folks around in case you feel unsafe.
2. Do a little digging, see what mutual friends you may have, and ask about them. This way, you can gain a sense of their character.
3. Have fun. I think it is safe to "Date" more than one person. It’s about collecting data. Seeing who you’d like to share your last cookie with is essential in any season.

These tips should help guide you towards a safe and hopefully successful cuffing season. But, if not, there’s always next year!

The 48th Annual Bayou Classic
by Malery A. Louis

Fall is here and Bayou Classic is near. While most of America will be recovering from a Turkey coma, some HBCU fans will be heading to the great city of New Orleans. The Bayou Classic is back home! In the newly named Caesars Superdome, SU and GSU fans meet for the 48th Annual Bayou Classic. Since 1974, the on-field match-up between in-state HBCU football rivals Southern University and A&M College and Grambling State University has been a highly anticipated Thanksgiving holiday event. Fans still full from Thanksgiving dinner travel from all over the world to be in the city for “The Classic”.

2020 is a year we will never forget. COVID-19 and the global pandemic brought the world to a stop and changed life as we knew it forever. Federal, state, and local governments mandated shutdowns to control the spread of the virus. As a result, the 47th Bayou Classic and all its scheduled fall events were postponed and canceled. Another misfortune in a series of bad events.

However, resilience runs deep in HBCUs and here in Louisiana. The show must go on. The universities and event organizers, NOCCI, understood the importance of the event to the State of Louisiana. Each year the event draws over 40,000 attendees and has an economic impact of nearly $50 million dollars to the New Orleans area. Organizers worked diligently to come up with a solution. As strict mandates in the state began to lift, an opportunity presented itself. The 47th Bayou Classic was rescheduled to April 17, 2021, and moved to Shreveport, LA. That was to Houston, TX. 2021 is the first time the event will be held twice in the same year.

Looking forward to brighter days, The Bayou Classic is back home. Procter and Gamble presents The 48th Annual Bayou Classic. Southern is the defending champ and currently leads the series at 24 - 23. As the reigning champs, they are ready to defend their crown and bragging rights. While we have a love for all HBCUs, we can not help but to show our SUNO pride and scream S-U, S-S-S-S-S-U!
At HBCU’s Black Greek Lettered Organizations are important and make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council better known as the Divine 9.

The NPHC was founded in 1930 at Howard University to support African American college students. It plays a vital role in uniting African American college students as they fight for equal rights and fair treatment under the law.

The Members of the Divine 9 are:

- Alpha Phi Alpha - 1906
- Alpha Kappa Alpha - 1908
- Kappa Alpha Psi - 1911
- Omega Psi Phi - 1911
- Delta Sigma Theta - 1913
- Phi Beta Sigma - 1914
- Zeta Phi Beta - 1920
- Sigma Gamma Rho - 1922
- Iota Phi Theta - 1963