

# The Observer

EXPRESS

ENLIGHTEN

ENTERTAIN

The Official Newspaper of Southern University at New Orleans



**W**elcome home, SUNO Knights! As we head back to some normality with life across our campus, *The SUNO Observer* has the honor to once again serve as your student newspaper. Fall 2022 brought many changes to our campus, from the emergence of our Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program, the opening of the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art (SUNOMA), to the return of SUNO athletics. Our administration, faculty, staff, and students continue to prove that we can go anywhere from 6400 SUNO Knight Drive! Although times were gray, as SUNO's Knights, we retain the shine of our

royal blue and gold. Our strength and success is evident that Southern University at New Orleans is the place to dream.

**By Jasmine Boskent - Editor-In Chief**

## In This Issue....



**Central City Community**  
What is Yet to Come for Orleans Crime Gentilly Fest 2022



**Homecoming 2022**  
SUNO Basketball is Back  
A Knight Under the Stars



**Campus Life & Culture**  
SUNOMA Comes to SUNO  
100 Years of Sigma Gamma Rho & More



### 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.



### For 2022-2023

The SUNO Observer wants you!  
We are always looking for THE BEST staff and You are THE BEST...  
Join The Observer.



### Let's Stay Connected

**The Observer Press Room**  
University Center Room#315  
6400 SUNO Knight Drive  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126  
(504) 286-5345  
[sunobserver@suno.edu](mailto:sunobserver@suno.edu)  
[www.suno.edu](http://www.suno.edu)

# From the Desk of the Editor-In-Chief

by Jasmine M. Boskent

Hello, my fellow SUNO Knights! My name is Jasmine Boskent, the new Editor-in-Chief for *The SUNO Observer*. Journalism is vital for expressing the issues and celebrating the triumphs of SUNO faculty and students. Our previous Editor-in-Chief, Ms. Marley Louis, asked me what I would like out of my leadership in the coming years. At the time, I did not have a clear answer because I was worried I would fail my staff and, more importantly, the students of SUNO. I felt I could never reach Ms. Louis's expectations, but this Fall semester changed everything for me.

Working with students in the Arts & Humanities SUNO Writing Center, I have never felt so close to this university. I am with students on a whole new level with *The Observer* by hearing the issues of SUNO's student body and taking on the challenge to change them. Our university has much potential, but we are far from reaching the surface, and I want us to get there. I want students to have a connection with *The Observer* that goes far beyond SUNO bounds. *The Observer* is more than a university publication. We are a strong-knit family that continuously works through the challenges thrown our way. Only two years ago, *The SUNO Observer* was not active. With the hard work and determination of Mr. Adam Falik, Ms. Malery Louis, and our staff, I have firm hopes for this publication to gain new momentum as an integral component of our institution.



## THE OBSERVER STAFF 2022-2023

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](mailto:sunobserver@suno.edu) and let us know what you want to see in *The Observer*!

		<b>Mr. Adam Falik</b> Faculty Advisor			
<b>Sr.-English</b>				<b>Sr. Social Work</b>	
					
<b>Jasmine Boskent</b> Editor-in-Chief Graphic Designer				<b>Irie Arnaud</b> Advertising & Social Media Manager	
	<b>Jr. Social Work</b>	<b>Sop. English</b>		<b>Sop. CDFS</b>	
					
	<b>Dana Bailey</b> Managing News Editor S.K.L. Host	<b>Verkeese Williby</b> Staff Writer		<b>Kevin Galmon</b> Sports Editor & Staff Writer	
	<b>Sop. Criminal Justice</b>			<b>Sr. Psychology</b>	
					
	<b>Ethan Dickerson</b> Photographer			<b>Thalneisha Weston</b> Senior Staff Editor & Staff Writer	

*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

### 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](mailto:sunobserver@suno.edu).

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

*The Observer* is published during SUNO's Fall and Spring semesters. The paper is available to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the general public.

*The Observer's* office is located on the third floor of the University Center, Room 314. The office is open by appointment only. Please

### The Observer Disclaimer & Credits

email an appointment request to [sunobserver@suno.edu](mailto:sunobserver@suno.edu).

All articles and photographers are the property of *The Observer*. Content of the newspaper may not be reproduced or republished without written permission from the Editor-In-Chief.

*The Observer* is the official student newspaper of Southern University at New Orleans. However, articles, features, opinions, speak outs, feedback commentaries, and editorials, or any published content; do not reflect the views

and opinions of *The Observer*, *The Observer* staff, Southern University at New Orleans, the SUNO Administration, SUNO University policies, or the student body. Please email us at [sunobserver@suno.edu](mailto:sunobserver@suno.edu) with all Questions/Concerns.

**Photo Credits:**  
Jasmine Boskent, Dana Bailey, WDSU News, Fox 8 News, Suno Writing Center, SUNOMA Arts Museum, Suno PD, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., NewOrleans.com, ONE1Hotel, EverFest, Suno Athletics, LittleLivesPPE, Son of a Saint - New Orleans, Black Pride Nola New Orleans, ME - Motivated & Empowered, NOPD CMRignite, Suno Counseling Center, & Collegiate Black & Christian College





Photo By [Southern University at New Orleans](#)

## Chancellor's Corner

**Dr. James H. Ammons**

**T**his school year is off to a great start! Over the last school year, our students have endured the remnants of the pandemic and the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. However, they have triumphed over it all. The

University has returned to normalcy as we are offering face-to-face classes and activities on campus this fall. We are even more excited as we have kicked off several new programs this fall, including enrolling our first cohort of students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. As students have been busy planning fall homecoming activities, excitement is in the air. Homecoming week kicked off on October 23, 2022, with an Alumni cocktail party, followed by a host of student and alumni activities such as the Silent Party, bowling and game night activities, career spotlight, virtual parties, and much more. Also, during homecoming week, the University cut the ribbon on the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art (SUNOMA) on October 27, 2022. Visitors from around the city and state took part in this historical event. SUNOMA houses one of the country's most prolific African American art collections, gifted to us by Dr. William Bertrand. The week was filled with excitement as we continued to celebrate homecoming to a sold-out crowd at the Emmett Bashful A Southern Knight in New Orleans Scholarship Gala and Silent Auction. Over 500 patrons gathered on the Arts and Humanities Building patio to celebrate the event's return and raise scholarship funds for our students. The week could not get any better with the culminating event—the return of the Knights and Lady Knights Basketball teams to The Castle. After a three-year hiatus, the teams returned to compete against North America University and Clinton College; of course, both teams won! I look forward to the bright future of Southern University at New Orleans. Go, Knights!

## A Knight Under the Stars: The Royal Court Shine Bright for the 63rd Miss SUNO

by Dana Bailey

**T**he coronation ceremony of the royal court is a tradition that HBCU campuses around the nation hold dearly, and Southern University at New Orleans has maintained its homecoming tradition since 1965 with our 1st Miss. SUNO, Yonne Narcisse. On Wednesday, October 26th, 2022, SUNO crowned Daryelle D. Mitchell as The 63rd Miss Southern University at New Orleans. The theme for this year's coronation was "A Knight Under the Stars," and SUNO's royal court shined tremendously bright. The SUNO royal court, faculty, students, and family were in awe as Ms. Mitchell graciously arrived in a pearl ball gown with her escort Mr. Ronnie Dryer, the Student Government Association President. Ms. Mitchell was voted to represent SUNO as its queen for her outstanding service as a member of the "bringing awareness to mental health" platform, in attempts to rectify the myths of mental illness. Ms. Mitchell prides herself on serving the community, focusing on programs and activities supporting SUNO student mental health.



Photo By [Southern University at New Orleans](#)

**#WEARESUNO**

## The SUNOMA Arts Museum Officially Makes its Way Home

By Jasmine Boskent



**O**n Thursday, October 27th, 2022, The Department of Arts and Humanities Building held the Inaugural Opening of the Southern University of New Orleans Arts Museum (SUNOMA). SUNO alumnus, Ted Ellis, is SUNOMA's first director. He is a self-taught

artist with 30-plus years of experience in realism and impressionism, which combine the nostalgia and inspiration of his Orleanian roots. In addition, Ellis is an extraordinary scholar in African and African American Studies through his research with SUNO at the University of Leicester, U.K. He also serves as vice-chairman of the federal commission of 400 Years of African American History, established under the Department of Interior. Who would be better than Mr.

Ellis to be the leader of our prestigious SUNOMA?

Of course, we commend Ellis's tireless efforts in completing this historic project. Still, he was not alone with the assistance of our SUNO staff, such as

Dr. Sara Hollis, Dr. Clyde Robertson, Ms. Cynthia Ramirez, Ms. Shatiqua Wilson, and Ms. Erika Witt.

We are proud of all the effort to formulate this monumental event for SUNO history and the New Orleans

community. Please visit and support this gem in The Arts & Humanities Building, 2nd floor, and contact [SUNOMA@suno.edu](mailto:SUNOMA@suno.edu), follow @SUNOMuseumOfArt, or visit The SUNOMA page on [suno.edu](http://suno.edu) for office hours and appointment requests.





## A Centennial of Greater Women, Greater Progress

By Dana Bailey



**S**ince November 12, 1922, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. has made many strides worldwide. Today, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. celebrates its centennial year. Members of the ‘Glorious’ Gamma Upsilon Chapter, chartered January 6, 1968, on the campus of Southern University at New Orleans, speak on what Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. means to them and their excitement about celebrating 100 years of Greater Service, Greater Progress. *The Observer* sat



down with President of the Gamma Upsilon Chapter Daisy Taylor and Javalyn Session, Fourth Anti-Basileus of the Epsilon Sigma Chapter and Advisor to the Glorious Gamma Upsilon chapter to discuss what being a member of Greater Women, Greater World and the sorority's centennial means to them. Ms. Session became a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. in the spring of 2012. When asked why she

chose this particular organization, she responded, "I joined Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. because after doing my research, I found it to be the perfect fit. I'm an educator by nature. So being in an organization created by seven young educators to address issues impacting women and their families feels like home to me." President Daisy Taylor, who became a member Fall of 2021, also replied to this question: "I chose Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., because of what the organization brings to the lives of others. We provide 'Greater Service, Greater Progress'; we serve and are leading with vision, driven with purpose, and leading with love." The world and the Greater Women of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. celebrated 100 years of Greater Progress. Epsilon Sigma, the one and only New Orleans Alumnae Chapter, is the fifth oldest alumnae chapter in Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. history. Basileus (President) Crystal Rock of the Epsilon Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho



added to the discussion, replying, "Centennial is the culmination of our seven founders' dream of completing greater service and greater progress, allowing us to become greater women for a greater world. Education is the hallmark of our seven founders; they were all teachers, so we intrinsically engaged in education throughout the greater New Orleans area. There are many schools named after our Sorors who are no longer with us, such as Dolores T. Aaron Academy. As the organization reaches its centennial year, they are highly dedicated to education and a greater service to the community and the wider world." We, the SUNO Observer and Southern University at New Orleans, would like to wish Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., especially the Glorious Gamma Upsilon chapter, a very Happy Founders' Day and a Greater Centennial.





## SUNO's Writing Center Welcomes You!

By Jasmine Boskent  
&  
Jalisa Peters  
(Writing Center  
Staff)

**T**he Writing Center is a tutoring program that assists students with writing challenges. The program explicitly advises English Composition students and offers writing assistance for all university wide. Our services include proofreading, optional practice exercises, and additional writing-related help. The

location of the Writing Center is the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (AHSS) building in room 113, and the hours of operation are Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Students can make appointments on the [Southern University at New Orleans webpage](#). The Fall 2022 semester's primary accomplishment for the Writing Center was seeing students' growth in writing all semester as well as spearheading two vital recent campus visits by Louisiana Weekly's David Baker and the United States Census Bureau Director, Robert Santos. David Baker's visit introduced students and faculty to his personal take on local

journalism. He emphasized the importance of community and networking. Through journalism, he touched on the importance to keep diversity involved, the effectiveness of storytelling, and adapting to the ever-changing field of journalism. Robert Santos' visit focused on the vitality of the census. He addressed the steps needed to procure accurate counts and data and how to connect in the field of statistics. In addition, he insisted on the vitality of inclusivity of people of all races and ethnic backgrounds and accuracy in their representation.

For instance his project,

'Corrupting the Census', focused on how easily census data could be falsified and manipulated in the late 90s and early 2000s. For any students interested in either of these visits or the backgrounds required to enter these exciting career fields, send any inquiries to our email at [writingcenter@suno.edu](mailto:writingcenter@suno.edu). We hope to see you, soon Knights.

### CAMPUS VISIT BY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU DIRECTOR ROBERT SANTOS

Robert L. Santos is the 26th director of the U.S. Census Bureau. He was sworn in on January 5, 2022. Please join us for his historic visit to SUNO!



MONDAY, NOV. 14TH AT 2:30PM IN  
THE MILLIE M. CHARLES SCHOOL  
OF SOCIAL WORK AUDITORIUM

Please email Dr. Marco Altamirano with  
any questions. [maltamirano@suno.edu](mailto:maltamirano@suno.edu)



## A Stapleton Amongst the Community: The Gentilly Festival of 2022

By Thalneisha Weston

**T**he New Orleans annual Gentilly Festival marked nine years of service in the Orleans community.

The event took place at Pontchartrain

Park Playground from October 7th-9th, and my family and I enjoyed all the festivities the event had to offer. The food was terrific as we tried different delicacies from the Orleans area. Each family member had their favorites, such as chicken on a stick, pasta, and jambalaya. However, I enjoyed the live performances the most as they consisted of diverse genres like zydeco, blues, and hip-hop. My favorite show was Brass-A-Holics during the Saturday lineup, which had everyone on their feet. The

festival even had a gospel tent that displayed local choirs such as Greater St. Stephen FGBC, Edna Karr High School Choir, and Pentecost Baptist Church. But the greatest attraction was Kids Village, which kept my son occupied with carnival food, pony rides, face painting,



Photo By [EverFest](#)

Build-A-Bear workshops, and candy stores. The kiddos even had their entertainment stage, which presented Michael Jackson New Orleans performers, Storytime with Denise, and the Langston Hughes Drumline.

Although the festivities were amazing to experience with my family, I cannot help but express my tremendous sense of community.

From the support of local arts and craftsmen to the appearances of elected officials, law enforcement, and health services, every one of Orleans parish comes together to enjoy this momentous triumph of the Gentilly area. The Gentilly fest was truly an event that everyone should come to, as it has free entry and a special VIP pass that includes special seating, free parking, and food and beverages. We hope to see you Knights there in October 2023!



Photo By [NewOrleans.com](#)



Photo By [ONE11Hotel](#)



## What is Yet to Come: New Orleans Community & Crime

By Jasmine Boskent

**T**he year 2022 continues to bring about controversy from abortion debates to continued mass shootings. Although New Orleans sees its fair share of crime, it is not odd to question if the worst is yet to come. But if that is so, what can our politicians and law enforcement do to combat this issue, and how can citizens assist them? More importantly, how can young people change the narrative? *The SUNO Observer* staff interviewed a Third District Commander and Crime Stoppers & Public Relations Officer of NOPD to receive some insight into the world of law enforcement and the reality of crime prevention. We began by asking: Which are the most common crimes of college campuses? One officer stated, "One of the common issues, unfortunately, is we deal with a lot of sexual assaults, and this can be attributed to certain social events that students attend. A lot of it is related to alcohol consumption, narcotic consumption, that leads to someone being sexually assaulted and what we try to push more on the campuses is if students are going to attend social activities that they would have someone with them, similar to what a designated driver would be." The issue of sexual assault is more common than one would believe on college campuses. One issue is that many victims do not or cannot report the crime. Lack of reporting is often due to the fear of the public outlook, or that their statement might be considered false, or worse, that they may be in danger from their perpetrator again. According to [RAINN.org](http://RAINN.org), "Only 310 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults are reported to police. That means more than 2 out of 3 go unreported." On average, 20% of victims will report the crime, while 32% will not. Also, young people ages 18-24 are at a higher risk of sexual assault since many of us go to social gatherings and indulge in narcotics. Finally, homecoming, Bayou Classic, and holiday events are crucial times to worry about our surroundings because many visitors are not from the Orleans area and can commit crimes inconspicuously. So, everyone needs to stay in groups and keep an eye on each other because situations escalate so quickly that by the time we react, it is too late. Unfortunately, the issue of sexual assault is only one of the crimes plaguing campuses and communities. Carjacking and theft are also other increasing problems in the New Orleans area. In the WDSU News article, "Carjackings Continue in New Orleans in 2022", reporter Travers Mackel discussed the increase of carjacking from the beginning of the year. Mackel wrote, "Carjackings spiked last year in New Orleans. Up more than 20% from the previous year, there were 288 in 2021. In the first three days of 2022, there have been eight." The rise in vehicle theft has not only the citizens of Orleans parish concerned for their safety, but NOPD officers are trying their best to mitigate the issue. "Now a lot of these cars that are stolen are used in murders and shootings and drive-bys and all sorts of other crimes, it's very disturbing," said Mike Cahn, a former New Orleans Police Commander and security expert. The NOPD said recently that stopping this type of crime will be a priority." The residents of Orleans parish are hopeful that law enforcement will stick to their promise of lowering criminal activity. But it is a team effort because, as citizens, we must take charge of our communities and safety. As students, we feel we cannot do much because we are so young, and our opinions seem insignificant. We must stop thinking this way to move forward as future community leaders. So, make sure to support local organizations encouraging change by providing youth outlets, such as [Son of a Saint New Orleans](#), [Collegiate Black and Christian New Orleans](#), [New Orleans Black Pride NOLA](#), and many more. We can create a bigger and brighter future for the Big Easy!



# Make Sure To Always Know Your Location



## Stay Alert & Aware Knights



**Emergencies: 911**

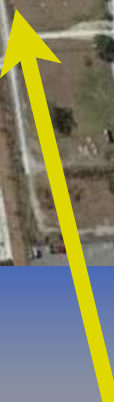
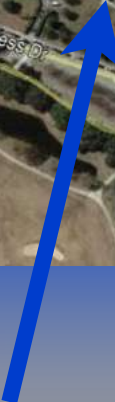
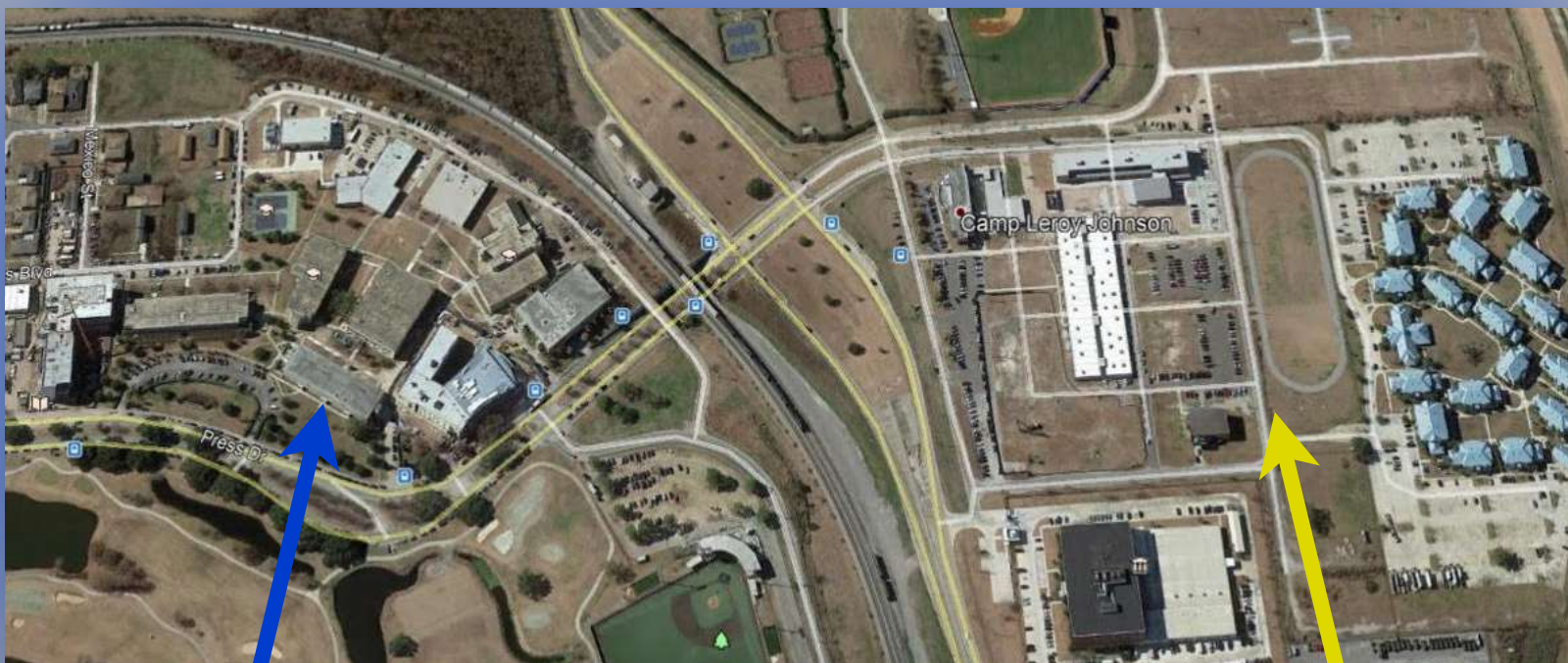
**Non-Emergencies:  
(504) 286.5291**



**@sunopolice**

**@southernuniveristyatneworleans**

**Southern University at New Orleans  
6400 SUNO Knight Drive, New Orleans  
Louisiana, 70126**



**Park Campus**



**Lake Campus**



## We Are in Trouble, Take Courage & Vote

By George Edward Jr.

**A**s a person in my older years, I view the current political atmosphere as toxic and unproductive. It is causing citizens to lose trust in the voting system. Yet, I vote because it is an option that African Americans in the past did not have. It is my opinion that the present crisis of the Black community is a lack of respect for each other and building up our

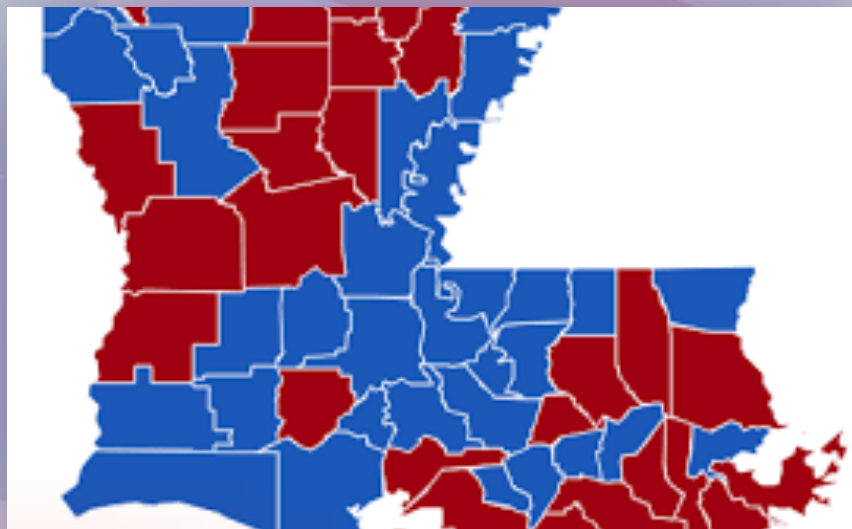


Photo By [WDSU News](#)



Photo by [Fox 8 News](#)

neighbors to a safer environment. The coming election is turning into a new war for the future of young people in this county, especially in New Orleans.



I recall New Orleans during its caste system that did not allow people of color to vote, and the past generations suffered to gain their constitutional rights. Although voting will not solve all the city's issues, it is a tool for citizens to create a brighter future. To turn New Orleans around, we must do our part, to not only vote but encourage others to do the same and address the misconceptions that affect our fellow citizens.

Need to Register?  
Click the Voter Pin Above!



## SUNO Basketball is Back at 6400 SUNO Knight Drive and Stronger Than Ever!

By Dana Bailey

**O**ur Knights have returned to the castle! As Southern University at New Orleans welcomed back athletics this Fall, it is incredible to see the outcome of our first games for the Lady and Male Knight basketball teams. The Zulu Tramps, alums, faculty, and students led us back to our court to witness the basketball comeback along with our homecoming celebration. Our Lady Knights defeated North American University with an astounding score of 77 to 66. The crowd was energetic as our ladies floated up and down the court, serving basket after basket. But we must thank Women's basketball coaches Destinie Smith and Raven Felids for their consistent support and service to our Lady Knights. The vibe was no different when our Male Knights were ready to play. Our men defeated Clinton College with a whopping 89 to 80. These back-to-back victories were a terrific ending to our homecoming week celebration, proving that we are back and better than ever. We look forward to what is in store for athletics in the upcoming season at 6400 SUNO Knight Drive!





## Time, Time, Time on The Fly: Advice on Time Management

By Verkeese Williby



**T**ime is everything, and we need to pay attention to how we use it. Everyone wishes to bottle some of it up to save or wishes for a time machine, but that is not how time works. When you sit back and think about your life, can you say you used your time constructively? Or did you waste your time without even knowing it. In the past, I know I

have. What changed was I organized the time I had. No one can force you to do anything that you do not want to do. When I realized that, I had a lot more time to accomplish more things for myself. When you use your time for others, you won't see it instantly, but eventually, you will find out that you're taking time away from yourself to reach your goals. I have been in college for three years and recently turned thirty.



My degree is something I have been trying to achieve for years. But I was so focused on making other people happy in the past that I ignored

that goal. Then I realized that so much time had passed that I may need help to get my college degree. Then I told myself to devote my free time to finishing school. Easier said than done, though, right? Because not only am I older, but I have kids now. I am also working a job and trying to maintain balance. But I focus on the task and cross one bridge at a time. Eventually, I will reach my goals. Finding a balance between life, school, work, and

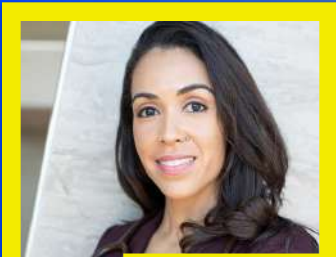


some time to relax is extremely difficult. That's why you must pay attention and use your time wisely. Time is essential; everyone needs it, and we cannot get any of it back when we lose it. So keep moving forward and stay focused on the path to your future aspirations and let nothing stop you!



# Keep Up With Our Media Content & Special Guest

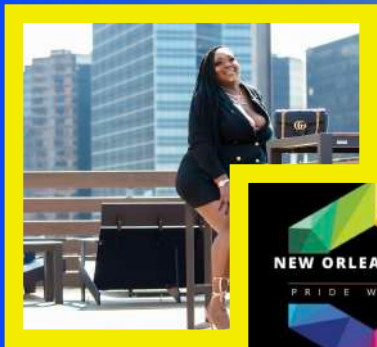
**Dr. Samira Brown**



**Mr. Elliot Hutchinson**



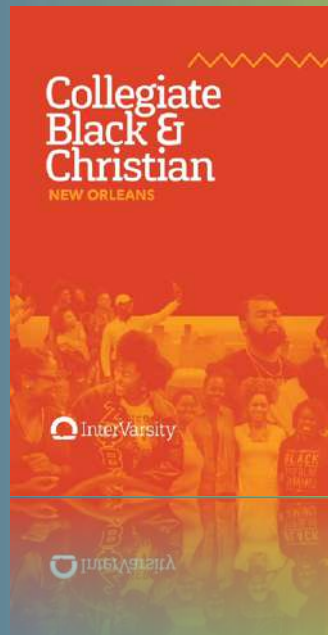
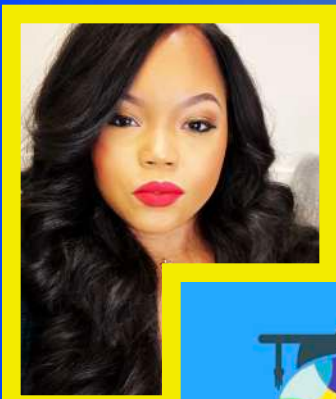
**Ms. Nikki Lashae**



**Mr. Daniel Bryant**



**Ms. Kimberly Paige**



Follow Our Social Media

**CONTACT US AT  
SUNOBSERVER@SUNO.EDU**

**YOUR  
ADVERTISEMENT  
COULD BE  
HERE**

### **Fun Facts: HBCU Pride**

by Jasmine Boskent

Although the tuition for HBCUs is relatively low, the ratio of HBCU students that struggle to afford college is two times as high for our universities. Sixty percent of HBCU students have families of low income, leading many students to seek loan assistance.

Black churches created the first HBCUs with the help of the American Missionary Association and the Freedman's Bureau.

Some of the most well-known African American celebrities attended HBCUs, such as Oprah Winfrey, an alumnus of Tennessee State University, or Spike Lee and Samuel L. Jackson, men of Morehouse College.

50% of African American public school teachers and 70% of dentists earned degrees at HBCUs.

James Weldon Johnson was an alumnus of Atlanta University and wrote the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." He was also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.



**We Thank All Of  
Our Observer  
Staff & Fellow  
Knights For  
Another Great  
Semester!**

