FALL 2011 A MAGAZINE FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF DILLARD UNIVERSITY

Commencement Speaker
Soledad O’Brien

COMMENCEMENT 2011

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Dillard Today

Lamar Davis, ’94

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ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

Davis is first-ever African American deputy chief of staff in Arkansas governorship

Fortunately, it’s work that he loves. “This is a job where, because you’re the administration, you can cut through red tape, you can open doors, you can give people opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have,” Davis said.

Davis says helping people is the most rewarding part of his job. Discussing his work in the Arkansas Delta, a rural region in the eastern part of the state, he said, “They have needs that you wouldn’t believe. And we’ve enabled communities to have drinking water, which they didn’t have before. We’ve put in infrastructure projects for roads that were washed out or impassable. We help people get benefits that didn’t think they could get social security or Medicaid. Those things come with the job, and that’s what I get up for.”

Before attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, Davis earned a bachelor’s in political science from Dillard, and he gives a great deal of credit to his undergraduate experience.

“Dillard is where I grew to be a young man,” he said. “I had one professor, Dr. Okara, and I remember him coming to my room and getting me out of bed so I could go to his class because I was late,” he recalled, laughing. “I was more interested in being part of a fraternity than actually going to class on time. That wouldn’t have happened at any other school.”

Although his academic responsibilities eventually came to take precedence, Davis still keeps in touch with his line brothers. “We get together every year and we’ve continued our relationship that started at Dillard,” he said. “And then there’s the learning about African American history and its social aspects that you can’t get anywhere but an HBCU. All those things are great. They’re stuck with me, and they’ve helped me make the person I am today.”

Davis said he hasn’t ruled out someday running for office. “But my priority is taking care of my son and seeing what the future brings.”

He and his four-year-old son, Ross Edward Davis, love spending time together. “He loves to read. And we like to play golf. He’s got a better swing than his daddy.”

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

Judge Todd’s tough love rehabilitates Birmingham offenders

Tracie Todd’s education and career took her halfway across the globe, but she always found her way back home again. After graduating from Dillard University in 2001 with a dual degree in international business and Japanese studies, she participated for a year in the Japan Exchange Teaching Program, serving as an assistant language teacher in Japan’s Ibaraki prefecture. Upon returning to the states, she worked as an interpreter and marketing strategist for a Japanese startup company and then attended law school at the University of Alabama. Today she is the youngest sitting judge in the Birmingham Municipal Court system, and she brings a unique perspective to her work in her beloved hometown.

The Birmingham Municipal Court is jurisdiction over all misdemeanors that take place within the city limits. Todd’s biggest challenge is curbing truadism, and she has developed an aggressive, innovative rehabilitation program to help those in her community who have fallen afoul of the law.

Todd orders program participants to register to vote, perform duties of the community service, and earn their GED, if they have not graduated from high school. But that’s just the beginning.

“You can get a GED, but you’ll still get that same job at McDonald’s,” said Todd. “And that’s not enough to feed you and your family.”

Todd’s program, which lasts between six months and two years, orders many participants to attend trade schools. It also helps them find grants and scholarships to enable them to attend for little or no cost.

Todd believes in the edification of the whole person. When necessary, she will order those in her court to attend classes on financial management, anger management, and parenting. She instructs minors on how to write essays on topics such as crime in the African American community and orders them to visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

She also sends many participants to neighborhood meetings. “They need to be exposed to positive community to see what it is to be a good neighbor,” Todd said.

Some judges have criticized Todd’s program for being too idealistic, but she has great faith in her work. “I think it’s an imperative to send people back out into the community the same way they came into the system in the first place,” said Todd, “because they will only go out and do the same things over and over again.”

Todd hasn’t forgotten her experiences in Japan; in 2009, she founded the Japanese Language House in Birmingham, where she was free, weekly classes in Japanese language and culture to high school students.

And she certainly hasn’t forgotten her time at Fair Dillard. She returned to campus most recently for Alumni Reunion 2011, where she served on the newly elected president of the alumni association. She also works closely with one Dillard alumna. There are only seven judges on the Birmingham Municipal Court. Two of them – Tracie Todd and Debra Montgomery – are Dillard graduates.

Ramona Jean-Perkins views training qualified educators as an obligation

Ramona Jean-Perkins comes from a long line of educators, so her 35-year stint in education is no surprise to her family and friends. She first caught the teaching spark when her mentor, Dr. Virginia Welch, assigned her to tutor students at lollowing students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and Le Moyne College.

Jean-Perkins says her success in preparing students for the written portion of a college entrance exam gave her the impetus to become a teacher. “That success helped me determine my true calling,” said Jean-Perkins. “It is a passion.”

Her teaching philosophy focuses on augmenting classroom learning with community experiences. She views the role of the university in providing qualified educators as imperative. “I think it’s an obligation for us to give quality teachers back to our community,” she said. “That’s the only way we can succeed, and out the 21st century, Dillard must maintain its core values as an HBCU and provide a caring faculty and an atmosphere that will flourish if it continues evolving in an era when technology, global integration, critical thinking, proficiency in communication, collaboration, and intellectual discourse are the norm.

In addition, Jean-Perkins foresees a Dillard that embraces the community through a viable continuing education program for non-traditional students. Her ideal Dillard graduate is one who has engaged in service-learning and study abroad, and has a professional portfolio that includes published articles, conference presentations, and a commitment to bringing about positive change in the community.

One of her most passionate desires for the university is to help students give back by becoming educators. “I would like to see Dillard offer the opportunity for teacher certification training here on campus,” she said. “I believe we could build the structure for that kind of program.”

Q&A with Roland Pickens

A native of Houston, Roland Pickens, ’95, graduated from Dillard University with a degree in public health in 1985. He went straight into a health administration master’s program at Tulane University and then headed for California. Today Pickens, 48, calls the Bay Area home, and he’s one of the region’s premiere health care administrators.

Since 2009, Pickens has served as the chief operating officer at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. It’s the busiest hospital in the state, accounting for 20 percent of San Francisco’s inpatient and a third of its ambulance traffic. His latest project is the construction of a new, $900 million hospital, due to open in 2015. We talked to Pickens about his career, his time at Dillard, and his work as the president of the Bay Area chapter of Dillard’s National Alumni Association.

Tell us about this new facility. It’s a state-of-the-art, LEED gold building that will be seven stories high and will be used to replace our current hospital, which does not meet state seismic safety [codes].
Definitely dwindling resources, challenges you face in your work? What are some of the biggest challenges you face in your work? 

After the big earthquake in San Francisco 20 years ago, the state passed a law requiring hospitals to either retrofit to meet the new seismic code, or build a new facility, and many hospitals are having to rebuild, as we are. It’s going to be a great facility to serve San Francisco for the next 50 years. It will be a 287-bed acute care trauma center.

What are some of the biggest challenges you face in your work? Definitely dwindling resources, in terms of revenues and a growth in the need for access to health care in terms of Medicare and other sources in terms of revenues and a growth in the need for access to health care for the next 50 years. It will be a

With my older brother in college who was diagnosed with cancer. Growing up in Houston, we have this fabulous facility called the Texas Medical Center that has several major academic medical centers – a couple of medical schools, schools of nursing, dentistry – it’s a major health care hub. And so when I was in third and fourth grade, my mother was pulling me around with her, going to the various hospitals making sure my brother got the care he needed to treat his cancer. And I remember one day saying to my mother, ‘Wow, these hospitals are really nice places. Who’s responsible for running them?’ And she told me it’s the hospital administrator. And I said, ‘That’s what I want to be when I grow up. I want to be a hospital administrator.’

What do you find most rewarding about your job? That every day we’re able to help those most in need. As the country public hospital, it’s gratifying knowing that anyone who needs care can get it here, regardless of their ability to pay.

What made you want to go into health care administration when you were younger? I had an older brother in college who needed to treat his cancer. And I remember one day saying to my mother, ‘What do you do?’ And I usually tell them I manage relationships and solve problems. And I learned all those things at Dillard, or I learned how to do them better at Dillard.

What advice would you give to current Dillard students? My advice would be to live the Dillard legacy, to take what you learn at Dillard and apply it in your life. And not to take the Dillard experience for granted, because when you’re a student, you’re just going from one day to the next, and you’re looking forward in your life and not backward. I appreciated it when I was at Dillard, but looking back now, I have an even greater appreciation for the experience, now that I’m 25 years out. 

Tell us about your work as the president of the San Francisco alumni chapter. I enjoy doing it because, as busy as I am in my professional career, that is one of the few non-work related activities that I commit myself to doing. And I do it because I feel so strongly that the Dillard experience has blessed me with the opportunity to have the career and life that I have. It’s one way that I can give back and make sure that the institution that was there for me, when I came through, will be there for other students, currently and in the future.

We’re fortunate in the San Francisco Bay Area to have a group called the Historically Black College and University Coalition, and so much of what we do is in coordination with the alumni of various HBCUs. We do fundraising activities for student scholarships. We have an annual HBCU family day picnic at one of the local parks where all the local alumni get together. But more importantly, we actively attend college recruitment fairs in the area, about 20 a year, where we recruit students for Dillard. And we just had our summer send-off, where we gather all the incoming freshmen who have been accepted to Dillard and paid their deposits. We had 18 of them there this past Sunday who will be coming down to Dillard in a few weeks for freshman week, so we’re excited about that.

What do you like to do when you’re not working at the hospital or with the alumni association? I love to go to my weekend home, about an hour outside of the city in wine country. Relax, do some yard work, and just kick back. I have a great life and I owe much of it to the

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Greetings,

It is with great humility that I accept the honor of serving as the interim president of Dillard University while the institution continues its presidential search. I want to assure you that this great university and its legacy will continue to grow and flourish.

I am pleased to introduce this Fall 2011 issue of Dillard Today, which explores a number of exciting stories that have unfolded in recent months. As another era in Dillard history draws to a close, we fondly remember the tenure and legacy of Dr. Marvalene Hughes, who served as Dillard’s president from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2011.

Also included in this issue are highlights from the 2011 Commencement ceremony, which featured a keynote address from CNN correspondent Soledad O’Brien; the New York Times Journalism Institute; a collaborative production of Fergy performed at the Cook Theater and a visit by astronaut and retired colonel Alvin Drew.

In this issue you will be introduced to Pamela Higgins Francois, the new president of the National Alumni Council; alumni like Tracey Todd, the youngest sitting judge in the Birmingham Municipal Court system, and Lamar Davis, the deputy chief of staff for Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe; and other members of the Dillard community who are making their mark on the world.

Thank you for your continued support of Dillard University as we move forward and build on the strength and academic prowess of this vibrant institution.

Sincerely,

James E. Lyons Sr.
Interim President

Dillard mounts search for next university president

In February, Dr. Marvalene Hughes released a letter to the school community announcing that she would be leaving the Dillard University presidency after six proud years of service. The university then hired the firm Isaacson, Miller to help conduct the search for Dillard’s seventh president. That search is currently underway.

On May 3, Joyce Roché, chair of the Dillard University board of trustees, announced Dr. Hughes would officially step down on July 1, 2011, and that trustee James Lyons, Ph.D., would serve as interim president until a permanent president is named.

Dr. Lyons brings with him extensive experience in higher education, having served as president at three different institutions—California State University, Dominguez Hills; Jackson State University; and Bowie State University—over the past 23 years.

To learn more about Dr. Lyons and the presidential search, or to nominate a candidate for the presidency, please visit Dillard’s presidential search Web page, accessible from the homepage on www.dillard.edu.

Dillard hosts New York Times Student Journalism Institute

From May 15-30, Dillard University hosted the ninth annual New York Times Student Journalism Institute. The Institute, in conjunction with the National Association of Black Journalists and the Black College Communication Association, selects “the best and brightest” undergraduate, recent graduate and graduate student journalists from around the country and Canada to participate in the program, said Don R. Hecker, institute director and staff from the New York Times.

This year’s 22 students gained hands-on experience and worked with writers, editors and photographers from the New York Times, the Boston Globe and regional newspapers of The Times Company. Each student reported daily stories, edited copy and video, designed pages and, took photos.

“They are given constructive criticism; it’s very intensive, but nurturing,” said Dr. Cleo Johnson Allen, chair of Dillard’s School of Mass Communication, who serves as a mentor for the Institute.

Since 2003, the New York Times has funded this all expenses paid experience, including airfare, room and board at Dillard University, all newsgathering expenses, gas, food, and even a stipend for the students to buy souvenirs for their families.

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On June 22, Benjamin Alvin Drew Jr., a NASA astronaut and retired Air Force colonel, addressed Dillard University’s Pre-Freshman Engineering Program in the Professional Schools and Sciences Building. The Pre-Freshman Engineering Program (PREP), a four-week summer session for rising ninth and tenth grade students, is designed to increase the number of women and minorities who pursue careers in the science and engineering professions.

Drew, who was selected by NASA to be a mission specialist in 2000 and has logged more than 600 hours in space, spoke to students on the day of their white coat ceremony. The ceremony is a tradition inspired by medical schools that speaks to PREP students’ dedication to the study of science and engineering.

In February and March, Drew participated in the 9th and final mission of the space shuttle Discovery. On the mission, Drew became the 200th person to walk in space, and the crew delivered Robonaut 2, the first humanlike robot in space, to the International Space Station. In 2007, Drew flew on the 20th flight of the space shuttle Endeavour.

Dillard news

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Dillard partners with U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard and Dillard University entered into a formal partnership when Capt. Edwin M. Stanton, commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector New Orleans, and Dillard University President Maryvalyn Hughes signed a memorandum of agreement on Dillard’s campus on April 8. The partnership is designed to support the Coast Guard’s recruiting efforts while providing additional tuition-saving choices and academic options for Dillard students and professors.

The four-year partnership will enable Dillard to establish a new forum for addressing environmental issues in the Gulf Coast region, and provide opportunities for Dillard students to participate in the Coast Guard’s College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative scholarship program, which bears similarities to the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program.

Dillard students will benefit from internship opportunities with the Coast Guard in areas such as engineering, operations, logistics and information services, as well as the potential for internships with the Department of Homeland Security. The Coast Guard will also work with Dillard’s Environmental Sustainability Program to provide student research opportunities in maritime transportation management and security areas. Career mentorship for students will be another element of the partnership.

Dillard hosts Institute for Promoting Responsibility

In April, Dillard’s African World Studies Program hosted the Institute for Promoting Social Responsibility. The purpose of the institute was to explore and expand current and future opportunities for students to serve in underserved communities and challenged populations. Its theme was “Finding Answers to the Future.”

Activities at the weeklong institute included: a rhythm and blues performance by The Maha Baptiste Soul Review; a screening of the 2006 film Bastards of the Party, a documentary about Los Angeles street gangs; a lecture by Dr. Acklyn Lynch of the University of Houston from his new book, Invisible Jim Crow: Contemporary Ideological Threats to the Internal Security of African Americans; a keynote speech by Dr. Aicklyn Lynch of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County entitled “Scholarship, Activism and Social Responsibility”; and much more.

Participants produced a personal plan for exercising social responsibility and developed an outline for a manifesto on student responsibility in the black community.

Dillard receives U.S. Department of Education grant for African American males

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Dillard University a $1 million grant to benefit African American male students at Dillard between 2010 and 2015.

The grant was written by Dr. Kevin Bastian, director of student support services, and it is being administered by Bastian and Ellen Robinson, assistant director of health sciences and support services. It has already benefited over 40 Dillard students.

Funds from the grant may also go toward Dillard’s pre-collegiate community programs, including the 8th Grade Initiative, Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound and Emerging Scholars. “We are exposing our sixth and eighth and twelfth graders now to the possibility of majoring in public health or nursing, so when they enter Dillard University, they’ll be placed automatically into this program,” Bastian said.

“It lends itself to the overall mission of the university,” Bastian said of the grant. “It supports recruitment, enrollment, retention and graduation.”

Dillard hosts theatre production of Porgy

In July, Dillard hosted a production of Porgy in the Samuel DuBois Cook Fine Arts Center. The production, which was a collaboration between Dillard, Tulane and the Fresh Voices theater program, ran six times, including two matinee shows for students of local summer programs. Coretha Clark, interim chair of Dillard’s Department of Humanities, provided sound and lighting design for the show.

The novel Porgy was written in 1926 by DuBose and Dorothy Howard. With the help of his wife Dorothy, Howard adapted it for the stage two years later. The play served as the inspiration for George Gershwin’s opera Porgy and Bess, which followed in 1935. Porgy tells the story of a panhandler in 1920s Charleston, S.C. It was the first Broadway show to present a serious look at black life, and it was among the longest-running Broadway shows in its day.

Dillard news

Solvedad’s Book Signing

CNN correspondent Solvedad O’Brien signed copies of her new book. The Next Big Story, for Dillard students in Leevers Chapel the day before she gave the commencement address.
Davis is first-ever African American deputy chief of staff in Arkansas governorship

Lamar Davis, ‘94, is the deputy chief of staff for Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe, a proud Dillard graduate, and a full-time father. How does he juggle these hats? “Time management is huge,” said Davis, ‘94, a native of North Little Rock, Ark. “Being a single dad is tough when you get all these things on your plate.”

“Those things” could entail anything from appointments and communications, to parolees and community events, to meeting with legislators and serving as the official liaison to the state Democratic Party. Davis’ job description changes from day-to-day in the governor’s office.

Fortunately, it’s work that he loves. “This is a job where, because you’re the administration, you can cut through red tape, you can open doors, you can give people opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have,” Davis said.

Davis says helping people is the most rewarding part of his job. Discussing his work in the Arkansas Delta, a rural region in the eastern part of the state, he said, “They have needs that you wouldn’t believe. And we’ve enabled community to have drinking water, which they didn’t have before. We’ve put in infrastructure projects for roads that were washed out or impassable. We help people get benefits who were washed out or impassable. We help people get benefits who didn’t think they could get social security or Medicaid. Those things come with the job, and that’s what I get up for.”

Before attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, Davis earned a bachelor’s in political science from Dillard, and he gives a great deal of credit to his undergraduate experience.

“Dillard is where I grew to be a young man. I had one professor, Dr. Okara, and I remember him coming to my room and getting me out of bed so I could go to his class because I was late,” he recalled, laughing. “I was more interested in being part of a fraternity than actually going to class on time. That wouldn’t have happened at any other school.”

Although his academic responsibilities eventually came to take precedence, Davis still keeps in touch with his fellow seniors. “We get together every year and we’ve continued our relationship that started at Dillard,” he said. “And then there’s the learning about African American history and its social aspects that you can’t get anywhere but an HBCU. All those things are great. They’re stuck with me, and they’ve helped me make the person I am today.”

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Judge Todd’s tough love rehabilitates Birmingham offenders

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Todd’s program, which lasts between six months and two years, orders many participants to attend trade schools. It also helps them find grants and scholarships to enable them to attend for little or no cost.

Todd believes in the edification of the whole person. When necessary, she will order those in her court to attend classes on financial management, anger management, and parenting. She instructs minors to write essays on topics such as crime in the American community and orders them to visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

She also sends many participants to neighborhood meetings. “They need to be exposed to positive civics to see what it is to be a good neighbor,” Todd said.

Some judges have criticized Todd’s program for being too idealistic, but she has great faith in her work. “I think it’s an injustice to send people back out into the community the same way they came into the system in the first place,” said Todd, “because they will only go out and do the same things over and over again.”

Todd hasn’t forgotten her experiences in Japan; in 2009, she founded the Japanese Language House in Birmingham, where she gives free, weekly classes in Japanese language and culture to high school students.

And she certainly hasn’t forgotten her time at Fair Dillard. She returned to campus most recently for Alumni Reunion 2011, where she spoke in the newly elected president of the alumni association. She also works closely with one Dillard alumna. There are only seven judges on the Birmingham Municipal Court. Two of them—Traci Todd and Debra Montgomery—are Dillard graduates.

Jean-Perkins views training qualified educators as an obligation

Ramona Jean-Perkins comes from a long line of educators, so her 35-year stint in education is no surprise to her family and friends. She first caught the teaching spark when her mentor, Dr. Virginia Welch, assigned her to tutor underprivileged students at local universities.

Jean-Perkins says her success in preparing students for the written portion of a college entrance exam gave her the impetus to become a teacher. “That success helped me determine my true calling,” said Jean-Perkins. “The rest is history.”

Her teaching philosophy focuses on augmenting classroom learning with community experiences. She views the role of the university in providing qualified educators as an imperative. “I think it’s an obligation for us to give quality teachers back to this community,” she said. “It’s an imperative. We need to be exposed to positive civic engagement, confidence and intellectual discourse are the norm. In addition, Jean-Perkins foresees a Dillard that embraces the community through a viable continuing education program for non-traditional students. Her ideal Dillard graduate is one who has engaged in service-learning and study abroad, and has a professional portfolio that includes published articles, conference presentations, and a commitment to bringing about positive change in the community.

One of her most passionate desires for the university is to help students give back by becoming educators. “I would like to see Dillard offer the opportunity for teacher certification training here on campus,” she said. “I believe we could build the structure for that kind of program.”

Ramona Jean-Perkins

A native of Houston, Roland Pickens, ’85, graduated from Dillard University with a degree in public health in 1985. He went straight into a health administration master’s program at Tulane University and then headed for California. Today Pickens, 48, calls the Bay Area home, and he’s one of the region’s premiere health care administrators.

Since 2009, Pickens has served as the chief operating officer at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. It’s the busiest hospital in the city, accounting for 20 percent of San Francisco’s in-patient hospital beds; it rooms 7,000 patients a day and handles 4,700 births a year. Pickens leads a department of more than 7,000 people.

In order to succeed through a career in health care administration, Pickens said, “It’s a state-of-the-art, LEED gold building that will be seven stories high and will be used to replace our current hospital, which does not meet state seismic safety [codes]."
Roland Pickens, ‘85

need care. we get more and more people who sources in terms of Medicare and down from all federal government try. As reimbursement dollars go San Francisco, but across the coun services. And that's not only here in growing need for access to health care in terms of revenues and a grow Definitively dwindling resources, challenges you face in your work?

287-bed acute care trauma center. After the big earthquake in San Francisco 20 years ago, the state passed a law requiring hospitals to either retrofit to meet the new seismic code, or build a new facility, and many hospitals are having to rebuild, as we are. It's going to be a great facility to serve San Francisco for the next 50 years. It will be a 287-bed acute care trauma center.

What are some of the biggest challenges you face in your work? Definitely dwindling resources, in terms of revenues and a growing need for access to health care services. And that’s not only here in San Francisco, but across the country. As reimbursement dollars go down from all federal government sources in terms of Medicare and Medicaid, and even private insurers, we get more and more people who need care.

What do you find most rewarding about your job? That every day we're able to help those most in need. As the country public hospital, it's gratifying knowing that anyone who needs care can get it here, regardless of their ability to pay.

What did you do with the Dillard experience prepare you for your career today? It provided me an opportunity to develop my interpersonal communication skills and to deal with people through the various clubs, organizations, fraternities, sororities, and through the choir. Dealing with people is vital to what I do. Often as a hospital administrator, people ask me, 'What do you do?' And I usually tell them I manage relationships and solve problems. And I learned all those things at Dillard, or I learned how to do them better at Dillard.

What advice would you give to current Dillard students? My advice would be to live the Dillard legacy, to take what you learn at Dillard and apply it in your life. And not to take the Dillard experience for granted, because when you're a student, you're just going from one day to the next, and you're looking forward in your life and not backward. I appreciated it when I was at Dillard, but looking back now, I have an even greater appreciation for the experience, now that I'm 25 years out.

Tell us about your work as the president of the San Francisco alumni chapter.

We're fortunate in the San Francisco Bay Area to have a group called the Houston Black College and University Coalition, and as much of what we do is in coordination with the alumni of various HBCUs. We do fundraising activities for student scholarships. We have an annual HBCU family day picnic at one of the local parks where all the local alums get together. But more importantly, we actively attend college recruitment fairs in the area, about 20 a year, where we recruit students for Dillard. And we just had our summer send-off, where we gather all the incoming freshmen who have been accepted to Dillard and paid their deposits. We had 18 of them there this past Sunday who will be coming down to Dillard in a few weeks for freshman week, so we're excited about that.

What do you like to do when you're not working at the hospital or with the alumni association? I love to go to my weekend home, about an hour outside of the city in wine country. Relax, do some yard work, and just kick back. I have a great life and I owe much of it to the Dillard experience.
ON MAY 7, the Dillard University Class of 2011 processed down the Avenue of the Oaks for commencement exercises and the university awarded degrees to 157 students.

Award-winning journalist and CNN correspondent Soledad O’Brien gave the commencement address and was awarded with an honorary doctorate of humane letters. During the ceremony, O’Brien encouraged graduates to chart their own courses through life, and to succeed on their own terms despite adversity. Irvin Mayfield, a Grammy Award-winning New Orleans jazz musician, also received an honorary degree, and performed “Amazing Grace” on trumpet.

For the first time in Dillard’s history, two valedictorians were honored at commencement: Jasmi Sky Brown and Hermann Allo Nkwate. Jon Willie Goodwin III was also honored as this year’s salutatorian.

Brown, a first-generation college graduate who hails from Houston, graduated from the College of Business with a bachelor’s in accounting. A natural leader, Brown served as senior class president and won numerous awards during her collegiate career, such as the PricewaterhouseCoopers Exceed Scholar Award and the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women in Business Leadership Award. Brown has accepted a full-time position at PricewaterhouseCoopers as an audit specialist beginning in September 2011.

Nkwate, an international student from Yaoundé, Cameroon, has accepted an internship as an assistant to the Cameroonian high commissioner and ambassador in Canada for the next six months. At Dillard, Nkwate was a member of Omicron Honor Society, the Thompson/DuBois Cook Honors Program, the ABLE program and the Rotary Club International, to name a few, and is fluent in both French and Spanish. He received a bachelor’s of arts in accounting and a minor in economics.

Goodwin, who graduated with a bachelor’s of arts in psychology, will head straight into graduate level study. In fall 2011, he will begin a five-year Ph.D. program in school psychology from the department of psychological and quantitative foundations in the College of Education at the University of Iowa. He is the recipient of the University of Iowa Dean’s Fellowship, which pays full tuition plus a $22,000 annual stipend for his graduate studies.

While at Dillard, Goodwin was very involved with the New Orleans community as an English and social studies tutor at Walter L. Cohen Senior High School with the Recovery School District, and held many distinctions at Dillard, including the 2010-2011 presidency of the K.B. Clark Psychology Club.

The 2011 graduating class of Dillard University has completed more than 51,000 hours of community service. More than 30 percent of the class is set to enter graduate and professional school programs upon graduation, and more than 15 percent have accepted employment opportunities.

Congratulations to the Dillard University Class of 2011!
7. Platform Marshal Hong Dai, associate professor of mathematics, leads the faculty procession.
8. Soledad O’Brien and Irvin Mayfield display their honorary degrees with Dr. Hughes.
10. Graduates Shaunassy Carr and Brandon Adams.
11. Anthony Lopez displays his diploma.
12. Graduates sporting sunglasses on a bright and windy commencement morning.

COMMENCEMENT 2011
Dillard alums of all ages returned to campus during Commencement Week for Alumni Reunion, which ran from Thursday, May 5 to Sunday, May 8. Highlights included an Alumni Art Showcase, a Reunion Banquet and Dance, and the Golden Graduate Breakfast, a tribute to the class of 1961 on the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Dillard.
Hughes oversaw an academic restructuring of the university under a new four-college system that will position Dillard to capitalize on future growth opportunities. President Hughes has found opportunities for Dillard students not only in the New Orleans community, but also in the global community. She established a partnership between Dillard and the Communications University of China, Nanjing (CUCN) to pursue global education through research and the exchange of faculty and students. In January 2011, the American Council on Education named Dillard University as one of seven institutions nationwide to participate in a new project, Creating Global Citizens: Exploring Internationalization at HBCUs, partially supported by the U.S. Department of Education. As part of the project, Dillard University will develop a strategic plan to further internationalize its campus and curriculum, helping students to compete in today’s global economy.

In February 2011, Dr. Hughes announced that she would soon begin transitioning from the presidency of Dillard University. After overseeing Dillard’s 10-year affirmation by its accrediting body, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and virtually rebuilding the entirety of the campus, she can do so with the satisfaction of a job well done.

The Dillard University Class of 2006 planted a tree on the Avenue of the Oaks to replace the one that was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. They named it Marvalene.

The students, faculty, staff and board of trustees of Dillard University would like to thank President Marvalene Hughes for dedicating every ounce of her time, energy, passion and spirit to Dillard over the past six years. She will forever be remembered as one of the great leaders in this storied university’s history.

President Hughes transitions knowing that she led the university through its darkest hour and ushered in a bright new era for Dillard and its students – one replete with avenues of opportunity.
The Advantage Dillard! Campaign Honor Roll

The Advantage Dillard! Campaign recognizes cumulative and annual giving by maintaining a number of donor societies and clubs honoring their splendid and faithful support. Members of the societies and clubs may direct their giving to wherever they feel the need is greatest. Gifts may be in the form of cash, appreciated securities or property, matching corporate gifts, in-kind gifts, firm gifts pledged in writing, documented deferred gifts, bequest settlements, and in-kind contributions. The donor societies and clubs for the Advantage Dillard! Campaign from July 2005 to July 2011 are as follows:

- The Ex Fide Fortis Society (cumulative gifts of $1 million or more)
- The Society of the Oaks (cumulative gifts of $500,000 to $999,999)
- The Founders Society (cumulative gifts of $25,000 to $99,999)
- The President’s Society (cumulative gifts of $10,000 to $24,999)
- The Heritage Society (cumulative gifts of $1,000 to $9,999)
- The Century Club (cumulative gifts of $500 to $999)
- The Covenerance Club (cumulative gifts of less than $100)

Note: The 1000/$100 Club consists of individuals who give a minimum of $1,000 to the university within a fiscal year.

Oops!

Sometimes our very best efforts for accuracy and thoroughness may omit a name or result in a related error. We want to be accurate and we want you to be pleased. If there are any omissions or errors, or if you have any questions, please contact Kenneth Elliott, Senior Director of Annual Giving and Donor Relations, at (504) 816-4767 or kellion@dillard.edu
Michael Bruno named 
“Best in Business”

The Dillard University College of Business honored Michael Bruno, CPA at the 2011 “Best in the Business” Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2011.

Mr. Bruno, managing and founding partner of Bruno & Tervelain, LLP include auditing, accounting, financial management consulting, tax and technical assistance services.

The theme of this year’s annual awards ceremony was the “Best in the Business.” Each year the awards program showcases the accomplishments of one local business leader along with the College of Business’ faculty, staff and students. Alumni of Dillard’s College of Business have gone on to earn graduate degrees from universities such as Harvard and Columbia, and have been offered employment from organizations such as Ernst and Young, Deloitte, Xerox and PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the “Big Four” audit firms in the country.

Champions of the American Dream

Honors Local Business Leaders

The Dillard University College of Business honored local entrepreneurs Beverly McKenna and Larry Lundy at the inaugural Champions of the American Dream event on March 22, 2011 in the Georges Auditorium of the Professional Schools and Sciences Building.

Beverly McKenna, publisher of the New Orleans Tribune, and Larry Lundy, owner of Lundy Enterprises and a Dillard alumnus, were chosen for their success and persistence in business pursuits, their history of philanthropy, and their service as role models for the New Orleans community. At the ceremony, the honorees lectured on business entrepreneurship and participated in an audience question-and-answer session. Champions of the American Dream is a new initiative of the Dillard University College of Business designed to recognize outstanding business leaders. Champions will be selected twice annually, in the fall and spring, and include one Dillard alum and one non-alum.

Summary of Research and Sponsored Support 2010–2011

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Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Solicitation

• **Alumni and friends** of Dillard University: We are pleased to announce a partnership between Dillard and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). To donate through the CFC, you must be a federal employee. Donors to the CFC share a commitment to providing an invaluable education for Dillard students. Today, with the escalating costs associated with a quality education, donating to the CFC is more important than ever.

• More than 85 percent of Dillard students come from families with an annual household income of less than $45,000. The annual cost of a Dillard education at present is $26,000, including tuition, fees, books, and room and board. The intent of this campaign is to keep Dillard accessible and affordable to all who can benefit from its tremendous educational experience, regardless of their ability to pay.

Your Donation Will

• Open Dillard to the most qualified students, regardless of their economic situation.
• Enable Dillard to enroll students who will enrich the campus community.
• Create a legacy that will endure throughout Dillard history.

Every CFC donation to Dillard’s scholarship program is a vote of confidence in the university’s tradition of providing a high quality education for the young people who will lead our nation into the future.

Open Season is September 15 through December 15, 2011.

You can donate to Dillard by pledging online or writing in the CFC number 97905 on your donation card.
FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF DUNAA

ALUMNI CHARGE AND STEWARDSHIP

Dear Alumni/Alumnae and Friends:

Over the last 40-plus years, I have been consistently loyal and true to my alma mater, affectionately called Fair Dillard. I did not realize that I was in such a small minority until recently. I really was not aware of it until I became a part of the National Administration Leadership.

By now, it is no secret that I have had the pleasure, privilege, and good fortune to serve as our National Alumni President/Trustee for two consecutive terms (four years). Through this experience, I discovered how few of my sisters and brothers are supporting our prestigious alma mater financially, although it is our charge. Approximately five percent of Dillard’s roughly 11,000 alumni/alumnae give back annually. Also, there are a paltry 245 dues-paying alumni worldwide. What a shame!

I truly love my alma mater, and that is why I have spent the last several decades serving her at every level of leadership, including but not limited to serving as Alumni President/Trustee for the last four years. You see, Dillard and I are inseparable, as we all are. Wherever we go, Dillard goes. When we speak, Dillard speaks. When we perform, Dillard performs. Whatever we do, Dillard does. And for those reasons, among others, I feel an obligation to show my loyalty, love, gratitude, generosity, and unwavering support to Her—for life. The Dillard experience, in large part, made me both what I am and who I am. I would like to think that it affected you in the same way, but the majority of us have not reciprocated hitherto. Think about it… Dillard needs our support today, as we needed hers yesterday, in order for her to be there for those who will follow in our footsteps tomorrow. Let us not disappoint her any longer. The majority of... (Continued on next page)

Congratulations to Ms. Pamela Francois, my successor, and her Executive Team, who took the Alumni Association, Inc., moving forward.

Thank you for both your support and cooperation!

Sincerely,

Ralph S. Laster
Immediate Past President, DUNAA
ralphlaster@aol.com
Alumni today

Dillard Artists

Many Dillard graduates have established themselves in the world of art and design. We hope you enjoy this look into the creative side of the alumni community. And to the artists featured herein: we celebrate your accomplishments and cheer you onward!

Additional Dillard Artists whose work is not pictured:

Ronald S. Henderson, '63
Colored Pencil

Cheryl Dean, '66
Printmaking, Stencils Painting

Shamane Good, '71
Paintings, Photographs

Karen Buster, '81
Print, Mixed Media

Calling all alumni artists!

We want to learn about our alumni artists! E-mail your name, medium, Web site and/or gallery information (if applicable), and a high-resolution image (300 dpi) of one of your works to aguy@dillard.edu.

Dillard yesterday

As a new group of freshmen prepare to enter Dillard University this fall, we pause and remember the young men and women who entered these gates not so long ago.

A freshman unpacks her belongings in the Campher Hall Annex.

Students play a game of tug-of-war during freshman week activities.

A student requests change from the university cashier.

A member of Delta Sigma Theta "sings for apples" during freshman week activities.

Before the days of cell phones, a student makes a call at a phone booth.

Students welcome incoming freshmen to the DU campus on Move-In Day in 1993.


Students play a game of tug-of-war during freshman week activities in 1993.
Members of the Dallas-Fort Worth alumni chapter enjoyed themselves at the 13th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at Cowboys Golf Course in April.

In April, the chapter held its 13th Annual Golf Tournament at Cowboy’s Golf Course. The tournament included a raffle and silent auction. Auction items included an official Dallas Cowboys helmet signed by Tony Romo, authentic Dallas Cowboys paraphernalia, and official NFL footballs signed by DeMarcus Ware, Miles Austin and Felix Jones. In March, the chapter held its Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. The tournament was held at the home of Sharon and William “Bill” Turnley Jr.

The Dillard University Concert Choir performed at Friendship-West Baptist Church and received a donation of over $5,000.

Members of the Greater New Orleans alumni chapter at the 1st Annual Old School Step Show.

Washington area alumni were honored to return to the Avenue of the Oaks to celebrate their 50th class reunions over the past five years. They include Antoinette Gabriel Lyles and Franklin Hodges in 2007; Ruth Rich Hodges in 2008; Marie Smith Davidson, Charline Lewis Jacob, and Floyd Wilson in 2009; and Naoma Ches Green, Lornane Williams Johnson, and Louise Jennings Tankerson in 2010.

Members of the Dallas-Fort Worth alumni chapter enjoyed themselves at the 13th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at Cowboys Golf Course in April.

DALLAS-FORT WORTH

The Dallas-Fort Worth chapter recently held a scholarship fundraiser with a suite at the Dallas Mavericks game on Black College Night. The scholarships are awarded to metropolitan students who begin at Dillard in the fall. The suite was provided courtesy of the American Airlines Center. Members of the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter came out in full force and represented the chapter well. In April, the chapter hosted its 13th Annual Golf Tournament at Cowboy’s Golf Course, one of the premier golf courses in the Dallas area. Eighty-nine golfers participated in the tournament, just 11 short of the chapter’s initial goal of 100 golfers. This year’s sponsors included Merrill Lynch, Friendship-West Baptist Church, A.W. Brown Chapter Schools, Black Rock Investment, Dillard Engineering, Central Pointe Church of Christ, and the Heart of a Warrior Charitable Foundation. The tournament included a raffle and silent auction. Auction items included an official Dallas Cowboys helmet signed by Tony Romo, authentic Dallas Cowboys paraphernalia, and official NFL footballs signed by DeMarcus Ware, Miles Austin and Felix Jones. In March, the chapter held its Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. The tournament was held at the home of Sharon and William “Bill” Turnley Jr.

The Dillard University Concert Choir performed at Friendship-West Baptist Church and received a donation of over $5,000.

LOS ANGELES

The Los Angeles chapter hosted its annual Holiday Gathering in December at the home of Susan Bradshaw, ’56, and her husband David. On February 4, chapter members Dr. Chris Rose Mallonee, ’96, and Ruby Cato Laster, ’60, were honored at the UNCF National Alumni and Pre-Alumni Council Leadership Conference in Birmingham, Ala. Dr. Mallonee received the “Outstanding Young Alumni Award,” and Mrs. Laster was inducted into the “Hall of Honor.” The chapter is very proud to have donated $1,000 to assist the relief efforts in Japan following the recent earthquakes, tsunami, and nuclear crisis. The donation was made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief and 100 percent of the proceeds will go to the people of Japan.

On February 11, the chapter hosted a joint social event with the Howard University Los Angeles alumni chapter. The event was held at PIPS, a local restaurant. On April 2, the chapter held its Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon. The theme was “Building a Successful Future Through Education.” Dr. Marvulae Hughes was the keynote speaker. Seven $1,000 student scholarships and three alumni awards were presented. Tamara Middleton, ’99, received the Meritorious Service Award; Mia Sadler, ’02, received the Professional Achievement Award; and Susan Bradshaw, ’56, received the Dr. Samuel Dallabos Cookbook Distinguished Alumni Award.

The chapter awarded $5000 in student scholarships to nine deserving students. This year’s recipients were: Brenna Barnes, ’14, a nursing major; Lawrence Eblin, ’12, a mass communication major with a minor in history; Jayone Fine, ’11, a biology major with a minor in chemistry; Jessica Gordon, ’14, a chemistry/pre-med major; Joanna Ware, ’14, a chemistry/pre-med major; Canessa Cani, ’13, a mass communication major; and Monique McGhee, ’12, a sociology and social work major. Two very deserving students from Northern California were also awarded: Ella Hill and Michaela Miller.

On Sunday, July 17, the chapter hosted its annual Summer Send-off, a reception for incoming DU freshmen and transfer students. The reception connects new students with alumni and peers to make them feel a part of the Dillard community before arriving on campus in the fall.

NEW ORLEANS

The Greater New Orleans chapter has remained a visible and active force on the Dillard campus, participating in forums concerning the president’s search, DU theater productions, student-led forums on DU culture and pride, Honors Convocation and the Annual Spring Concert.

In the spring, the chapter awarded a $500 scholarship to a deserving DU student. In January, the chapter hosted an after party for the Blue Devil Classic with music provided by alumni DJ Raj Smoove. In February, the chapter hosted its first Mardi Gras social.

All participants enjoyed food, fun and the fellowship of their fellow alumni while highlighting the carnival season.

The chapter is planning its 2nd Annual Old School Step Show, currently scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2011. The chapter hopes all local alumni will join them at their regular meetings, held on the Dillard campus on the third Thursday of every month, as they continue to “help lift up our students.”

WASHINGTON AREA (DC, MD, VA)

A number of Washington area alumni were honored to return to the Avenue of the Oaks to celebrate their 50th class reunions over the past five years. They include: Antoinette Gabriel Lyles and Franklin Hodges in 2007; Ruth Rich Hodges in 2008; Marie Smith Davidson, Charline Lewis Jacob, and Floyd Wilson in 2009; and Naoma Ches Green, Lornane Williams Johnson, and Louise Jennings Tankerson in 2010.

In May, Dr. Sidney Green, Eugene Johnson and Madison Lyles were honored during commencement as “Golden Graduates” from the class of 1961. Many chapter members also celebrated 50 years of marriage as “Golden Dillard Couples.” The chapter congratulates all Golden Graduates and Golden Couples and looks forward to celebrating with other members in years to come.

The chapter would like to congratulate Beth Peterson for planning outstanding events this past year, including the December holiday dinner; the Mardi Gras meeting and a dinner meeting with President Hughes. Plans are currently underway for the chapter’s Annual Jazz Brunch Scholarship Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, November 14, 2011. If you plan on being in the DCM/MD/VA area during this time and would like to attend, please send your contact info to: PO BOX 02355 Silver Spring, MD 20908.
Alumni Chapters and Presidents 2011-2013

Arkansas Chapter
Glenn B. Sergeant, ‘74 glb1905@yahoo.com

Atlanta Chapter
Constance Parks, ‘83 constparks@bellsouth.net

Baton Rouge Chapter
Dennis J. Jefferson, ‘77 dfjefferson@doctornework.com

Birmingham Chapter
Brandon L. Bowens, ’05 bbowens36@gmail.com

Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter
Tracy Harman, ’99 trtntee2@yahoo.com

Detroit Chapter
Cedrick T. Udinkes, ‘85 cudinkes@acel.com

Houston Chapter
Mark Samul, ’94 mmark98@yahoo.com

Jackson (Mississippi) Chapter
Flynn Wallace, 77 fealcool2@comcast.net

Los Angeles Chapter
Charlee Muldrow, ’06 charlee.muldrow@gmail.com

Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter
Crissi A. Phillips, ’91 cphillips6595@msn.com

Mobile (AL) Chapter
Preston Dangerfield, ’78 pandanger@msn.com
(Greater) New Orleans Chapter
Malik Bartholomeus, ’04 mbbart@holmesgcm.com

Northern Californa Chapter
Roland Pickens, ’85 rolandpickens@yahoo.com

Buckeye (OH) Chapter
Benjamin Wallace, ’96 benjaminwallace@lozaki.com

San Francisco Chapter
Roland Pickens, ’85 rolandpickens@bhsf.org

Spartan Chapter
Crystal Allen Dallas, ’04 crydallas@yahoo.com

St. Louis Chapter
April Cotton, ’91 acottonnp@comcast.com

Washington Area Chapter
(DC/MD/VA)
Syrine Green, ’61 syr_s@yahoo.net

Go to www.dillard.edu and visit the Alumni Relations Office website for updates.

Alumni Updates

Shelby A. Causton, ’54, celebrated her retirement after 40 years of service as a librarian at Laney College in Oakland. Cof-Founder of the Dillard family celebrated this wonderful occasion with her last June.

Antoinette Ilyes, ‘57, and Madison Ilyes, ‘81, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in New Orleans during reunion weekend. This was also Mr. Ilyes 50th year class reunion.

Lorraine Williams-Johnson, ’90, recently donated copies of her published books of poems to the alumni house library. Her poem “A Child’s Pika,” which deals with learning problems in children, was featured in an issue of The Journal of Reading Recovery.

Beverly Jacques Anderson, Ph.D., ’85, recently published her first novel, Chiseled Memories. Dr. Anderson takes the reader on a fascinating journey through her childhood and her experiences growing up in the Creole culture of New Orleans.

Larry Lundy, ’75, was recognized in March by the Dillard University College of Business as its inaugural “Champion of the American Dream” award. He was honored for his philanthropic efforts, his dedication to academic excellence and persistence in business pursuits, and his role as a model for the New Orleans community.

David Sullivan, ’71 and Mushel Sullivan, ’78, recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

Gregory Terrell, ’72, was featured in the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc. Division of Firms newsletter last spring. He is the managing director and founder of Gregory Terrell & Company in Detroit and has been a NASA member for over 35 years.

Roland A. Pickens, ’85, was recently promoted from senior associate admin-istrator to chief operating officer at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. In this position, he is responsible for $338 million in revenue.

Darlene A. Moore, ’86, the newly appointed pastor of St. Mark Church in Opelousas, La., recently published two prayers/liturgies in the Song and Worship Resource Book 2011.

Islands Johnson, ’83, was featured in Yahoo! Business News for her novel, Someday Called Me Home. An Oceaniver’s Story. In the book, Islands shares her emotional life story and describes overcoming struggles by “finding God and embracing his plan.”

Adro Tippins-Owens, ’98, was married last fall in West, R.I., to Jeradi Owens. Many of the bridesmaids were DU alumni from the class of 1998. Tamekie Reece, Leaharai Singleton, Tapayea Robbins, Rachel Williams, and Michelle Smith.

Cory L. Blackwell, ’97, recently received his doctorate in philosophy with a concentration in microbiology from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tenn.

Cory L. Blackwell, ’97

Dr. Monica L. Sangster, ’06, recently received her doctorate in dental surgery from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn.


Valerie J. Vessel, ’04, and Terry C. Landry Jr., will marry this fall at St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Baton Rouge, La. Valerie received her Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center. She is an attorney with the Louisiana Department of Justice, Baton Rouge College and Landry & Vessel LLC.

Adro Tippins-Owens, ’98, and Jeradi Mitchell

Cory L. Blackwell, ’97

Valerie J. Vessel, ’04, and Terry C. Landry Jr.

Kristin Rashell Nevels, ’04, and Gini Vnel Clark. ’04, will marry in an October 2011 ceremony at White Oak Plantation in Baton Rouge, La. Krasin received her M.A. in journalism and public relations from California State University, Fullerton and is pursuing graduate studies in educational programs and curricula from Concordia University.

Dr. Monica L. Sangster, ’06

Kristin Rashell Nevels, ’04, and Gini Vnel Clark. ’04

Dr. Monica L. Sangster, ’06

Kristin Rashell Nevels, ’04, and Gini Vnel Clark. ’04

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Alumni Partner
Shout out to Eulaeisha Washington, ’93, owner of Up Up and Away Printing for the wonderful job and excellent customer service provided in producing our reunion t-shirts and bags. We are so proud of our alumni vendor: www.upupprinting.com
FROM THE DUNAA PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

In 2009, President Laster challenged alumni to assist in growing DUNAA and the university by suggesting that we “Catch the Momentum!” It was around this time that I initially considered offering my services, in a different capacity and to an even greater extent, to the institution that has meant so much to me throughout my life by seeking the office of DUNAA National President.

Thanks to alumni across the nation who exhibited confidence in my ability to do just that, by supporting my candidacy, I am humbled and extremely excited to represent you in this next biennium and ask that you continue your support of the association and our alma mater by getting involved both financially and physically. We need you!

On behalf of Dillard alumni worldwide, heartfelt thanks to Ralph Laster and the entire Dillard University National Alumni Association Executive Board for unfailingly and tirelessly efforts the past years, while representing us all as they worked in the name of the association and for the advancement of our Alma Mater. Thanks also to Dr. Marvalene Hughes for everything she contributed to our Fair Dillard as we wish her well in the next stage of her personal and professional life. She’s leaving us and the next university administration with a great challenge. Your 2011-2013 DUNAA Executive Board, with whom I am proud to serve, is poised and ready to work with the university’s new leadership team, and we pray we are received in that same spirit of dedication, devotion and “family.”

The momentum continues to build… “It’s Time!”

“IT’s Time!” was not just a campaign slogan, but a call to unite us and have our voices heard so that we might make a true difference. The time to reclaim our Legacy of Love and Tradition of Excellence, while helping to provide what current students at our “Fair Dillard” really need and deserve, is NOW!

“IT’s Time,” for improved organization and structure in our association, for increased accountability, for strong alumni representation and leadership, for even greater unity among our ranks and for a return to excellence. These are the necessary and required characteristics that lead to improved alumni communication among our membership and all university entities, to the enhanced presence and participation of alumni both on campus, AND off, and to significant increases in alumni giving. It is because of our combined accomplishments professionally and our honored status as “Dillard Men and Women,” that we are uniquely positioned to make a real difference here. “IT’S TIME!” for us to do this TOGETHER!

I, along with your newly elected DUNAA Executive Board and the next biennium’s Board of Governors, in great anticipation of an exciting and more productive DUNAA, humbly and with much “DU Love,” invite and welcome your input, contributions and full support.

Pamela R. Higgins Francois, ’79, BS, MAEd
President, DUNAA
A lasting legacy. A bright future. Your gift makes it happen.

For information, please contact Khalilah R. Elliott, Senior Director of Annual Giving and Donor Relations at (504) 816-4767