Dillard's Green Future
Building Student Success and a New Student Union
Alumni Families: Like Father, Like Son
Plus Alumni Entrepreneurs, Campus News, the Bleu Devil Classic and more...

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The Atrium in the Professional Schools and Sciences Building
FEATURES

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Dillard University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097.
Greetings.

The 2009-2010 academic year has passed swiftly with the myriad conferences, workshops, seminars, community initiatives and mayoral debates taking place at Dillard University. Students, alumni, faculty and staff have been engaged at every level, as conference planners, participants and exhibitors.

In this issue of Dillard Today, we are taking the opportunity to reflect and celebrate what we have accomplished in such a short time. This year Dillard commemorated its 140th anniversary with a spirited Founders’ Day program, and the celebration will culminate with the Alumni Reunion events during Commencement Weekend 2010. We dedicated the Distance Learning Center in the Will W. Alexander Library with the help of the American Jewish Committee, and we hosted the 67th Annual National Institute of Science Conference. In addition, Dillard was recognized by the Washington Monthly 2009 College Guide as one of the Top Ten Liberal Arts Colleges for its commitment to the public good, and was honored by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity during its annual scholarship banquet in Wichita, Kansas.

Perhaps the most exciting celebration will occur during the Commencement 2010 ceremony when award-winning poet and activist Nikki Giovanni delivers the keynote address, followed by two ribbon cutting ceremonies – one for the Professional Schools and Sciences Building (pictured on the cover), the other for the Student Professional Schools and Sciences Building. Both buildings will be LEED-certified at the gold level. There is more inside about these magnificent structures, the first of their kind in the history of Dillard University.

I hope you will have an opportunity to visit the campus soon to tour these new buildings and see firsthand the growth and prosperity of Dillard University. I know you will be as proud as I am of how far we have come in 2009-2010.

Sincerely,

Marvalene Hughes, Ph.D.
President

Held by the American Jewish Committee Distance Learning Center

In January, the university hosted a traveling exhibit honoring the work and memory of South African civil rights pioneer Helen Suzman. The Suzman exhibit, displayed at the Will W. Alexander Library, was scheduled in tandem with the dedication of the American Jewish Committee Distance Learning Center, a new, state-of-the-art videoconference center funded post-Katrina by the American Jewish Committee. The university’s Black-Jewish Relations Project sponsored both events.

Suzman, a stalwart of the South African Jewish Community and a member of Parliament for over 35 years, was one of the first white women ever to publicly oppose apartheid. Former South African President Nelson Mandela was quoted in a December 2008 edition of the New York Times on Suzman’s visit to him in prison: “It was an odd and wonderful sight to see this courageous woman peering into our cells and strolling our courtyard... she was the first and only woman ever to grace our cells.”

MLK Week for Peace unites university communities

The 24th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Week for Peace brought together the Dillard, Tulane, Xavier and Loyola communities for a week of commemorative activities honoring the legacy of Dr. King. Dillard hosted “Expressions of Unity,” a celebration of Dr. King’s life through music, dance, drama and spoken word at the Cook Theatre. Xavier University sponsored the staging point for the MLK Day of Service, as students fanned out across the city to paint, plant shrubbery and pick up trash at shelters, cemeteries, and senior citizen centers. Tulane University’s convocation featured political journalist Roland S. Martin and honored local students who have amassed considerable community service hours. Dillard’s Sabrina Bland, a senior from Oakland, Calif., was recognized for her work with numerous charitable organizations including the United Negro College Fund, Habitat for Humanity and Handa Across America.
Mayoral debates held at Dillard Dillard hosted two mayoral debates during this electoral season. The first debate focused on issues of importance to the African American community and played to an evening overflow crowd in the Cook Auditorium. The candidates fielded questions about education, environmental and juvenile justice, and economic opportunities for minority businesses. Several organizations sponsored the event, including the African American Women of Purpose and Power, the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, the Urban League, the NAACP, the Crescent City and Pontchartrain chapters of the Links and a host of local minority media organizations including the Louisiana Weekly, NewsWeekly, The Tribune and the New Orleans Agenda.

The second debate focused on issues of importance to the Gentilly neighborhoods that surround Dillard University. The Gentilly Cove Improvement Association, the Civic Improvement Association, the City and Pontchartrain chapters of the NAACP, the Crescent American Women of Purpose and the event, including the African American community and played to an enormous role in the mentoring of over 45 university presidents or chancellors in higher education for senior faculty or chancellor in higher education and placed them on the role for relief and recovery efforts to help Haitian people.

Dillard students took it upon themselves to organize a donation drive and collect food, clothing, blankets, and first aid and hygiene products. The Division of Humanities quickly mounted a benefit concert and silent auction with performances by Ellis Marsalis, Franklin Davis IV, Professor Sherron Mutina, as well as art provided by Ron Bechet, Willie Birchman, John Barnes and Victoria Ryan. All proceeds were denoted to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.

a forum featured games, skits and a lecture from educator La Tania C. Wright on how tobacco companies target black communities. Other discussion topics included the risks of tobacco use and the possibility of making Dillard a smoke-free campus.
Alum honored as Model of Success

Dorothy Perrault, ’60, was honored on Wednesday, March 24, at the first Models of Success Reception at the Alumni House. Models of Success, a new program designed to recognize Dillard alums for success in their fields and for giving back to the community, will help bridge the gap between current students and alumni, says Adrian Guy, ’01, the executive director of Alumni Relations. After graduating from Dillard’s Division of Nursing, Perrault became the first registered black nurse at Sara Mayo Hospital in New Orleans. An entrepreneur, she has excelled in fields ranging from business and politics, to child care and catering. At the reception, DU President Marvalene Hughes gave her a proclamation, and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin gave her a miniature key to the city.

Dillard celebrates its 140th anniversary at Homecoming Week

Dillard University celebrated its 140th birthday in November with a slew of events during Homecoming Week 2009. Campus fraternities and sororities strutted their stuff during the Greek Day Exhibition. A new Miss and Mr. Dillard took their place at the head of the Homecoming Court at the Coronation Ball, titled “Unbreakable Excellence.” Students participated in community service projects, hosted an event on the Avenue of the Oaks to promote environmental awareness, and rooted for the Bleu Devils at a pair of Homecoming basketball games. The week culminated with the rededication of Lawless Memorial Chapel and the Founders’ Day Convocation on Sunday, November 22. Keynote speaker Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, the famed educator who served as university president from 1974-1997, closed the festivities with an address to the Dillard community.

Dillard awarded Top 10 Ranking by Washington Monthly College Guide

The Washington Monthly 2009 College Guide awarded Dillard University a Top 10 Ranking for liberal arts schools in the social mobility category. The ranking acknowledges Dillard’s ongoing commitment to recruiting and graduating low-income students.

Amiri Baraka speaks at Dillard

Author and activist Amiri Baraka visited Dillard on the evening of Thursday, March 25. The renowned and controversial figure, author of works such as Black Magic and Blues People: Negro Music in White America, spoke and signed books in Lawless Memorial Chapel. Baraka’s lecture was preceded by a performance from saxophonist Edward “Kidd” Jordan. The event was sponsored by the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation as part of the Tom Dent Congo Square Lecture Series.

Dillard NIS/BKX science conference a success

Dillard University and Southern University at New Orleans hosted the 67th Annual National Institute of Science/Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society Conference from March 24-28 at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. The conference’s theme was “The Emergence of OMIC Technologies in Addressing Health Disparities” (OMIC refers to fields such as genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics). Between lectures and panel discussions, students and professionals networked, shared ideas, and even found some time to enjoy the Crescent City. Dillard University biology professor Dr. Ruby Broadway served as the chair of the conference’s local organizing committee.

Amiri Baraka speaks at Lawless Chapel on March 25.

Amiri Baraka speaks at Lawless Chapel on March 25.
Dr. Gary M. Clark knew at an early age he was interested in politics. “I’ll never forget it. I was in junior high at Southern University’s laboratory school in Baton Rouge and a student teacher came through. He was a political science major and made it all sound so interesting,” Clark said. “I became interested in politics and power – presidential power, the power of nations. I gravitated toward it.”

Clark majored in political science at Southeastern University in Hammond, and received a master’s degree in Latin American studies at Tulane University. Unable to resist the opportunity to watch the political game from the inside, Clark took a job as a staff assistant at the Louisiana Legislative Council and then moved to an assistant’s position on the staff of Rep. Gilliss W. Long, the democratic congressman from Louisiana in the 1970s. “Every day was a learning experience,” Clark said. “Gilliss Long was the third ranking member of Congress in the democratic party, and the second ranking democrat on the rules committee. He had a lot of power and influence. I was literally on the floor of the House of Representatives every day. The congressman would wake up every morning and make phone calls and move bills. Even though he was disrupting people, it was a good task. The people he would call would talk about their conversation with the congressman for the rest of the day. Long set the tone, the agenda, the pace for everyone.”

While working for Long, Clark earned his doctorate in political science at Howard University in Washington, D.C. His first teaching job was at Spelman College in Atlanta. “I wasn’t very much older than the students. It was good for me to be there; my mother was a graduate,” he said. From Atlanta, he moved to New Orleans to teach at Xavier University where he also chaired the political science department. After serving as an adjunct faculty member at Southern University, Clark got a phone call from the office of Dillard University President Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook. “Who can refuse a call from Dr. Cook?” he said. Since receiving the call, Clark has chaired the Dillard department of political science and occupied the Barron Hilton Endowed Chair. Clark sometimes plays the political pundit as the host and executive producer of the cable television news program Dr. Clark Reports. The day after health care legislation passed in the House, Clark commented on the road President Obama must travel. This is indeed significant social legislation, but the price will be paid in the generation to come. Obama has come to power as a reformist and a reformist agenda is always very, very difficult. Elections have consequences. That is why I tell people to vote.”

Although he has served as chairman of the board of trustees of the Finance Authority of New Orleans, chair of the Louisiana State Police Commission, and commissioner of the New Orleans Civil Service Commission, Clark’s primary mission remains teaching political science to undergrads at Dillard University. “For me, it is a calling. I want to be involved in African-American education, in the South, in Louisiana, in a historically black college. I don’t do it for the money. I was called to be engaged in this process. I like what I do.”

Since 2004, Young has taught in Dillard’s Division of Nursing, teaching research nursing, pharmacology, pediatrics, and fundamentals of nursing. When she’s not working with students, Young is in the lab advancing the field. In March, she finished postdoctoral work in clinical genetics from the University of Iowa. Young research explores genetic predispositions toward obesity. Some of her results might surprise you. “We’re finding that some people, even though they have a greater fat composition, or they’re heavier according to body mass index (BMI), they may be healthier than someone who is really tiny and eats 100 Twinkies per day.”

Young has traveled across the country and written for numerous publications in her quest to find the link between African Americans and obesity. She recently presented at the Conference of the International Society of Nurses in Genetics in San Francisco and the International Conference on obesity in Phoenix. She has written articles for The Journal of National Black Nurses Association, The Online Journal of Health Ethics, Applied Nursing Research, and Obesity on topics such as BMI and African American adolescents.

Young was born in Houston and raised in Alexandria, La. Her father served in the air force and her mother practiced nursing. As a child, Young grew attached to her mother’s profession. “When I was little, she used to take me to the hospital and let me help out, pass out water,” she said. “Now we call them recreational therapists, but back then it was just me sitting and talking, helping the patients. They used to say, ‘Yo, you’re gonna be just like your mom, a good little nurse.’ I think it just kind of stuck. I liked going to the hospitals, and I liked helping, so I knew from about the age of nine

that I was going to be a nurse.”

Young majored in nursing at Grambling State University, got her master’s at Northwestern University, and earned her Ph.D. at Southern University. She also did a postdoctorate at Georgetown University through the Institute of Health. She taught at the University of Iowa, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport and Bossier Parish Community College before coming to Dillard. She says she loves the atmosphere of a small HBCU. She also likes the new Professional Schools and Sciences Building, where the Division of Nursing will conduct classes starting next year. “I just took my tour last week and it’s beautiful,” said Young. “We expect to do great things in that building.”

In addition to teaching and earning advanced degrees, Young maintains memberships in organizations such as the Midwestern Nursing Research Society, the National Black Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association and the Obesity Society. And when, on occasion, she actually has a moment’s free time, what does Dr. Young like to do? “I read romance novels,” she said, laughing. “I should’ve said exercise, huh!”

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tale of hard work, dedication and, ultimately, success. An Edgardo, L.A., native, Jefferson graduated from Dillard with a degree in accounting and hit the road selling hardware to physicians. One of his clients suggested he enter the field of medical software. In 1982, Jefferson founded Complete Medical Solutions, a practice management and electronic medical records company that caters especially to the fertility, family practice and community health sectors.

Today CMS, based in Baton Rouge, is a multimillion-dollar organization. Jefferson shares the company with three partners and employs 20 people. Last year, CMS secured its biggest contract yet: one that put its products in every local Veterans Administration office in the country.

“I was contacted by the VA to look at their billing process,” Jefferson said. “They asked us to write software that would convert their paper system for processing claims to an electronic one.” CMS began by introducing the system at the Veterans Administration office in Jackson, Miss. “After it was well received, the national department in Washington and they wanted to see if we could make this a product that would work in every VA in the country. And we did.”

Jefferson, the president of the Baton Rouge chapter of Dillard’s National Alumni Association, credits his alma mater with teaching him for success. “It was a stepping stone that allowed me to shine,” he said. “I love Dillard, and I have total confidence that young men and women who go to Dillard can’t go wrong.”

A strong education wasn’t the only thing he found on the Avenue of the Oaks. Shortly after he graduated, Jefferson returned to the Dillard campus for a Greek show (he pledged Alpha Phi Omega). There he met Debbie Dunlap, a fellow accounting major and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Before long the two were married. Debbie would go on to work for Xerox for 20 years. She now manages her own consulting firm.

“The Jefferisons would like to pass on their success to the next generation of Dillard students. With the creation of the community health clinic in Dillard’s new Student Union Health and Wellness Center, they see an opportunity for potential Dillard interns at CMS. Someday, those internships could even lead to full-time jobs.

“We can bring in young individuals who are just getting out of school, and actually bring them along and give them a good trade,” said Ferdinand. “And if they leave the company, our employees can find jobs anywhere because they’re familiar not only with hardware and software, but with how the health care market works.”

Jefferson has some hard-won advice for graduating students. “Don’t just stick with the status quo. Try to be different,” he said. “That’s what Dillard actually teaches you. Instead of working for someone, think about owning your own business. Become a leader and not a follower.”

As a liberal arts institution, Dillard University has always sought to train the whole person. Dr. Lewis Ross Brown and his wife Sharmaine Jones Brown are living proof that the approach works. After studying the three Rs, the couple began practicing the three Es: environmentalism, education and evangelism.

Lewis and Sharmaine were born and raised in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, respectively. They met at Dillard where they both double majored in biology and chemistry. After graduating in 1991, they worked together doing environmental grant writing and consulting. They married in 1996.

Lewis credits Dillard University biology professor Dr. Ruby Broadway with sparking their interest in environmental science. “Dr. Broadway got me interested in the field back in 1986,” he said. “I love helping people and I love working with the environment. I love being able to make a difference.”

Today the couple lives in the Dale City community of Nokesville, Va. Lewis works as an aquatic toxicologist for the Environmental Protection Agency, studying the effect of pesticides on living organisms, including endangered species, and helping keep dangerous chemicals off the market.

Sharmaine works as an environmental chemist for the Federal Aviation Administration, researching the effects of airport construction on wildlife and the environment. “The environment is important to everyone,” she said. “We’re all affected by it. It’s important we make sure the air, land and water are preserved.”

When the weekend rolls around, the Browns attend the Third Baptist Church of Alexandria, and work with their very own ministry, the Gospel Train for Jesus Christ. The ministry recently produced a TV program for Easter Sunday called “The Devil’s Daughter.” That was filmed right down in New Orleans at Straight College,” said Lewis. “In 1955, Straight College merged with New Orleans University to form Dillard.”

The Browns developed a great appreciation for their roots at their alma mater. “Professor Dorothy Smith in the history department,” Lewis said, “is one of the most well-known historians of African-American literature and history that you will ever meet. I remember when she brought Stokely Carmichael on campus, Sharmaine and I were just so amazed by the way he talked about the civil rights era, and the things he did with Dr. King and Malcolm X.”

Last year, Sharmaine received a community health award from the NAACP and Lewis received a leadership award from the organization. They continue to give back to the community by teaching students at Virginia schools about environmental awareness. Lewis takes pride in Dillard’s efforts to become more sustainable, including its construction of two new environmentally-friendly buildings.

“When I read about that, I was just so proud,” he said. “Dillard’s one of the first schools to do that, the first that I knew of to say that’s my alma mater.”

Last April, the Browns were inducted into the Arlington Black Heritage Museum’s Board of Directors. They began their relationship with the museum when Lewis donated films from his library. “Some of the films have been taken out of circulation,” he said. His collection features classic performances from Paul Robeson, Godfrey Cambridge and Nina Simone, including the actress’s 1959 picture, “The Devil’s Daughter.” “That was filmed right down in New Orleans at Straight College,” said Lewis. “In 1955, Straight College merged with New Orleans University to form Dillard.”

Not many finance majors graduate to an investment banking job with Citigroup in New York. But letitia Dillard, ‘00, is no ordinary woman. She reached for the sky and kept climbing. Ten years later, this Chicago native is the director of Corporate Merger & Acquisitions. Her work has taken her from New York to Italy. Australia and the U.K. Last year she negotiated Citigroup’s acquisition of the Japanese company Nikko Cordial Securities – a transaction worth more than $8 billion. We spoke to her about work, play, and her time at Fair Dillard.

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Bleu Devil Classic Celebrates Dillard Athletics

The Dillard and Xavier basketball teams faced off in the Second Annual Bleu Devil Classic at Lakefront Arena on Saturday, Jan. 30. Although Dillard’s men’s and women’s teams both fell to Xavier on the court, the games highlighted a weekend of fun for students, athletes and alumni. The games were preceded by a tailgate featuring food, music, dancers, cheerleaders and appearances from celebrities such as Major League Baseball player Brandon Watson.

The night before, the Second Annual Billy Ray Hobley Scholarship Gala was held on campus. The event, which featured a silent auction and dancing, sponsors a scholarship in honor of the late Billy Ray Hobley, a Dillard basketball great and longtime player for the Harlem Globetrotters. The scholarship was awarded to Mico Sjekloca, a sociology major and starting forward for the Bleu Devils men’s basketball team. Sjekloca, a native of Cetinje, Montenegro, led the team in rebounds and blocked shots this season and finished second in scoring, averaging 10.5 points per game. “Mico has done an outstanding job,” said Dillard Athletic Director Kiki Baker Barnes. “He has worked really hard to acclimate himself to the academic demands of the university and the demands of being a scholar-athlete.”

On Sunday, Alumni Affairs hosted a farewell brunch to thank alums for attending this weekend celebration of Dillard athletics. Go Bleu Devils!

Clockwise from top left: City Council member Arnie Fielkow with Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Kiki Baker Barnes; Autrail Manning, ’10; (L-R:) Barnes, Mattie Hobley and Dr. Hughes; members of Dillard’s 2001 G.C.A.C. men’s basketball championship team; Mico Sjekloca, ’12, (right) with the Hobley family; Cheyney Hill, ’12, the DU Diamond dance team.

Clockwise from top right: James Burkes, ’10, takes the tip off; the Bleu Crew shows its spirit; Lauren Daniel, ’12, at the foul line; Jerry Thompson, ’13; (L-R:) Deri’ Andrea Tucker, ’12, Christile Perrier, ’12, and Tracci Lee, ’12, of the vocal group A’prique.
When Hurricane Katrina’s floodwaters drained from Dillard University’s campus, Dillard President Dr. Marvalene Hughes and Executive Vice President Dr. Walter Strong tallied the damage. “In the short term, we would lose classroom and administrative space to the rebuilding process,” said Dr. Hughes. “In the long term, we would permanently lose those easily flooded basements and ground floors that had been used for operations and administration. To make up the shortage, Dillard would have to start construction on new buildings.”

Dr. Strong approached the federal Department of Education for an HBCU loan. “Our application for the HBCU loan was predicated on lost square footage, but our intent was always to build state-of-the-art, environmentally sustainable buildings. We wanted to reflect in the construction of classrooms and laboratories our desire to provide facilities going forward that would be second to none in higher education,” Strong said.

The five years since Hurricane Katrina have been marked by rebirth and rebuilding. May 8, 2010 will usher in the next era for the Dillard campus. On that day, after commencement ceremonies, the ribbon will be cut on the school’s new Professional Schools and Sciences Building. Standing three stories high, covering 130,000 square feet and costing $38 million, the building will be the crown jewel of the rebuilt campus.

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After spending three years repairing damage to scores of buildings, Dillard requested proposals for a new building to house its Divisions of Business, Nursing, and Natural Sciences and Public Health. In November 2008, Dillard awarded the project to

The new Professional Schools and Sciences Building is a beacon of environmental sustainability

“This Professional Schools and Sciences Building will be a living testimony to the transformation taking place here at our university. This 130,000 square foot building will be ‘green-designed,’ and it will meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating standards established by the U.S. Green Building Council. While we may not be the first to embark on such an undertaking, Dillard is at the forefront of a small number of institutions in this country who are being proactive in practicing environmental responsibility.”

—Marvalene Hughes, Ph.D., President
the team of Madison Madison International, Sizeler Thompson Brown and Woodward Design + Build. “This building represents a wonderful story and Dillard’s contribution to the comeback of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana,” said Sharon Madison-Polk, owner of Madison Madison International, one of the oldest black architectural and engineering firms in the country. “This is a significant milestone in Dillard’s history and we are proud to be part of it.”

Ian Thompson, principal and president of Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects, the New Orleans firm that serves as Dillard University’s campus master planner, said the new building would fit into plans for the campus. “A master plan is like a road map,” Thompson said. “You establish a vision of how a university will grow over two, five, 10 years’ time, and it helps get you from here to there in a reasonable, orderly fashion.”

The architects met at length with Dillard faculty, staff and students to gather their input for the building. “We had multiple interviews with the chemistry groups, the mathematics department, Dr. Dennis and the nursing department and so on,” said Chris Michel, project executive at Woodward Design + Build. “We brought together their needs and special requirements. Right after that, we moved straight into design and construction… We were off to the races.”

Dr. Hughes established one essential requirement from the outset: the building had to be certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. Sustainability became the key concept at every step of the building’s construction process.

The designers, architects and mechanical and electrical engineers followed Dr. Hughes’s directive and took care to make the building and its construction as energy-efficient as possible. “Almost everything in the building has a degree of recycled material in it,” said Michel. “And we took it into account where the materials come from. From a transportation standpoint, if you don’t buy materials from the other side of the country, you don’t use the fuel to transport it. You’ve got to buy local. The steel and brick, for example, come from within a 500-mile radius.”

Builders installed the latest technology for enhanced energy conservation. Occupancy sensors ensure no one ever forgets to turn off a light switch. State-of-the-art technology keeps the air conditioning system as efficient as possible, and engineers designed the chemistry labs to minimize exhaust. Outside, storm water coming off the roof does double duty. While some of it waters plants, the rest seeps into the ground and runs through a series of bioswales. There, silt and pollution are removed from the water, and the purified water then feeds into the campus duck pond on Gentilly Boulevard. This, in turn, reduces the amount of water going into the storm water drainage system and controls flooding.

In addition to being a model of environmental sustainability, the Professional Schools and Sciences Building is a visually arresting structure. Three grand entrances, accented by tall columns and curved windows, highlight the exterior. “We wanted to have a modern looking building, but not stray from the look of the campus,” said Michel. “So even though the building has a modern look, with the glass door fronts and curtain wall systems, it still has the white brick that ties it to the rest of the campus.”

“Part of designing on a campus is matching and working with the campus architecture,” said Thompson. “The style here is white brick buildings with Greek- or Georgian-type arcades and porches. And so this building enhances the campus and relates to the historic buildings while having its own presence and identity.”

The building’s interior features high-definition, flat-panel TVs at every turn. Lecture halls hold plush, theater-style seats with cup holders. High-tech laboratories and conference rooms abound. The office areas have large windows, and walls and ceilings painted vibrant shades of orange and green.

“The architects consider the theater a major accomplishment. "The concept of the auditorium was not to be a major performance auditorium, like the one in the Cook Center, which has a stage and prosenium and is designed for music and theater," said Thompson. “The auditorium in the Professional Schools Building will be used for major lectures and functions which would typically be at a lower acoustic requirement. Nonetheless, it has very high acoustic qualities.” At 420 seats, the theater is one of the largest gathering spaces on campus. “It has comfortable, well-spaced seating, it has a sloped floor so everyone has a good view. We like the space,” he said.

The atrium, however, is the building’s showpiece. Three stories high and surrounded by walkways on the second and third floors, it serves as the building’s focal circulation point. “All three entrances feed into the atrium,” said Thompson. “On a basic level, it lets a lot of daylight into the center of a very big building. It’s like the light well in an old office building.” This accessibility to natural light also reduces energy expenditure.

“Another function of the space is for people to meet,” Thompson continued. “Chalk talk. The atrium encourages social or academic interaction among students, or between students and faculty. Discuss the lecture you just heard or the scientific experiment you just conducted. And there are lots of spaces like that around the building, smaller spaces where you can sit after a class, maybe do some homework or start Twittering your friends. But the atrium is the central hub. When you’re there, you can see events taking place on different floors and it’s very visual. It sets the standard for the building, so it had to be a pretty spectacular space.”

Columns line the atrium’s central hall on both sides. Ornate lighting fixtures – reminiscent of streetlights – hang delicately from each column. The hallway is reminiscent of the layout of the Avenue of the Oaks. On the ground floor, the atrium is flanked by two classrooms and the moot court, a room that should generate more than a little student interest in mock trial. The whole area can also function as one large space. “The glass walls on either side of the atrium fold back,” said Michel. The university can open up the atrium and use it as a flexible space for receptions, or large fundraising events. A warming kitchen adjacent to the atrium can be used to prepare hors d’oeuvres for such functions. Elsewhere, a full-size kitchen will be used for catered events. While the atrium inspires wonder, the green roof will cause people to pause for a moment and contemplate. This outdoor...
DILLARD AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Clockwise from top left: The atrium, as seen from a third floor balcony; the moot court; a classroom; an office; a laboratory.
sustainable scientist

Dillard’s environmental initiatives extend far beyond the classroom

Biology professor AMY LESEN is developing an ecology and environmental science curriculum at Dillard. A New York City native, Lesen’s parents used to take her to the beach on Long Island where she spent hours wondering what lay beneath the waves. Now she helps urban students discover the environment and its connections to their communities. She is currently working on a proposal with Dr. Steve Buddington and Dr. Mungatuli Sanyika to develop a new initiative called the Dillard Center for the Environment and Public Policy. Dr. Lesen recently filed us in on her current activity.

“... My work explores the connections between ecosystems and human society. There is no better place to study these questions than coastal Louisiana and New Orleans. I am currently involved in some really exciting projects, all of which involve Dillard students:

- I am organizing a National Science Foundation-funded symposium on civic engagement in science and academia. I am collaborating on this project with Richard Campanella, a well-known geographer at Tulane University, and getting help from Dillard biology major Nadine Wallace, ’12. This symposium will bring 30 researchers from across the world to Dillard to discuss ways scientists and other experts can better engage with communities.

- I am working with BISCO (Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing) on community outreach, coastal restoration, and climate change projects in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. A particularly interesting part of this project involves working with the Native Americans on the Isle de Jean Charles, a Louisiana coastal island that floods so badly, and so regularly, that the entire Native community has been forced to move two hours inland.

- I recently partnered with local artist and Xavier University professor Ron Bechet on an environment and sustainability-focused visual art exhibit called Natural, which was on view here at Dillard earlier this year.

- Three of my wonderful students are in the process of founding a Dillard Ecology Club, which will be a chapter of the National Ecological Society of America’s SEEDS program (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability).

I am grateful to be here at Dillard, helping to bring sustainability and environmental awareness to our campus, and working with students to usher in the next generation of environmental researchers and change leaders. Stay tuned, and look for new projects in the months to come!"
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer was hired in March 2007 as the vice president of student success at Dillard University. Barnes-Teamer said she knows first-hand the difficulties many Dillard students face. “Being a first-generation college student and growing up in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, I understand the struggles and complications of maneuvering in the higher education system for first-time college student,” Barnes-Teamer said. “I’ve always felt a need to help students who faced the same challenges I did find their way through the system.”

Barnes-Teamer has spent considerable time learning the education system. A graduate of Loyola University, she worked at

**Building Student Success**

While the Dillard campus anxiously awaits the completion of the new Student Union, V.P. Barnes-Teamer brings a wide range of experience to new Student Success Division

**Spotlight on Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer**

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**A New Home for Students:**
**First Student Union in Dillard’s 141-year history**

At a cost of roughly $15 million, the Student Union, Health & Wellness Center will cover over 55,000 square feet and house a variety of student activities and community-related businesses. This multipurpose center will offer a 7,000 square foot conference center complete with banquet room, workshops and meeting rooms. Students requested and received a variety of entertainment venues; a bowling alley and fitness center will occupy the third floor. The center will also include a 60-seat movie theater and space for numerous small specialty shops and businesses.

“This is a historic first for Dillard University,” said Dr. Marvalene Hughes. “Our students were given an opportunity to help design and plan the space. We are excited that they now have an inviting place to call home,” she said.

The Student Union will also house a much-needed community health clinic. Operated in partnership with Tulane University, this 15,000 square foot health center will be open to students and to members of the community.

The Student Union should be fully operational at the start of the 2010 fall semester.
Barnes-Teamer said this information helped her propose and promote stronger enrollment agreements between two-year colleges and four-year universities. Post-Katrina, she was promoted to senior vice president for academic and student affairs for the Louisiana Community and Technical College system, a division of the state college system which includes one technical and nine community colleges with 40 campuses. "I was encouraged to apply for the LTC position because they knew I would be an advocate for their students in a four-year environment," she said.

At Dillard, Barnes-Teamer remains an advocate for recruiting community college students, but faces a host of additional challenges. "When I started in 2007, Dillard’s enrollment was less than half of what it was pre-Katrina. Although our plans at LTC to increase enrollment in three to five years were successful, their physical infrastructure and human resources were in place. At Dillard, we tried to rebuild enrollment at the same time we were rebuilding physical infrastructure and human resources," she said.

Barnes-Teamer believes Dillard will see bullish growth in the future. "By the fall of 2009, our third year, we were able to meet our new student enrollment goal," she said. "In fact, we exceeded our goal: 1,011 students were enrolled in the fall.”

"I feel like we are now on solid ground to move forward, not only to bring in large numbers of new students each fall, but also to retain those students we have already recruited so that our overall enrollment can continue to grow.”

Students use social networking site to articulate choices for space in Student Union

One hundred and two members of the Dillard University student body logged onto Facebook to comment on the Student Union Building Plan. Maime Butler Gadlin, one of the two students tapped by President Marvaline Hughes to represent undergraduates in the planning process, created the Internet page. “Students actually enjoyed looking at the plans on the Web site and giving their input. A lot of people made comments and were excited about it,” she said.

Andrew Augillard was one of the first students to post comments on the site. “The gym in Dent Hall closes entirely too early… a new after hours gym should be placed in the new Student Union,” he wrote. Jocelyn Mayrude and Chavier Sharps weighed the pros and cons of a bowling alley. Shalini Singh and Raphael Richard wanted to know if there would be a coffee house and other goods and services in the new building.

Maime and the other student representatives, Natalie Cooley were asked to submit suggestions for amenities in the new building. “When we got the designs, Natalie and I visited other universities and looked at their student centers. We got ideas from other schools and let them know what we wanted included in the center.”

Maime says it was a broadening experience. “I was asked to give input on vendors, to help choose the design of the dance floor, weight room, bowling alley,” she said. “I didn’t know anything about construction, or what they were asking me to do, but I learned a lot,” she said.
With a Little Help for Our Friends

As surrounding neighborhoods recover, Dillard’s CDC steps into the breach

Dillard University’s Community Development Corporation was established in 2002 to increase homeownership opportunities in the Gentilly area of New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina changed the CDC’s mission, according to Dr. Walter Strong, Dillard’s executive vice president.

“President Hughes expressed to the board of trustees upon our return to campus that we had two goals. One was to return our students to New Orleans as rapidly as possible in 2006, and to repair and open our campus for operations,” he said. “The other goal was to actively engage in the revitalization of New Orleans. We determined the best vehicle for that engagement was our Community Development Corporation.”

Nick Harris was asked to take the reins of the CDC. “They thought the sum of my past experiences—city government, UDAG grants, minority business development, volunteer involvement in the community, working closely with community and the United Methodist Church—would make this job a perfect fit,” said Harris. “And it was.”

As the new assistant vice president of community and economic development, Harris needed to determine the scope of his mission and stakeholders. He chose 10 neighborhoods that ring the university and contacted their association presidents. “I called them in for a meeting to let them know that we were here to assist them in their efforts to rebuild,” Harris said. “We didn’t look at ourselves as a leader in the community, but as an extra arm, a resource for the residents.”

The First Steps

“I started contacting community banks and non-profits. If the CDC was to grow and provide programmatic help, it needed funds,” Harris said. “I called local corporations. We needed a commitment from the private sector to assist in rebuilding all parts of the city.”

The community non-profits were first to respond. “NeighborWorks America, a community program funded through Congress, became a partner,” Harris said. “Neighborhood presidents were able to attend community leadership institutes where they learned community organizing skills, basic rebuilding skills, leadership training.”

Barbara Blackwell, community liaison for the Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association, was one of the attendees. “The workshops showed you strategies for rebuilding communities, ways to address community ills—blight, crime, education,” she said. Blackwell and others wrote and eventually received approval for a small grant of $2,000 to publish a community newsletter.

Although Gentilly neighborhood organizations had the will to rebuild, they lacked basic support—telephone service, Internet access, a fax machine and copier, a place to hold meetings.

In September of 2006, Harris established a community resource center in his office. Kimic Clay, the administrative assistant who runs the day-to-day operations of the CDC, said they were swamped with requests the minute they opened the doors.

“We had a huge number of complaints about contractor fraud. Many of the requests for help were basic: ‘Are there loans and grants to help? Where can I find a job or job training?’ For former residents stuck out of state asked if we could help them get back home. Everyone needed referrals for basic health services.”

“We all had the same goal to rebuild and Dillard was our resource,” said Lomena Chandler, a member of the Lower Gentilly Neighborhood Development Association. “They sponsored workshops with reputable contractors, they brought in the banks, they provided a hub where people could go and get information on rebuilding.”

For residents who managed to successfully navigate the shoals of rebuilding and return to their homes, safety became another issue. Donna Brown, president of the Gentilly Heights East Neighborhood Association, said her neighbors had seen local youths involved in vandalism and wanted to stop trouble before it mushroomed. “A 15-year-old neighborhood kid engaged in some destructive behavior,” she said. “He would gather his posse and they would continue. We went to Nick asking what could we do about this. We put our heads together and he came up with the idea of a youth summit,” she said.

Devising a Plan To Serve the Community

Post-Katrina, the city’s playgrounds were destroyed, and recreation programs were in limbo. “We wanted to give kids alternatives to socially unacceptable behaviors,” Harris said.

Dillard’s first youth summit was held in late February 2008. Police Chief Warren Riley and Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman spoke at the seminars, as did representatives of Boys Town, and Big Brothers & Sisters. Over 300 young people had an opportunity to discuss education, crime, mental health, community service and voting. Two months later, the CDC sponsored a physical fitness and health fair for young people with over 450 people in attendance. A variety of sports clinics were offered: basketball, track, golf, tennis, volleyball and weightlifting. Each young person received a health screening.

Harris engaged the private sector in planning the 2008 Housing Fair. Lynn Lee, customer service manager for Entergy and past president of Indian Village Association, said Entergy Corporation was the first to sign on. “We gave several thousand dollars for a grant to plan and sponsor that first housing fair,” Lee said. “We also supplied speakers and distributed energy-efficient light bulbs.”

In June 2008, the CDC brought onto campus 50 exhibitors—from banks to demolition companies—who offered goods and services ranging from construction financing to weatherization...
Ivy league assistance

In the post-Katrina years, more than 1,500 volunteers have rehabilitated houses, buildings and playgrounds in the Gentilly area. Although Dillard considers the value of their work priceless, these volunteers have done over $100,000 of renovation work at fair market rate. The CDC thanks all of the volunteers. The latest group to visit: 22 Harvard alums who rehabbed a church property in Pilottown.

Trip organizer Gene Corbin said he wanted to replicate for alumni volunteers the “very positive experience” of a 2006 Harvard undergraduate class that assisted Dillard in relief and rebuilding efforts. “The students spoke highly of Dillard’s hospitality,” Corbin said. “While a lot of volunteers are pointed to downtown or uptown in New Orleans, we wanted to work in Gentilly.”

Rev. Lionel Davis, pastor of Pentacost Baptist Church on Harrison Avenue, said he is grateful Harvard chose alums who rehabbed a church property in Pilottown, hosted in March a group of Harvard University Alumni who helped him rehab a house on church property.

Reverend Davis and company also reached out to individual homeowners. “The students spoke highly of Dillard’s hospitality,” Corbin said. “While a lot of volunteers are pointed to downtown or uptown in New Orleans, we wanted to work in Gentilly.”

Rev. Lionel Davis, pastor of Pentacost Baptist Church on Harrison Avenue, said he is grateful Harvard chose to work with the CDC. “They came in and repainted the interior and exterior of the house. Moved all of the debris and whatever else was there from underneath and around the house. They basically restored the structure of the original house to the point we can now use it,” Davis said. “The house will be a neighborhood resource center. Over 10 neighborhoods will share the use of this place.”

There are a number of ways to give…

For more information on giving to Dillard, call Interim Assistant Vice President of Development Troy L. Baldwin at (504) 816-4504, or Senior Director of Annual Giving Khalilah Elliott at (504) 816-4767. Or log on to www.dillard.edu and click on Advantage Dillard!

Make an unrestricted cash gift to be used where the need is greatest. Your money can be used for tuition, or room and board, or to help a student purchase books for class.

Fund a specific student scholarship. We can use them in the arts, physics, nursing, business — in whatever discipline you desire. Your money can be used to train a student in opera or accounting; the choice is yours.

Endow a faculty chair. Want to help our undergraduate physics students make it to graduate school? Contribute your dollars to a professorship in laser research.

Fund the purchase of new equipment for a department. Simulators that sneeze and cough and have other bodily functions allow our nursing students to practice health care in real time. But those simulators are expensive.

Support a program you love. Earmark your gift for a specific department, perhaps the field you chose to study at Dillard. Your contribution will help our students navigate today’s competitive world.

Here’s how you can give…

Gifts of cash. (We also take Visa, Mastercard and American Express!)

Gifts of stock and securities. A donation of this type can provide the giver with significant tax benefits. You can deduct the fair market value of securities without paying capital gains tax on the sale of the gift to the extent allowed by law.

Matching gifts. Many companies will match your contribution to charitable organizations dollar-for-dollar. This is a great way to double your contribution without emptying your wallet.

Planned gifts and charitable trusts. As you make financial plans for the future, remember your alma mater. We can help you plan a charitable gift annuity, a smart move that helps Dillard and helps you with tax bills over the long haul.
Dillard University’s Division of Nursing was recently awarded $600,000 from the Helene Fuld Charitable Health Trust for scholarships. Dillard University will utilize these funds to provide scholarships to nursing students over the next three years. Scholarship support is available to all students who have been admitted to the Division of Nursing. An equal amount of the award will be placed in an endowment to continue to grow scholarships in the future.

Dillard University President Dr. Marvalene Hugh said the scholarships will attract more qualified students to the program. “The initial scholarships were awarded this spring to a stellar group of students, known as Helene Fuld Scholars,” she said. “These students are engaged in exemplary work and research.” Dr. Betty Dennis, dean of the Division of Nursing, said, “This level of assistance is vital in assisting the nursing program to identify and prepare the competent and compassionate nurses that Louisiana and the nation deserve.”

In addition to the Fuld funding, the program also announced the establishment of five new endowed professorships in cutting-edge nursing fields. The professorships were made possible by a gift from the Kabacoff family. Dr. Hughes said these scholarships will be named for Mrs. Gloria Kabacoff. “We are extremely pleased about this gift,” she said. “Through the generosity of the Kabacoff family, the Division of Nursing and the university will attract and retain talented and committed nursing faculty that excel in education and research with the skills to provide outstanding instructional and research experiences for students.”

The university also plans to submit requests to the Louisiana Board of Regents endowed professorship program, which could provide an additional $40,000 match for each of these five professorships. They include the Gloria Kabacoff Endowed Professorships in: Teaching and Informatics; Nursing Research; Nursing Ethics; and Nursing Pedagogy. “Both of these awards will go a long way in advancing the nursing program in the future,” Hughes said.

Recently Established Endowed Professorships and Scholarships

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Multiple public and private sector donors have contributed to this growing endowment. The total amount of $600,000 will be matched by the Board of Regents endowment program, which could provide an additional $40,000 match for each of these five professorships.

Louisiana’s endowment program was established through the Board of Regents Support Fund initiative. Of the scholarships and professorships, five were awarded during the 2009 fiscal year, while the remaining awards will be established for the coming academic year. The endowed professorship initiative allows the university to support innovative educators and researchers in specialized areas.

Your gift changes lives…”

“...I am so grateful for this scholarship. It allows me to maintain a 3.4 GPA at Dillard, continue my personal growth, and work on other productive activities like tutoring local youth. I’ll also be able to study abroad and work on environmental issues in my local community through our ‘Go Green’ campaign. If it weren’t for this scholarship, I’d be making plans to go back to my former community college in California next year.”

— Cedric Blair, class of 2011

Michael D. & Shaun Jones Endowed Scholarship

Malton International Fellow

Advantage Dillard! Campaign Update

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SOURCES

53% Foundations
11% Organizations
7% Friends
5% Alumns
4% Corporations
4% Schools/Universities
1% Employees
1% Trustees

Recent Donors

Donor

Michael D. & Shaun Jones Endowed Scholarship

Eben Hardy Jr. Endowed Finance Professorship

Edward Schleider Business Endowed Professorship

Edward Schleider Accounting Endowed Professorship

Gloria Kabacoff Endowed Professorship in Teaching and Informatics

Gloria Kabacoff Endowed Professorship in Nursing Ethics

Gloria Kabacoff Endowed Professorship in Nursing Pediatrics

Johnnie Seals-Joyce Roche Endowed Scholarship

Oljen Joyce Roche

Dinsmoor and Harris Endowed Scholarship

Oljen Joyce Roche

Advantage Dillard! Spring 2010
Dear Alumni,

I bring greetings and sincerest well wishes to you and your families on behalf of the Office of Alumni Relations. One of the recurring sentiments I hear among alumni is their reference to Dillard University as part of their “family.” In a discussion with a member of the class of 1940, she referenced herself and her friends as “Dillard sons and daughters.” In talking with a member of the class of 2004, he stated, “We are Dillard family.” In countless other conversations, alumni quickly point out that their actual families have a significant history either with Dillard University, Straight College, or New Orleans University. One alumnus even remarked that his “family bleeds Dillard blue,” as he pointed out that members of his family have attended Straight College, New Orleans University, and Dillard University. These connections to our university are remarkable. They speak volumes about the longstanding effects of Dillard on our lives and the lives of those close to us. I am humbled and excited every day when I learn how families have bound themselves, generation after generation, to our Fair Dillard.

I am inspired by the lineages that have committed themselves to Dillard and to forever being a part of its history. The legacies and traditions of Dillard families, whether taught in the lecture halls of the university or at the dinner tables of our homes, reinforce our university’s significance in the lives of so many. This ongoing legacy is a testament to the longevity and strength of our alma mater, and it validates our joint belief in the power of a Dillard education.

As a first-generation college graduate, I often ask myself how we can establish a legacy at our university, and how we can perpetuate its heritage. Reminded of its past, living each day in its present, and basking in the brightness of Dillard’s future, I invite all of us to invest in Dillard as an inheritance that can be passed on to future generations. Let those who strive for excellence someday claim it as though it was their birthright.

In Dillard Love,

Adrian (Guy) Anderson, ’01, Executive Director, Alumni Relations

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In Dillard Love,

Adrian (Guy) Anderson, ’01, Executive Director, Alumni Relations
Ronald Henderson, '63, and Raljean Henderson, '60
Relationship: Husband and Wife
Where you met: We were introduced in the Kearny Hall Cafeteria.
When you met: We met in September, 1959.
Interests you share: We are blessed to share many interests. Among them are
a love of art, music, reading, sports and travel.
What has been the impact of Dillard on
your relationship: Dillard provided a very
nurturing environment that allowed our
relationship to grow. Through Dillard, we
married, reared four beautiful children and maintained lifelong mutual
friends and relationships.

Calvin Haynes, '08, and Kelvin Haynes, '08
Relationship: Twin Brothers
Where you met: At the Methodist Medical Center located in
the great city of Dallas.
When you met: January 21, 1985, in our mother’s womb.
Interests you share: We both love going to church, shopping, traveling
and fishing. However, above all we enjoy spending quality time with
our beautiful mother.
What has been the impact of Dillard on your relationship: We believe
Dillard University has had a major impact on us. It has certainly
strengthened our relationship and let us know that we are each
other’s biggest critic and fan.

Audrey Clements, '78, and Shandra Clements, '04
Relationship: Mother and Daughter
Where you met: In the baby ward at Hotel Dieu Hospital, NOLA.
When you met: March 2, 1971.
Interests you share: We are both Alphas, veterans of the U.S. Army,
both worked at Harvard University, and we both have computer science degrees.
What has been the impact of Dillard on your relationship: The impact has been
a lasting and positive one because we are both alumni and get to talk DU all
the time.

Dillard Yesterday

As Dillard strides confidently into the 21st century, we pause and remember the strength, camaraderie and grace of young women and men who spent
days on the Avenue of the Oaks chasing their hopes and making their dreams a reality.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI AUTHORS!

Please send signed copies of your published work, along with a bibliography identifying your works. Support the Alumni Library located at the
Alumni House! Address all published materials to: Office of Alumni Relations, Dillard University, 2601 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70122.
Chapter News

ATLANTA

The Atlanta chapter held its Sixth Annual Feed the Hungry Community Service Dinner on Nov. 20, 2009. Members volunteered at a homeless shelter, preparing dinner for approximately 35 homeless men at the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Atlanta. Shelter officials have always spoken highly of Dillard alumni’s turnout and the meals provided.

HOUSTON

Over the holidays, the Houston chapter held its First Annual Gregarious Gift Card Extravaganza, a holiday soiree designed to create and sustain relationships between current students and alumni. The event included a focus on community service and membership. Current Dillard students were invited to brunch at Farrago, where they were each given a meal, a Christmas stocking with goodies, and three gift cards (totalling nearly $100) from alumni. The Houston chapter looks forward to hosting the event again next year.

Los Angeles

On Oct. 17, 2009, the Los Angeles chapter supported the Inter Alumni Council of the UNCF’s Second Annual Appreciation Jazz Brunch at the Renaissance Montara Hotel. Former chapter president and current council treasurer George McGhee, ’50, was honored for his commitment to the council’s mission. The chapter also celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday together at the Annual MLK Breakfast on Jan. 25, 2010.

The chapter would like to congratulate and welcome its newly elected executive team: President Christy Mathieu, ’06, Financial Secretary Myrinda Gates, ’07, and Corresponding Secretary Jean Chukwu, ’05. The officers were installed by UNCNA President Ralph Laster at the chapter’s annual Christmas gathering, hosted by Susan Bradshaw, ’16, and her husband David. As always, it was a fully-attended Outgoing Chapter President Ruby Laster gave a report on the Summit, Founders’ Day, the 75th Founders’ Day for the National Alumni Association, and the National Meeting. Members socialized while enjoying huge bowls of gumbo prepared by Lillian Noblitt.

NEW ORLEANS

The Greater New Orleans chapter recently participated in the DU Homecoming Parade and the National Alumni Association’s 75th anniversary celebration. At a recent meeting, the chapter voted to sponsor two DU students to the UNCF Pre-Alumni Council Convention. The chapter has also started a yard sign marketing campaign for DU, and hosted its annual holiday social. The holiday social was well attended and all participants enjoyed food, fun, and the fellowship of their fellow alumni. This year the chapter plans to host an alumni family picnic and a student recruitment drive, and to reestablish its annual scholarship and chapter gala. The chapter also plans to sponsor a chapter membership drive, a blue bowling night, and its first leadership summit.

The chapter hopes all local alumni will join them at their regular meetings on the DU campus on the third Thursday of every month as they continue “to give back while moving forward.” For more information, e-mail dunaneworleanschapter@gmail.com.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Northern California chapter has been busy of late, hosting quarterly meetings in Oakland in January and April. Its next meeting will be held on July 25 at 2:30 p.m. at the home of alumni George and Shirley Coaston, 3226 Hood St., Oakland, CA 94605. It will also serve as a summer send-off for new students (pending confirmation by Dillard’s Enrollment Office). Members will also attend the annual Northern California HBCU Poms this summer (date and location still pending). Alumni are encouraged to show their pride and sport a Dillard T-shirt. For more information on Northern California chapter events, contact Roland Pickens at rollandpickens@aol.com.

ST. LOUIS

The St. Louis chapter was recently visited by Dillard University President Manaulene Hughes. The chapter presented Dr. Hughes with a token of gratitude. This year the chapter’s goals are to assist Dillard-bound St. Louis students, increase their membership, and assist Dillard in any way possible. The St. Louis chapter looks forward to the HBCU Connection Fundraiser this coming June.

Alumni Chapters and Presidents for 2009-2011

Arkansas Chapter
Glenn B. Sergeant, ’74
ghbls75@gmail.com

Atlanta Chapter
Rock Anderson, ’84
rock.anderson@manheim.com

Baton Rouge Chapter
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Berenice Chapter
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sward99010@gmail.com

Chicago Chapter
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Dallas/W. Work Chapter
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Detroit Chapter
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Jackson (Mississippi) Chapter
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Los Angeles Chapter
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Lynnonicka St. Paul Chapter
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Mobile (AL) Chapter
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pilandag@mb.com

(Northern) New Orleans Chapter
Malik Bartholomew, ’04
mbar@hollinsnew@bard.edu

New York Tri-State Chapter
(CT/NJ/NY)
Phyllis Rut, ’73
phylly87@yahoo.com

Northern California Chapter
Roland Pickens, ’85
roland.pickens@dfjohn.org

Oakland (OR) Chapter
Benjamin Wallace, ’70
benjaminwallace@comcast.net

Shreveport Chapter
Crystal Allen, ’04
maria_allen23@yahoo.com

St. Louis Chapter
April Cotton, ’91
acottonary@yahoo.com

Washington Area Chapter
(DC/MD/VA)
Sandy Green, ’31
sage@verizon.net

National Alumni Association Officers 2009-2011

President
Ralph Laster, ’61
ralphlaster@aol.com

1st Vice President
Barbara Julian, ’96
bujl1997@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President
Malik Bartholomew, ’04
mbar@hollinsnew@bard.edu

Tour Secretary
Juanita Green, ’94
juanita.green@tougalss.edu

Treasurer
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Assistant Treasurer
Brandon L. Bowers, ’05
bbowers183@gmail.com

George McFaddin Memorial Travel Fund
Bennie Harris, ’63
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Assistant Treasurer
James Alford, ’99
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Chapter
Otto Duncan, Jr., ’62
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Innovative Past President
Michael G. Griffin, ’94
mkgill50@aol.com

Dr. Hughes met with the local alumni chapter on a trip to St. Louis.

Members of the Atlanta chapter preparing dinner at the Sixth Annual Feed the Hungry Community Service Dinner.
Bleu Diamond Diamond Celebrates DUNA’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Dillard University National Alumni Association (DUNAA) celebrated its 75th Anniversary at the Bleu Diamond Social on November 18, 2009 at Dillard’s Alumni House (formerly the president’s house) after the homecoming basketball game. All alumni were invited to come out and attend this special occasion.

The event was a tremendous success and marked the culmination of three days of meetings, presentations and planning by the alumni Board of Governors. The alumni house was beautifully decorated in school colors, bleu diamonds and candlelight. Alumni danced, ate, talked and had a grand time. All who attended agreed that it was truly a memorable event.

The night was highlighted by words of wisdom from Dillard University National Alumni Association President and Trustee Ralph Laster, who encouraged alumni to make “the next 75 years greater than the last by serving our alma mater with all of our strength and might.”

The Bleu Diamond Social was chaired by Melk Bartholomew and co-chaired by Barbara Julian and James Alford. Two local coordinators, Pamela Francois and Hermione Crump-Jones, also helped make the event a success.

DUNAA was founded on June 28, 1934, in New Orleans – a year before Straight College and New Orleans University merged to form Dillard University. The two school alumni met in the spirit of cooperation, Christian love, and service to see how they could support the “New Dillard University.” Ever since, the organization has assisted Dillard University by raising funds, chartering alumni chapters, supporting the UNCG recruiting top students to attend Dillard, and spreading the Dillard success story around the world. DUNAA currently represents more than 8,900 alumni and consists of more than 17 chapters across the nation. There is no doubt that the next 75 years of the Alumni Association will be brighter than the bleu diamond.

Alumni Updates

Judge Earl E. Sowers, ’72, a member of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and the former chairman of the U.S. Scouting Ministry Committee, is the latest recipient of the Silver Torch Award, an honor bestowed on individuals who have given exceptional service to scouting beyond the annual conference level by the United Methodists Men.

Woodrow Howard, ’74, a Texas CPA, has released two country music albums, Hit & Run and Don’t Burn the Bridge, under the name Average Joe Blow. Proceeds from the albums are being donated to Houston United Methodist School.

Adria Tippins, ’98, has been admitted to practice law in the United States Supreme Court and was selected by the USCGOGO to assist the National Capital Area’s 2009 Combined Federal Campaign as a Loaned Executive.

Saumon Abdallah Gibbs, ’03, has been promoted to Director of Recruitment and Marketing at the Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, Calif.

Brian Backshler, ’96, was awarded Teacher of the Year in Oxford, Miss.

Shout Outs

ALUMNI CHAPTERS
Shout out to all the alumni chapters who are keeping the Alumni Office up-to-date on their community efforts and events in support of Fair Dillard!

ALUMNI OFFICE VOLUNTEERS
Thank You! Thank You! Many thanks to the Alumni Office volunteers, especially our weekly workers: Deborah Brown, ’93, Courtney Bladshower, ’17, and Grace Harrison, ’92.

CLASS OF 1960
It has been 50 years, and it’s time to get together! Please contact Alumni Relations Manager Monique’ Holmes at (504) 816-4182 for more information on the class of ’60’s Golden Graduate Reunion.

CLASS OF 2009
We miss you already, Class of 2009! We’ve mailed your special gift. If you have not received it, please contact the Alumni Office at (504) 816-4182 or e-mail mhimes@dillard.edu.

DU ATHLETES
Congrats to Coach Vic Vavasseur and friends for forging ahead to build a scholarship through the support of alumni athletes. If you ever played football, track, basketball, volleyball, or any other sport, please contact Coach Vavasseur at vavasseur@cox.net or (504) 285-5067.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER
Shout out to Deesha James Hawkins and John Bosser for laying the foun-}
Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

The Dillard University National Alumni Association has experienced significant interest in alumni participation in the past year. The reasons are primarily due to the commitment, growth and steadfast efforts of DUNAA’s Executive Team. Thank you for your time, gifts, and resourcefulness, and for serving your alma mater exceptionally well. Your good work has inspired others to give back to Fair Dillard. Your efforts are paying great dividends – Alumni Relations recently received requests to start new chapters in Indiana, North Carolina, Memphis, Tenn., and Lafayette, La. Over the past two years, three additional chapters were established in Shreveport, La., St. Louis and Arkansas. Thank you, DUNAA, Inc., and keep up the good work.

Alumni Relations has been extraordinarily helpful and supportive in every respect. Thank you, Mrs. Adrian Guy Anderson, Executive Director of Alumni Relations, and Ms. Monchiere’ Holmes, Manager of Alumni Relations, for your unwavering support.

As I continue handing out thanksgiving, I would be remiss if I did not give thanks posthumously to our Founding Fathers for their vision, courage and commitment to forming our alma mater under adverse and challenging circumstances. We thank you!

And of course, a most gracious thank you to President Marvalene Hughes. Dr. Hughes and her outstanding executive team are a godsend. Five short years ago, our alma mater was gasping for breath, but our incredible, persistent, “don’t take no for an answer” president and her executive team performed a miracle. Not only did Dillard survive, but She came back from the brink of demise bigger, stronger and better than ever. Thank you, God, for sending us Dr. Hughes and her magnificent executive team. And thank you, Dr. Hughes, for your hard work and commitment to saving and perpetuating Dillard University. And many thanks to our esteemed board of trustees, chaired by Dr. Joyce Roche, for its unwavering support in transforming an impossible task into reality.

Too often we take so much for granted. It seems the only time we don’t is when we have or almost have something precious taken away. Only then do we give thanks for our blessings and realize their importance in our lives. Let us not forget to give thanks when the opportunity presents itself and thereby assure ourselves that gratitude and thanksgiving will always be in vogue.

Sincerely,

Ralph S. Laster
DUNAA, Inc. President/Trustee
ralphlaster@aol.com