



**Xavier University of Louisiana to Host a Virtual Ceremony
for Spring 2020 Commencement**

New Orleans LA – In its 93rd commencement, Xavier University of Louisiana will honor its Spring 2020 graduates with a virtual graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m. via <https://www.xula.edu/other/watchlive>

Dean P. Baquet, New Orleans native and Executive Editor for the New York Times, will deliver the commencement address and receive an honorary degree. Baquet will virtually address 547 undergraduate, graduate, and pre-professional students and their families.

Other scheduled commencement-related events include the College of Arts and Sciences Doctoral Hooding and Graduate Honors Ceremony on Thursday, May 21 at 8 p.m., the College of Pharmacy Hooding and Honors Ceremony on Friday, May 22 at noon and the Baccalaureate Mass and Honors Awards Convocation on Friday, May 22 at 5 p.m. All of Xavier’s commencement related events can be viewed [here](#).

Commencement, which is normally a ticketed event, will be celebrated virtually due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the city’s recommended social distancing guidelines. The public is encouraged to participate virtually as Xavier honors the graduating class of 2020.

About the Speaker

Dean P. Baquet has been the executive editor of *The New York Times* since May 2014. Between 2011 and 2014, Baquet was managing editor under the previous executive editor Jill Abramson. He is the first black American to serve as executive editor.

In 1988, Baquet won the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Journalism, leading a team of reporters at the *Chicago Tribune*.

Baquet is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. He is the son of well-known New Orleans restaurateur Edward Baquet and a member of a prominent New Orleans Creole family. Baquet graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1974 and studied English at Columbia University.

He was a reporter for *The Times-Picayune* of New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1984, he joined the *Chicago Tribune*, where he won the Pulitzer Prize, before joining *The New York Times* in April 1990 as a metropolitan desk reporter. In May 1992, he became the special projects editor for the business desk. In January 1994, he held the same title, but he operated out of the executive editor’s office. In 2000, he joined the *Los Angeles Times* as managing editor, and in 2005 became the editor for the newspaper.

In 2007, Baquet rejoined *The New York Times*, where he held positions as the Washington bureau chief, national editor, assistant managing editor, and the managing editor. He was appointed to the managing editor position in September 2011 before ascending to his current role.



Dean P. Baquet

Celebrating
THE
CLASS OF 2020
Virtual Commencement CEREMONY
May 23, 2020
10:00 a.m. Central Time
<https://livestream.com/accounts/28858735/xulacommencement2020>

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient:
DEAN P. BAQUET
Executive Editor of The New York Times

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About Xavier University of Louisiana

Being America’s only historically Black and Catholic University is just the first of the distinctions that have set Xavier University of Louisiana apart for more than eight decades. Despite its relatively small size (3,300 students), Xavier is a nationally recognized leader in the STEM and the health sciences, producing more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Its College of Pharmacy is among the top producers of African American pharmacists.

Its liberal arts-based programs in such areas as art, business, education, psychology, and political science – as well as such recent additions as bioinformatics, data science, neuroscience, crime and social justice, and jazz studies – offer students an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities, and life experiences. The winning Xavier formula? Provide students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls.

For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. To book interviews and/or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications, and the arts, contact Lance Sumler at (504) 520-5240 or lsumler@xula.edu.