WELCOME HOME:
Harry Johnson, Sr. ’77, a career attorney who served as President and CEO of the Washington DC Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, visits with seniors (L-R) Mia Holmes, a biology/premed major from New Orleans (Ben Franklin High); Ariel Johnson, a mass communication major from Baton Rouge LA (Baton Rouge Magnet); Maya Jones, a mass communication major from New Orleans (Plano West High-Plano TX), and Dudley Grady, a mass communication major from New Orleans (Science & Math High); after delivering the keynote address at Xavier’s annual Black History Month Convocation.

Did you know?

− A total of 633 student scholars made the Dean’s List during the 2011 fall semester. Students merited a spot on the honor roll by earning a semester grade point average of 3.3 or above while taking at least 12 semester hours.

− One hundred and fifty student XU scholars will appear in the 2012 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, an annual chronicle of the nation’s outstanding campus leaders.

− A group of students in the Division of Business’ Sales for Social Impact class – Derrick Bradley, a third-year pharmacy student from Ringgold LA (Ringgold High); Venus Black, a senior sociology市场营销 major from Bloomington IL (Bloomington High); Herstyn Jones, a senior marketing major from Shreveport LA (Caddo Magnet) and Derek Williams, a senior biology major from Bangor MI (Benton Harbor High) – presented a business and feasibility plan to market an innovative product designed to create clean water in underdeveloped countries before executives of the 3M Company in December.

− The Division of Education has received national accreditation of its Educator Preparation Program by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The accreditation was also approved by the State of Louisiana.

Athlete Takes His Skills to Medical School

In a ninth-grade biology class at Jesuit High School in New Orleans, Jamaan Kenner made a discovery. He wanted to attend medical school.

"It was my first biology class. It was a college-level class," said Kenner, a 6-foot-4 senior guard on the Xavier men’s basketball team. "We were studying the body. I was intrigued."

Eight years later his journey continues. Kenner, a biology/pre-medical major, has been accepted to the School of Medicine of LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport. Three other applications are pending, but it’s nice to have one in the bag.

Kenner is a starter for the Gold Rush – a defensive and 3-point-shooting specialist – and has helped Xavier to a 23-8 record and a No. 18 ranking in the NAIA Division I coaches poll. With one semester to complete, his cumulative grade-point average at Xavier is 3.62. No doubt about it – these are good times for Kenner. He’s earned them.

"When I think of Jamaan, I think of sacrifice," XU head coach Dannton Jackson said. "Jamaan has been playing college basketball and going through a strenuous curriculum at a tough university to prepare for medical school. But he has displayed the character, the work ethic and the discipline to do both. And he’s just as good a person as he is a student and a basketball player."

As a child Kenner pursued good grades “because I was scared of getting in trouble with my dad.” But as he got older, his rationale changed. He
Coach Jackson was always nice to me. He’s sciences are great here, it was close to home, and “Xavier was the best fit for me,” Kenner said. “The and NCAA Division I member William & Mary. college, he chose Xavier over city rival Loyola didn’t miss a beat. When it came time for High School in his hometown LaPlace LA and Kenner didn’t remain at Jesuit. After Hurricane something positive.

wanted to better himself. Fears turned into something positive.

Kenner didn’t remain at Jesuit. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, he enrolled at East St. John High School in his hometown LaPlace LA and didn’t miss a beat. When it came time for college, he chose Xavier over city rival Loyola and NCAA Division I member William & Mary.

“We were pleased to embark on this partnership with Hebei University and to share with our students China’s remarkable language, history, and culture,” said Xavier President Norman C. Francis. “We are confident that this exchange will provide our students unprecedented access to Asia particularly at this critical historic moment of increased globalization,” Francis said.

The University is offering Mandarin courses this semester and has begun its preparations to send a group of students to Hebei University this summer to continue their language instruction. Hebei is the only comprehensive university in the Hebei Province and was among the first institutions in China to admit international students.

There are more than 300 Confucius Institutes worldwide with roughly 80 in the United States. Through the Confucius Institute network, universities and k-12 schools receive substantial support in the development of Chinese language and culture programs.

Athlete Takes His Skills

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always understood that school comes first.”

The past two summers Kenner participated in breast cancer research in XU’s College of Pharmacy under the guidance of Dr. KiTani Parker-Johnson.

Kenner plans to concentrate on sports medicine, and if he has his way, he’ll be back in New Orleans to stay.

“My goal is to be the team doctor for one of the local teams,” Kenner said. “The Saints or the Hornets – that would be perfect.”

IT’S OFFICIAL:

Dr. Loren Blanchard, XU Senior VP for Academic Affairs, and Madame Xu Lin, Director General for Hanban, the Confucius Institute headquarters in Beijing (China), sign an agreement officially making Xavier the first HBCU in the U.S. and the first university in Louisiana to be awarded a Confucius Institute. A formal launch and grand opening will be held in 2012.

Did you know?

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– The former St. Joseph’s Residence Hall has been transformed into the new energy efficient St. Joseph Academic & Health Resource Center. The rejuvenated building now houses state-of-the-art Writing, Math, and Reading Centers, as well as the Counseling Center, Health Services, the Graduate Placement Office, the Office of Career Services, the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR), the Center for Intercultural & International Programs (CHIP) and the Student Academic Success Office.

– Xavier has officially opened its new Art Village, a complex of three buildings that houses the Art department and includes classrooms, graphic design, painting, ceramics and sculpture studios. The upgrades include both interior and exterior improvements, improved lighting, and technologival classrooms as well as an art gallery and outreach center.

– The XU men’s and women’s basketball teams both won 2011-12 regular season Gulf Coast Athletic Conference basketball championships. It’s the first time since 2003-04 that both teams won GCAC titles in the same regular season.

– The XU women’s volleyball team captured both the regular season and tournament Gulf Coast Athletic Conference titles in 2011.

– The XU men’s and women’s teams won their respective sixth consecutive Gulf Coast Athletic Conference cross country titles at the 2011 conference meet held in Clinton MS.

– The XU Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR) was awarded a $300,000 grant by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in support of faculty-student research. It is the Mellon Foundation’s third grant to the CUR, which it has supported since 2003.

– BP America has awarded Xavier a $750,000 grant to establish the BP STEM Summer Institute, which includes MathStar, BioStar, ChemStar, Louisiana Engineering Advancement Program (LEAP), and Computer Science. The three-year grant will allow the existing “Star” and LEAP programs to sustain and enhance offerings and support the development of a new summer program in the Computer Science Department, while also funding ongoing recruitment and retention efforts.

– Marina Ghaly, a P3 pharmacy student from Metairie LA (Bonnabel High), has published an abstract, “Clinical Pharmacy Faculty Interventions in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit: an 8-Month Review”, in the Journal of Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics.
Did you know?

XU Adds Communication Studies and Public Health Majors

TOP SCHOLARS: Dr. Marion Carroll, ALD advisor and director of Xavier’s First Year Student Success program, poses with students following their induction into the Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) National Honor Society for First Year Students. 117 students were inducted into the national honor society that recognizes and encourages academic excellence among first year students.

− Valencia Potter, a senior biology major from Mobile AL (Murphy High), was awarded both the Student’s Choice Award at LSU’s Triple EX Conference and the 2011 ABRCMS Presentation Award at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students held in St. Louis MO for her research in molecular and computational biology.

− Cyrell Roberson, a junior psychology major from Baton Rouge LA (Baton Rouge Magnet), was awarded the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream 4 for 4 Endowed Scholarship at Xavier in recognition of his solid academic performance and his commitment to service.

− Raven Jackson, a P2 pharmacy student from Palmetto LA (North Central High School) was awarded a Student Community Service Award during the 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Week for Peace convocation.

− Kelsey Riley, a senior sociology major from Chicago IL (Kenwood Academy), is spending the spring 2012 semester at sea via Tom Joyner Foundation Scholarship. The study abroad program uses a ship as a traveling campus.

− The student chapter of the American Chemical Society has been selected to receive an “Outstanding” Award for its 2010-2011 activities. Only 36 chapters out of 330 nationwide were given the ACS’ highest award.

− Maya Jones, a senior mass communication major from Plano TX (Plano West High School) and editor of the Xavier Herald newspaper, was named a Top 20 Student Journalist at the 26th annual Southeast Journalism Conference, held at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

− Mylinh Hoang, a mass communication (broadcast journalism) senior from New Orleans (Edna Karr) was named as a Top 10 sports writer at the same event.

− Evan Pipion, a sophomore history major from Folsom CA (Vista del Lago High), has been selected for the prestigious UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program. He will participate in the Summer Institute at Emory University, receive semester and summer stipends to assist with research costs and graduate school preparation, and can draw on an annual travel budget for research and conference presentations. The program is geared toward students planning to pursue a Ph.D.

− Evan Pipion, a sophomore history major from Folsom CA (Vista del Lago High), has been selected for the prestigious UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program. He will participate in the Summer Institute at Emory University, receive semester and summer stipends to assist with research costs and graduate school preparation, and can draw on an annual travel budget for research and conference presentations. The program is geared toward students planning to pursue a Ph.D.

Xavier has established two new undergraduate degree programs both of which build upon the University’s strengths in the disciplines of communication and health sciences.

The new majors, which will be offered for the first time in the fall semester 2012, include the Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies (CMST) and the Bachelor of Science in Public Health Sciences (PHS).

Dr. Loren Blanchard, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Xavier said the new majors draw from Xavier’s strong liberal arts base and will largely showcase the talents and expertise of the university faculty.

“We are pleased that these programs are equally grounded in our general education requirements,” Blanchard said of Xavier’s core curriculum that includes 60 hours of humanities, science and social science coursework. “From that foundation, both degree programs will help to place their respective graduates at the cutting edge of their disciplines.”

The new Communication Studies program will offer students unprecedented career flexibility and, more broadly, will allow them to build personal communication skills applicable to a variety of career options or further study at the graduate level.

Students following the CMST curriculum will need to complete 128 semester hours, including 42 in the major in applied communication, performance studies and rhetorical studies. The program also provides opportunities for collaborative research with faculty. In keeping with the University’s social justice mission, all students must complete six hours of service-learning coursework.

The new Public Health Sciences major also aligns with the Xavier mission as majors will consider the broad social implications of chronic diseases, and learn how to develop, implement, and evaluate tailored health and wellness strategies meant to curb the impact and prevalence of these health concerns.

PHS graduates will be ready for entry-level careers and prepared to pursue graduate studies in an array of public health tracks.

Students following the PHS curriculum will need to complete 130 semester hours, including 36 in the public health major. PHS students will also serve senior internships at an approved public health site.
Three XU Students Explore the Big Apple

Three Xavier students are spending the spring 2012 semester in the “Big Apple” at New York University participating in the NYU/Xavier Student Exchange Program.

Participating in the program are: Jade Crutch, a sophomore political science major from Garland TX (Lakeview Centennial High); Shaniese Foster, a junior political science major from Houston TX (Westside High); and Breanna Thompson, a junior art major from Pass Christian MS (Pass Christian High).

“The student exchange program at Xavier gives students an opportunity to study and learn in a new and different environment at no additional cost, as well as a chance to take courses not offered here,” said Dr. Kenneth Boutte, Associate Dean for Summer Programs and External Initiatives. “Just as importantly, it enables students to explore post-graduate programs offered at those institutions.”

Students pay regular Xavier tuition, fees, and room and board using their financial aid and financial resources. They are responsible for their travel and educational materials such as books. Exchanges usually take place in the spring semester and eligible students are required to have a minimum 3.00 grade point average (GPA).

“It’s a two-way street because students at the other institutions have the option to spend a semester at Xavier,” said Boutte, noting that several NYU students have attended XU in past years.

Bouitte said Xavier currently also has active student exchange agreements with Howard University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and is actively negotiating with other institutions to establish new programs that will provide even more student exchange opportunities.