



From Storm to Stage: Katrina Freshmen Graduate

Freshman Named Kemper Scholar



Ariel Johnson, a freshman mass communications major from Baton Rouge LA, has been selected for the prestigious Kemper Scholars

Program's Class of 2012.

The scholarship-mentorship program, designed to prepare students for leadership and service, promotes education in the liberal arts while providing opportunities for career exploration and practical experience through internships. The program has been sponsored by the James S. Kemper Foundation of Chicago IL since 1948.

Kemper scholars receive annual scholarships of \$3,000 to \$8,000 (based on need) for three years, as well as \$6,500 stipends while serving internships at major international non-profit and for-profit organizations after their sophomore and junior years.

The first summer is spent in Chicago, where the scholars live in apartment residence halls and are placed in full-time administrative positions where they can learn about financial management, organizational strategy, fund-raising, and organizational administration.

Their senior class theme was "From the Storm to the Stage" and it aptly describes the experience of the 2009 XU graduating class.

As freshmen in August 2005, many of these students not only experienced their first New Orleans hurricane, a yearly natural threat to the Gulf Coast, but the worst natural disaster in New Orleans' recent history.

What makes these seniors stand out is that, whether a New Orleans native or first time resident, they were intent on returning to Xavier following the devastation of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, which had most of the city underwater and impacted the entire region.

Following the storm, XU President Dr. Norman C. Francis corralled his administrative staff to work on Xavier's recovery. The staff worked to meet the president's demand that Xavier re-open as soon as possible. They succeeded and the University re-opened in January 2006. That spring the majority of students returned to the campus. Xavier, with its campus

buildings lit up at night, served as a beacon of hope to returning residents in the city.

The new fall '05 freshman class had only been on campus for a few weeks before the hurricane hit and displaced them. What made these students want to return even after enrolling in other universities that fall semesters?

Most say that they had already established a bond for the campus and their new friends. Some said even after attending XU for only

a few weeks, their experience at other campuses did not compare to the warm family feeling, the sense of belonging and camaraderie they felt at Xavier.

Some of their classmates did not return for various reasons, but more than 74% did.

"Xavier is more of a family for me than when I was at another school after the storm," said senior business major Traylon Williams of New Orleans. "The friends I've met at XU, I see us being friends forever."

"There are other reasons, like the faculty," said Williams. "They really work with all of the students and even the staff, like Career

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LONGTIME COMING: Representative members of the "Katrina Class" of 2009 - (from left) Traylon Williams, Blake Clark and Takena Reese - anticipate the pageantry of Commencement at the Lakefront Arena.

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Business Plan Sparks Competition



FESTIVAL OF SCHOLARS: Tamorah Hawthorne discusses her research project with fellow students Kyisha Dunn and Jazmin Smith during the annual Festival of Scholars, a campus-wide showcase of the scholarly student research sponsored by the Center for Undergraduate Research.



ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK: Some of the 50 XU students who gave up their spring break and traveled to Galveston TX to help with hurricane recovery efforts there remove a heavily damaged palm tree from the property of two senior citizens.



TECHNOLOGY DAY: Sydney Forneret and Whitney McGruder haul off the free gifts and prizes they won at the University's annual Technology Day event.

The first campus-wide business plan competition, co-sponsored by Xavier's Entrepreneurship Institute in the Division of Business and Scott Management Team (doing business as McDonald's Restaurant), drew a wide-range of competitors.

First place went to *Challenge My Style*, an internet business providing opportunities for social networking and more, presented by the student team of Aaron Burgess, a senior mass communications major from Lancaster CA; Kory Twaites, a junior computer science major from Kent WA; and Alexandra Broussard, a senior chemistry major from Columbus OH.

Second place went to *Room 247*, a community providing services, supplies, food, tutoring and computer access, created by junior psychology major Verina Walker of Mobile, AL; and Bretton LeFlore, a senior biology major from Mobile AL; while the third place finisher was *RSVP, LLC Cay Spa and Salon*, offering various massage styles and sports treatment, created by Lawrence Chambers, a junior business administration

major from Temple Hill MD; Dominique Payne, a senior accounting major from Philadelphia PA; and Jarroid Warner, a sophomore marketing major from Baton Rouge LA.

Competition was open to teams of full-time students from any department. Student teams were required to submit a brief description of their idea for review by the business faculty in order to get early feedback and direction on preparing the business plan. Final business plans were then submitted and evaluated and the top four semi-finalists were invited to present their plan to a panel of judges composed of the Division of Business faculty members.

This is the first year that the Institute has offered the competition. Scott Management Team (DBA McDonald's Restaurant) sponsored this year's business plan competition by providing \$5,000 in scholarship awards to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. CEO Terry Scott has agreed to sponsor the competition yearly.



THEY MEAN BUSINESS: Terry Scott, CEO of Scott Management Team DBA McDonald's Restaurant, (holding plaque) congratulates the winners of the XU Entrepreneurship Institute's campus-wide student business competition, including (from left) Verina Walker, Bretton LeFlore, Aaron Burgess, Jarroid Warner, Scott, Dominique Payne, Lawrence Chambers, Kory Twaites and Alexandra Broussard.



Did You Know?

... that a school-record four XU athletic teams qualified for National Association of Intercollegiate (NAIA) national championships in 2008-2009? The men's and women's cross country teams qualified for nationals in November after sweeping their respective Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) titles; while the men's and women's tennis teams both earned spots in the national tournament this spring after capturing the GCAC tennis titles.

... that during the past four seasons XU athletics has combined to win 17 GCAC team championships and qualify for 12 NAIA national tournaments?

... that the XU Department of Music's Jazz Band, Concert Choir and University Chorus ensembles performed in five eastern U.S. cities (Atlanta GA, Durham NC, New York NY, Philadelphia PA and Washington D.C.) during their annual spring tour?

... that XU senior Benjamin John Moore of New Orleans recently spent 10-weeks in the Andes Mountains of La Serena, Chile, participating in the International Research for Undergraduates program in astronomy? One of only six U.S. students in the program, the physics/Spanish double major served as an undergraduate research assistant working alongside professional astronomers from around the world at the famous Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory...that Xavier publishes an online research journal featuring the scholarship of its undergraduate students? The most recent issue of the Center for Undergraduate Research publication includes projects that emerged from the Communications, English, and Psychology departments. The publication is available for viewing at <http://xulanexus.xula.edu>.

... that Gregory Perrault '09 was named Young Professional of the Year by the Urban League of Greater New Orleans Young Professionals for his involvement in related student organizations and community outreach.



FATTAH CONFERENCE: Students Cher'Lynn Shaw, Stephen Williams and April Harry hang out with XU math professor Dr. Lester Jones at the 23rd annual Fattah Conference on Higher Education. It marked the first time the conference, which encourages minority undergraduate students to pursue graduate school degrees, was open to students from all Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Just In Case You Missed It

Xavier is #1 in the nation in placing African-Americans into medical school ... everyone else is a distant second. While the final numbers for 2009 won't be in for some time, there is little doubt that XU will claim the top spot for the 16 straight year. But just in case, consider:

- Donald Brown '09, a biology/pre-med major from Grand Blanc MI, has been accepted into medical school at Meharry College.
- Dana Clark '09, a biology/premed major from Lanham MD, has been accepted into Life College of Chiropractic Medicine.
- Jada Etienne '09, a psychology/premed major from Cypress TX, has been accepted into medical school at Meharry College, New York University, the University of Texas-Houston, UT-Galveston, UT-Southwestern and UT-San Antonio.
- Olufemi Fadahunsi '09, a biology/premed major from Duncanville TX, has been accepted into dental school at the University of Texas-Houston, UT-San Antonio and Baylor University.
- Nicole James '09, a biology/premed major from Fresno TX, has been accepted into Life College of Chiropractic Medicine.
- Joffre Johnson '09, a chemistry/premed major from Mobile AL, has been accepted into medical school at Meharry College.
- Keisha Mitchell '09, a biology/premed major from Indianapolis IN, has been accepted into Indiana University Medical School.
- Angela Wallace '09, a biology/premed major from Lake Charles LA, has been accepted into medical school at Morehouse College and the University of Louisville.
- James Freeman '09, a biology/pre-med major from Hammond LA, has been accepted into the University of Rochester Medical School.
- Conisha Holloman '09, a biology/pre-med major from Baton Rouge LA, has been accepted into the University of Rochester Medical School.
- Leslee McElrath '09, a chemistry/pre-med major from Cincinnati, OH, has been accepted into Wright State Medical School.
- Joyce Muruthi '09, a biology/pre-med major from Gretna LA, has been accepted into LSU School of Medicine-New Orleans.
- Leslie Pham '09, a biology/pre-med major from Harvey LA, has been accepted into the University of Houston College of Optometry.
- Meghan Bias '09, a biology/pre-med major from Grand Coteau LA, has been accepted into Meharry Medical College.
- Paisley Robertson, a senior psychology/pre-med major from Westwego LA, has been accepted into the Life College of Chiropractic Medicine.
- Nikkia Edwards '09, a biology/pre-med major from Garland TX, has been accepted into medical school at the University of Texas-Southwestern.
- Maya Hills '09, a biology/pre-med major from Bunkie LA, has been accepted into Meharry Medical College.
- Ayana Johnson '09, a chemistry/pre-med major from Dunwoody GA, has been accepted into Meharry Medical College.
- Kayla Nixon '09, a biology/pre-med major from Jacksonville FL, has been accepted into medical school at the University of Florida and Mayo Medical College.
- Brittney Richardson '09, a biology/pre-med major from Independence LA, has been accepted into medical school at the University of Louisville and Howard University.
- Lauren Williamson '09, a biology/pre-med major from New Orleans, has been accepted into medical school at LSU-Shreveport.
- Davida Yarbrough '09, a biology/pre-med major from Madison AL, has been accepted into the University of South Alabama Medical School.
- Bryan Gallerson, '09 biology/pre-med major from Plano TX has been accepted into medical school at Howard University.
- Adrienne Noble '09, a biology/pre-med major from Maryland Heights MO has been accepted into the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine.
- Ashley Smith '09, a biology/pre-med major from Silver Spring MD, has been accepted into medical school at Howard University and Johns Hopkins University.
- Shelly Tran '09, a biology/pre-med major from Marrero LA, has been accepted into medical school at Howard University.
- Pauline Smith '09, a psychology/pre-med major from Detroit MI, has been accepted into medical school at Howard University and Meharry College.
- Jessica Brunet '09, a sociology major from New Orleans, has been accepted to the Master's of Public Health- Health Policy program at Florida State University.



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From the Storm to the Stage

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Services. They introduced me to the recruiter for the position I have now.”

Williams currently works with the FBI. He plans to pursue a master’s degree in public administration.

Psychology major Blake Clark attended a Texas college after the storm.

“It was different learning and social environment. I love Xavier’s atmosphere and environment. I was ready to come back.”

“Initially I wasn’t going to come to Xavier as a freshman,” said Clark, who will attend Tulane’s PhD program in social psychology on a full fellowship. “But I attended a summer program here and fell in love with Xavier and the city.”

Pharmacy student Takena Reese was newly accepted into the XU College of Pharmacy in 2005.

“There is absolutely no place in the whole wide world that is like Xavier or New Orleans!” said Reese. “It was a long road for me to get to pharmacy school, a lot of challenges, but I considered it an honor and a privilege, everyone doesn’t get this opportunity. I felt like I had made a covenant with Xavier when I signed up.”

“I identify with everything Xavier stands for and that’s where I needed to be,” she added. “I didn’t even try to get into another pharmacy school, or like some of my classmates, take courses elsewhere. I was intent on finding a place to live and getting back to Xavier.”

Reese is currently employed with Slidell Memorial Hospital and plans to continue to work there and in the Tenet Health System.

All of the students agree that returning to New Orleans and Xavier was a given.

“I wanted to be a part of the rebuilding of my city,” said Williams. “Not coming back or giving back through community service wouldn’t benefit the city. The more people that come back and give back, the better our city will become.”

Members of the Class of 2009 are now Xavier Alumni and are pursuing careers and advanced degrees. Fifty-two have already been accepted to medical school with more expected.

When Xavier held its commencement in May, classmates Takena, Traylon and Blake moved ‘From the Storm to the Stage,’ to a bright future.

“I identify with everything Xavier stands for and that’s where I needed to be...”



DEFINING EXCELLENCE: Lauchland Roberts and Kenesha Pace, winners of the University’s top service awards – are congratulated by XU President Norman Francis at the annual Baccalaureate Mass and Honors Convocation.



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