



# Eye On Xavier

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**JUST THE RIGHT TOUCH:** Enthusiastic members of Xavier's incoming Freshman class proudly display their new Class of 2012 baseball caps for the first time following the annual "capping" ceremony, part of the University's week-long New Student Orientation program.

## Freshman Class Increases by 18%

Xavier received another "green light" on its road to recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when 911 new students – including 784 members of the freshman Class of 2012 – enrolled for the 2008 fall semester.

That influx of new students pushed the University's current overall enrollment to 3,233 students, five percent higher than last fall and holding steady at slightly more than three-quarters of its record pre-Katrina student population. The figures for this fall show 2,447 students enrolled in the College of Arts and Science, 673 enrolled in the College of Pharmacy and 110 in the Graduate School. The new students included 784 freshmen and 127 transfers.

"It's very gratifying to see students from across the nation are showing renewed interest in attending Xavier," said President Norman Francis, attributing the sustained interest to the University's continuing national reputation for excellence and leadership in the math and science fields – especially biology, pre-med and pharmacy – combined with a solid liberal arts core curriculum."

"We have never compromised our commitment to academic excellence despite Katrina's toll," said Francis, noting that the University has graduated nearly 2,400 students since Katrina. "Our students continue to compete and excel in the sciences as well as in business and liberal arts."

## Alumna Named MacArthur Fellow

Dr. Regina Benjamin '79, a rural family physician in Bayou LaBatre AL, has been named a MacArthur Fellow for 2008. She is one of 25 new MacArthur Fellows announced this year – each of whom will receive \$500,000 in "no strings attached" support over the next five years.

According to MacArthur Foundation President Jonathan Fanton, the MacArthur Fellows Program celebrates "extraordinarily creative individuals who inspire new heights in human achievement." The rural doctor is the second Xavier grad to receive the award, also known as the "Genius Grant." The late John T. Scott '62, a legendary artist and educator, received the award in 1992.

Benjamin is an inspiring model of compassionate and effective medical care in one of the most underserved regions of the United States. In 1990 she founded the Bayou LaBatre rural Health Clinic to serve the Gulf Coast fishing community of Bayou LaBatre AL, a village of some 2,500 residents devastated twice in the past decade by Hurricanes George (1998) and Katrina (2005).

Despite scarce resources, Benjamin has painstakingly rebuilt her clinic after each disaster and set up networks to maintain contact with patients scattered across multiple evacuation sites. She has established a family practice that allows her to treat all incoming patients, many of whom are uninsured and frequently travel by pickup truck to care for the most isolated and immobile in her region.



## XU Still No. 1 in Physics

The latest report from the American Institute of Physics (AIP) on physics enrollments and degrees, confirms that Xavier is still first in the nation in awarding physics BS degrees to African Americans.

The report, which covers the latest available three-year period (2004-06), shows Xavier with an annual average of 16 bachelor's degrees – far ahead of second-place Benedict College (South Carolina) with an annual average of seven.

All of the schools finishing in the listing (nine schools) are either HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) or a predominately black colleges or universities.

**WELL-DESERVED HONOR:** XU graduates currently attending Meharry Medical College and his former XU colleague Dr. Jacqueline Hunter were on hand to witness Dr. JW Carmichael, Jr. receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the school for his outstanding contributions to the healthcare profession and his instrumental role in establishing programs that have drawn national recognition to Xavier - the nation's No.1 institution for placing African Americans into medical school.



## Special Honor for Pre-Med Advisor

The driving force for more than thirty years in establishing America's premier pre-medical undergraduate program for African American students has been recognized for his role by one of the nation's most respected medical schools.

Meharry Medical College presented an honorary degree to XU chemistry professor and pre-med program director Dr. JW Carmichael earlier this fall as part of the medical school's 133rd Convocation.

Carmichael was recognized for his success in making Xavier the undisputed leader in African American medical school acceptances.

For the past 15 years, Xavier has successfully sent more African American students to medical school each year than any other university in the nation including Harvard, Howard and other larger schools. In fact, the nation's only Histori-

cally Black & Catholic college is among the country's top producers of African American students who gain acceptance to medical, dental, pharmacy and other health professions programs.

Carmichael's close contact with and guidance of his pre-med students has contributed much to Xavier's success.

Previous honors received by Carmichael have included being named a National Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), also the Charles A. Dana Foundation award for his innovations in teaching science, and the Harold W. McGraw Jr. Prize in Education.

## New Women's Studies Minor Added

The College of Arts and Sciences has added a new minor program in Women's Studies to its academic offerings this fall.

The interdisciplinary minor introduces students to a comprehensive body of knowledge that critically analyzes the gendering process from a multidisciplinary perspective. To complete the minor, students must complete 18 credit hours from a broad-based package of courses, including three (nine credit hours) required courses - Introduction to Women's Studies, Women in International Contexts and Twentieth Century Women Writers - and three (nine credit hours) electives which may be selected from a pool of 17 courses from 13 different disciplines.

Dr. Pamela Waldron-Moore, chair of the Political Science Department, said the new minor promises to enhance and revitalize course offerings in the core and major curricula. She said the adoption of the women's minor is especially appropriate at Xavier, where more than two-thirds of its 3,200 enrollment is female.

In the coming semesters, a Women's Resource Center, complete with books, magazines, videos and related electronic equipment will be established. It will be utilized and supported by a women's studies student organization and a Women's Studies Coordinator. The Center will feature book club readings, occasional guest speakers, debating contests, and community activities (e.g. poetry readings and Spoken Word clinics involving community and collegial representatives).



**THE RIGHT STUFF:** Former NASA astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris, Jr. engages XU students following his presentation at a Freshman Seminar. He is founder of the non-profit Harris Foundation, Inc. to advocate for more effective math/science education and youth crime prevention programs.



**RUNNING FOR FUNDS:** More than 600 Xavier students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends showed up in force to help raise monies for the University and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) at the 21st annual Fund Run in Audubon Park.

## The Xavier Degree: Less Expensive, More Fulfilling

According to the College Board, the average cost of attending a private, four-year college in 2007-08 was more than \$32,000 a year including tuition, room and board, and various fees. Contrast that with Xavier University of Louisiana, whose total cost averages substantially below that amount (in the mid-\$20's) for undergraduates in the College of Arts & Sciences.

That's a bargain under any circumstances – but consider what it is that XU students are getting for their dollars invested.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, Xavier continues to rank first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in both the biological/life sciences and the physical sciences. In pre-medical education, Xavier's success has become near legendary, ranking first in the nation in placing African American students into medical schools annually for the past 15 years. The College of Pharmacy, one of only two pharmacy schools in Louisiana, is among the nation's top three producers of African American Doctor of Pharmacy degree recipients every year. And that's only in the sciences.

The Xavier tradition of excellence in the liberal arts and professional fields has been equally impressive with students graduating to become leaders in education, the fine arts, business, and public service.

Consider also, the fact that some 90 percent of Xavier students receive some form of financial aid – usually in the form of grants (which don't require payback), loans and scholarships. XU counselors work with students and parents to structure financial aid packages that make their college education an affordable, less stressful experience.

The priority date to apply for financial aid is as soon as possible after January 1. It is recommended that students apply as early as possible since certain funds are distributed on a first come, first-served basis. For more info on financial aid, visit our website at [www.xula.edu/financial-aid](http://www.xula.edu/financial-aid).



**WHITE COATS:** First-year College of Pharmacy students take their professional oaths at the annual White Coat Ceremony, during which the neophyte students received their first professional uniform - the white jacket - symbolizing ethical practice and signifying the beginning of their professional pharmacy education.

Visit Xavier online at [www.xula.edu](http://www.xula.edu) for more information and to submit an online application.

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## XU Ranks High in Education Report

A special report by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine once again provides documentation of Xavier University's success in a number of academic disciplines.

In its annual "Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producers" issue (June 2008), the magazine showed XU once again ranking first in the nation in the number of African American students earning baccalaureate degrees in two areas – the biological and biomedical sciences, as well as the physical sciences.

Xavier was comfortably ahead of the pack in both categories: graduating 126 students in the biological and biomedical sciences – nearly 20 percent more than that of second-place Howard University – and another 39 students in the physical sciences – nearly 50 per cent higher than runner-up Morehouse.

## Speech Pathology Receives Grant

The XU Speech Pathology program has been awarded an \$800,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Education to train students to be speech-language pathology assistants who are bilingual in Spanish.

Students will participate in a two year program at Xavier where they will become competent in the culture, language and speech and language development of Latinos. Students will receive tuition and stipend support for the two years they are in the project.

## Languages Adds Arabic, Japanese

Xavier students now have the added option of studying Arabic and Japanese on campus.

This fall the Department of Languages expanded course offerings beyond the traditional instruction in French and Spanish to include less commonly taught languages that will be significant in the development of international business, diplomacy, and scholarship.

The courses in elementary Arabic and Japanese are three-credit courses designed to give students access to strategic language study on the Xavier campus.



**JUST HANGING OUT:** Members of the Class of 2010 team up with recruitment officers from the U.S. Army for an afternoon of rock-climbing, just one of the recreational activities available during Junior Week.



**SIGN ME UP:** students (from left) Tracy Daniel, Jalessa Novalez and Kevin Barnes take a few minutes to re-enlist in the University's e2Campus emergency text message alert system for the new academic year.



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