



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY *of* LOUISIANA

Contact: Patrice Bell-Mercadel (504) 520-5452
or Richard Tucker (504) 520-5425

XULA Student Rescuers Honored by the New Orleans City Council

New Orleans LA – Five Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) students who orchestrated a dramatic rescue of an injured motorist near the campus last week were honored today by city officials at the New Orleans City Council meeting.

The students – Demetrius Brown, Ronald Haroon, Markevion Kennebrew, Moses Micheal, and Dominique Prophete – are credited with a potentially life-saving rescue of a motorist who hit a utility pole and then crashed upside down on the embankment of the drainage canal along Washington Avenue on the night of October 2nd.

The rescue was not only daring because of the steep embankment and mangled car below them but also because a live-electric wire that sparked in the water just feet away.

"Theirs was a true act of courage, deserving of praise, making the school, and of course the City of New Orleans, proud," said Jared Brossett, District "D" Councilman. "We recognize these young adults today, and we wish them continued courage as they pursue their goals and continue to contribute to society."

"What a great day to be president of Xavier University of Louisiana!" said Dr. Reynold Verret, president of Xavier University of Louisiana. "We are so proud of these five young Xavier students, who without any regard for their own safety were ready to spring into action and save the life of another. Their heroic actions are a living testament to Xavier's still present mission of being of service to our brothers and sisters wherever or whenever the need."

As the events unfolded that night, Kennebrew, a biochemistry major from Jackson MS (South Atlanta High School, Atlanta GA), and Micheal, a sophomore business major from Nigeria, witnessed the accident and rushed to the scene. They were quickly joined by two other students they did not know: Brown, a junior dual-degree computer engineering major from Jackson MS (Provine High), and Haroon, a junior biology major from New Orleans (Holy Cross High). Then Prophete, a senior biology/premed major from Los Abanos CA (St. Joseph's Academy), who had never met any of the other four before, arrived on the scene to complete the human chain to reach the driver.

"[The driver] was like 'please help' and I don't know how you can turn you back away from that," Haroon said. "We actually made a chain and one person was holding onto the wall because it's really steep. Dom gave me his jacket and we had to pull the door open and we helped [the driver] up."

"Without us, he probably would have bled out and stayed in the car until the police got there," added Kennebrew.

The crash knocked out power to much of the area. Emergency crews rushed the driver to the hospital.

"The car could have slid down in the water and he could have gotten shocked," recalled Brown. "But I feel like it's our public duty to help people in need. We weren't thinking (about the wire). We were just thinking to get him out and get him on the street and make sure whoever's in the car is alright."

About Xavier University of Louisiana

XULA students *Leave Ready* to serve, care, and lead their communities. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. Take a moment to learn more about how Xavier is preparing students for the future at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD4mb-jYZC8>.

Once again, Xavier University of Louisiana received national accolades as one of the best universities in the country. Most notably, XULA is ranked as the best value among southern regional colleges and universities in the 2018 edition of "Best Colleges" by the U.S. News Media Group. Xavier also ranked No.1 in its grouping, heading the list of only 15 schools that qualified for the Southern Region category listed under "Great Schools, Great Prices."

To book interviews about our recent accomplishments and or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the arts, contact Patrice Bell Mercadel, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at 504-520-5452 or via email at pbellmer@xula.edu.

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(front L-R) XU President Dr. Reynold Verret, Demetrius Brown, Councilman Jared Brossett '04, and XU Chief Marketing & Communications Director Patrice Bell-Mercadel; (middle) Ronald Haroon, Councilwoman Nadine Ramsey, and XU VP for Student Services Joseph Byrd; and (back) Councilman James Gray, Markevion Kennebrew, and Moses Micheal. Not pictured: Dominique Prophete.