



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

THIS MONTH AT XAVIER

August 2017

FISKE GUIDE: XU A "BEST BUY"

XU PARTNERS WITH UCSD

FOUR TRUSTEES JOIN BOARD

XU 9TH IN HBCU ALUMNI GIVING

CHEMSTAR THE RIGHT MIX

ALUM NAMED POLICE CHIEF

XAVIERITES



High school students taking advantage of the popular ChemStar summer get absorbed in hands-on lab experiments. It was one of nine well-attended pre-college programs offered on campus this summer.



The 2017 graduates of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies – the Rev. John Milton and Dean Orrin Burroughs – celebrate the moment with XU administrators Dr. Anne McCall, Sr. Eva Lumas, Dr. Kirk Gaddy, and Dr. Marcus Cox.

FISKE COLLEGE GUIDE NAMES XAVIER A "BEST BUY", AGAIN

The 2018 edition of the *Fiske Guide to Colleges* has once again selected Xavier among its "Best Buy Schools" for academics and affordability.

This year publication has designated 38 institutions in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom – 20 public and 18 private – as "Best Buys." To qualify for the distinction, the colleges and universities must have been awarded a four- or five-star academic rating and be in the inexpensive or moderate price category.

Xavier, which has been awarded "Best Buy" status six consecutive years – is the only university in Louisiana and the only HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) to make this year's list.



Now in its 34th year, the *Fiske Guide to Colleges* has provided millions of parents, counselors, and college-bound students with an independent perspective on the distinctive personalities of the best and most interesting colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom. The author, Edward B. Fiske, served for 17 years as education editor of the *New York Times*.

Visit [HERE](#) to see the complete 2018 "Best Buys" list.



XAVIER RANKS NINTH IN HBCU ALUMNI GIVING RATE

A special report by *U. S. News* shows that alumni giving to Xavier ranks ninth best among the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The report, "Historically Black Colleges Where Alumni Donate the Most", ranks the 46 HBCUs that submitted this data to *U.S. News* in the annual college guide survey covering the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

The report shows that the proportion of HBCUs alumni who donate to their alma maters varies widely across schools. While the average is 11.2 percent, at the 10 HBCUs where alumni contributed the most during that two-year span, the average is significantly higher: 26.4 percent.

Topping the list was Claflin University with a giving rate of 47.7 percent, followed by Spelman College (39.3 percent) and Bennett College (35 percent).

Contrast that with HBCUs where few alumni donate. Two examples given were Fayetteville State and Texas Southern University, which each had alumni giving rates of only two percent during the two-year period.

The complete report is available at [HERE](#).

XU, UCSD ENTER INTO GRADUATE PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIP

Xavier and the University of California-San Diego (UCSD) have entered into a three-year program designed to provide exceptional undergraduate students opportunities for summer research in the biological sciences.

Under the new UCSD/XULA Graduate Pathways Partnership, beginning in 2018, up to six Xavier students will be selected to participate in the UCSD's prestigious STARS program, an intensive eight-week academy modeled on graduate school life. It includes 6-8 hours of lab research per day, a weekly student development workshop, a GRE (Graduate Records Exam) course twice each week, and optional social activities. To complete the program, participants are required to make a 15-minute research presentation at the Summer Research Symposium.

"This partnership opens up a new gateway for Xavier students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) to actively participate in on-going academic research at a premiere California university," said Torian Lee, Director of Xavier's Center for Intercultural and International Programs and campus coordinator of the XULA/UCSD partnership. He said the program will also provide students with insight into graduate school as well as afford them opportunities for professional development.

While participating in the STARS program, which averages 65 participants per summer, Xavier students will be partnered with UCSD faculty mentors in the Division of Biological Sciences and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

To facilitate the long-term success of the program and increase the support for participating students, Xavier's Division of Biological and Public Health Sciences will also have a role in the partnership. Xavier's Dr. Calvin Porter, has coordinated the pairing of XULA faculty with UCSD faculty based on mutual research interests. It is hoped that these pairings will lead to the building of long-term relationships that facilitate continued collaborations beyond the three-year grant.

Xavier faculty participating in the initiative include: Dr. Partha Bhattacharjee, Dr. Hector Biliran, Dr. Ian Davenport, Dr. Anup Kundu, Dr. Calvin Porter, Dr. Harish Ratnayaka, and Dr. Qian-Jin Zhang. Dr. Harris McFerrin serves as Head of the Biology Department.

Lee noted that under a pilot program, four Xavier students are already participating in the STARS program this summer. These include: Lamiah Hall, Selena Gray, Dominique Prophete and Emily Wilson.



It's still not too late to register for fall classes. Students must meet with an advisor before registering. For more info call the Registrar's Office at (504) 520-6790.

FOUR ADDED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Five Xavier students who spent the summer in Costa Rica – Nekeiah Gibson, Kayla Clark, Jetaun Booker, Eleecia Myers, and Khila Anderson, along with XU professor Giti Farudi – take in a Costa Rican National Team event. The students, who lived with Costa Rican host families, studied Spanish conversation and culture and Spanish for health professionals.



XU Director of Premedical Programs QuoVadis Webster '00 & '10 arranged a "family dinner" with some of her fellow XU alumni who have graduated from or are currently enrolled in medical/dental school at Meharry College during the Empower 2 Conference in Memphis TN.

Xavier added four new members to the Board of Trustees at the summer meeting of its governing board. Named to initial three-year terms were: Sister Amelia Breton S.B.S, Dr. Sally Ann Clausen, Paula Saizan, and James Swanson.

Breton, a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament, currently serves as an Evangelization Coordinator for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Florida. She previously served as Vocation Director for her Congregation and assisted with the Hispanic Adult Faith Formation initiative as part of the Catholic Institute for Evangelization. She holds a B.A. in Religious Studies from Holy Family University and a Masters in Theology and Ministry from La Salle University.

Clausen currently serves as Executive Director of the Ingram Center for Public Trustees and Governance, an affiliate of the Association of the Governing Board (AGB) and as Council of Presidents Chair for AGB. A former UL System President and adjunct professor, she was the first female President of Southeastern Louisiana University and the sixth Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Louisiana. She has a doctorate of education in school administration, a master's degree in special education/psychology, and a bachelor's degree in education from Louisiana State University.

Saizan, a 1969 Xavier graduate, previously served on the Board from 2005 to 2011. She is President of PTBS, Inc., an independent Public Relations and Communications entity in Houston TX. Saizan retired from Shell Oil Company following a long tenure where she served as a Senior Advisor in Corporate Affairs and as a Strategic Planner. Prior to her tenure at Shell Oil, she served as an IBM Systems Engineer.

Swanson is a founding member of Fishman Haygood LLP and is the firm's managing partner for over twenty years. He is considered a top rated business litigator attorney and his firm is regarded as the go-to litigator(s) for complex disputes in Louisiana and across the nation. Swanson is President of Choice Foundation, the governing Board of three turnaround public charter schools in New Orleans focused on educating the underserved. He is also Treasurer of the Innocence Project New Orleans. He has taught at Loyola Law School and Tulane University in trial advocacy and media law. Swanson holds a B.A. degree in economics and a J.D. degree from Tulane University.

Carryovers on the 19-member Board – who are serving either their first or second terms on the board – include: Justin Augustine III, Dr. Gilda Barabino '78, the Honorable Carmen Bermudez, Sister Donna Breslin S.B.S., Sister Theresa Chato SBS '71, Mark Goodman, Bishop Curtis John Guillory SVD, Dr. John Jackson IV '94, Gladstone Jones, The Honorable Judge Ivan Lemelle, Alden J. McDonald Jr., the Honorable Marc H. Morial, Sonia Perez (chair), Michael Rue, and Mary Zervigon. XU President Dr. Reynold Verret is an ex-officio member of the Board.



ALUM NAMED UNIVERSITY'S NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

Jacques Battiste has been named the new Chief of Police at XULA, according to Joseph Byrd, Vice President for Student Services.

Battiste, a 1988 Xavier graduate, returns to his alma mater from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where he accumulated more than 22 years of experience as a Supervisory Special Agent. During his tenure at the FBI, Battiste worked internationally to conduct investigations on terrorism suspects, responded to critical incidents such as the 1996 Centennial Park bombings in Atlanta, Georgia and USS Cole attack, and served as lead agent on several national security special events in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Prior to joining the FBI, Battiste served as a lawyer with the New Orleans City Attorney's Office and as a reserve duty police officer with the New Orleans Police Department. He holds a dual degree in political science and chemistry from Xavier, as well as a Juris Doctorate from the Southern University School of Law.

Xavier is grateful to Assistant Police Chief Albert Cornish, who has been serving as the University's interim police chief since the passing of former Chief Duane Carkum in January 2017. He will resume his previous post as the Assistant Chief of Police.



CHEMSTAR: THE RIGHT MIX FOR PROMISING SCHOLARS

When the curtain closed on this summer's ChemStar program at Xavier University of Louisiana, some 69 high school students – mainly juniors from Orleans and surrounding parishes – left the college campus knowing what a periodic table is and how it is used to identify elements.

In contrast, most of their high school peers have yet to crack open a chemistry book.

For three weeks, enterprising young scholars like 16-year-old Ty Tubbs, an 11th grader at De La Salle High School in New Orleans, and Amari Hurst, a 15-year-old from Riverdale High School in Jefferson LA, traded their summer vacation leisure time for the rigors of Xavier's prestigious pre-college chemistry course, which meant participating in lectures, group study, lab work, and homework. And both are glad they did.

"It was fun," said Tubbs, whose long-term goal is a career in mechanical engineering, meteorology, or veterinary medicine. "We've learned so much about chemistry – things I never knew. I feel like it has really prepared me for this coming school year."

Hurst concurred, although unlike Tubbs, Hurst is eyeing a career field that doesn't really require much knowledge of chemistry. She's more into public relations or fashion design, but she knows in order to fulfill that dream, she has to pass high school chemistry first.

"I joined ChemStar so that I could just have a basic knowledge of chemistry going into my tenth grade year, and it really has helped a lot," she said. "I'm not going in blindsided. I now know what to expect."

Leah Deloch, a 2013 Xavier alumna who just completed her second year co-directing the ChemStar program, said there are a number of reasons why this summer program has been successful through the years. And she should know, as a fulltime chemistry and physics teacher at East St. John High School in Laplace LA, she has witnessed first-hand the advantage her students get from the non-credit course.

SANFORD INSTITUTE of PHILANTHROPY™

The Sanford Institute of Philanthropy at Xavier is offering a new workshop, "Supercharge your Board / Making a Compelling Presentation", Aug. 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the University Center Room 205.

Charles Heim of Heim Consulting will contact the workshop which will focus on engaging the entire Board in the roles of fundraising, communicating how their work fits into the bigger picture, and techniques to make your presentation compelling.

The cost is \$75 with lunch and class materials included. Register [HERE](#).

"Primarily self and peer motivation comes to mind," said Deloch. "I also credit the environment. It breeds positive engagement and cooperative learning to where they (the students) help each other."

"We're not just preparing them for chemistry, but we're preparing them for the rigorous studying and having to digest information that they'll need for college," she added. "We teach them a new skill everyday – it's a very fast-paced course. We are specifically giving them the tools that they need to be prepared for high school chemistry."

Tubbs, Hurst, and their fellow 67 ChemStar scholars are ready.

XAVIERITES

Students

- **Eman Al-Bassisi**, a P4 pharmacy student from Gretna LA (Thomas Jefferson High), was one of only 13 graduate students selected to the 2017-18 class of Fellows for the New Orleans chapter of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. The Fellows will spend the next year learning to effectively address the social factors that impact health and developing lifelong leadership skills.
- Four incoming freshman – **Altonnesha Darby** of Gonzales LA (East Ascension High), **Brooke Jones** of St. Louis MO (Clayton High), **Tshiama Muamba** of St. Louis MO (Pattersonville Sr. High), and **Soinkne Morant** of Killeen TX (Killeen High) – were among 100 top-performing high school seniors named Fund II Foundation UNCF STEM scholars. They will each receive a total award package of up to \$25,000 that includes scholarships and a stipend for STEM internships over five years. In addition, the program will provide wrap-around support critical to students' academic success.

Alumni

- **Dr. Miller Boyd, III '98** conducted a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Teachers workshop on the Civil War at the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute on Citizenship and Democracy in Jackson MS.
- **Rebecca Chaisson '73 has been named** was named dean of the School of Social Work at Southern University at New Orleans. Previously she was an associate professor at SUNO, and also had teaching stints at Louisiana State University and Tulane University.
- **Wynter Evans '03** is alive and well. The 2017 issue of *XU Gold* erroneously listed her as deceased when it was her mother, Mrs. Nettie Evans, who had passed. We are also happy to report that Paulette Fernandez '72, also mistakenly listed as deceased, is also doing fine. We deeply regret both errors.
- **Frances Germany '13** has been accepted into medical school at St. George's University.
- **Dr. Tasha Inniss '93** has joined the INFORMS staff as the inaugural director of Education and Industry Outreach. In this role, she will contribute her extensive mathematics and education background to the overall vision, strategic direction and implementation of all education- and practice (industry)-related activities and outreach. Previously she served as the acting deputy division director of the Division of Human Resource Development in the Directorate of Education and Human Resources at the National Science Foundation. Concurrent with that, she was a tenured associate professor of mathematics at Spelman College in Atlanta.
- **Levon Aldon LeBan II '17** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in chemistry at Kansas State University.

- **Hieu Nguyen '09** was named Pharmacist of the Year at the North Oaks Medical Center in Hammond LA, where he works as a staff pharmacist.
- **Dr. James Paschal '57** was named Humanitarian of the Week by the Southwest Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross for his volunteer work in area of disaster mental health.
- **Beryl Wagner MA '01** has been named assistant principal of Carencro Heights Elementary School (Lafayette LA Parish School System).

Faculty/Staff

- **Dr. Lori Gordon** (pharmacy) has been placed on the Fulbright Specialist Roster by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and World Learning. She is now eligible to be matched with Fulbright grant projects designed by host institutions in more than 150 countries globally.
- **Dr. Joseph LaRoche** (pharmacy) has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, the highest honor bestowed by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), in recognition of the highest levels of excellence in practice and science. In addition, he and **Sarah El-Rachidi '17** had a paper, "Pharmacists and Pediatric Medication Adherence: Bridging the Gap," published in *Hospital Pharmacy*.
- **Joseph Moses** (athletics) has been selected Louisiana Coach of the Year in women's track and field for the second time in three years by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association. This year he coached XULA to the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference women's team championship, its fourth in five years.



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