

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

SILVER & BLUE

SPRING 2023

NEXT IS NOW

**The Campaign For The
University of New Orleans**





A nighttime photograph of a city skyline. The sky is a deep orange and purple, suggesting dusk. In the foreground, a dark building with a grid of windows is visible, some of which are lit from within. To the left, a taller building is brightly lit, with its windows glowing yellow. In the background, a prominent tower with a lattice structure is silhouetted against the sky. To the right, another tall building is partially visible, also with lit windows. The overall scene is a dense urban environment at night.

FIRST LOOK

*The Caesars Superdome goes
Privateer blue in honor of the
University of New Orleans
Next is Now capital campaign.*



Pulling Together. Sure, tug-of-war is a strength competition. The lesson is in how it is won. The key is combining the team's strength and pulling together in one direction. Privateers for the win!



— T A B L E O F —
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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:

In this same space in last fall's issue of Silver & Blue, I told you about the public launch of the University's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign: "Next Is Now: The Campaign for the University of New Orleans." With considerable excitement, I shared that our goal was to raise \$50 million in order to transform the institution and provide even more access to a UNO education. Our efforts are focused on four priority areas: investing in students, creating bold academic programs, building for the future and cultivating our knowledge. In the pages of this issue of Silver & Blue, you will read more about the details of the campaign, as well as see some of the celebratory images from our campaign kickoff. Employees, students, alumni and partners all took part. A spectacular fireworks display over the Lakefront Arena illuminated the Lakefront. The New Orleans skyline was bathed in Privateer blue. It was breathtaking. As you read this issue, I hope you will also recognize the people who are the beating heart of our university: our diverse and talented students, our dedicated faculty and staff, and our inspiring alumni. When you support the University of New Orleans, these are the people you are uplifting.

Here's the good news. Next is Now has built significant momentum and garnered incredible support. Cash, pledges, verbal commitments and legacy expectancies total nearly \$42 million, meaning we are more than 80% of the way to our goal. My ask is direct: If the University of New Orleans has made a difference in your life or in the life of someone you love, please consider paying it forward. The amount of your gift is far less important than your decision to give. It means that you have a stake in the future of this essential institution. You are declaring your belief in the city's only public research university and prioritizing its success. Stacy and I believe strongly in the University's mission, which is why we have endowed a pair of scholarships.

The University of New Orleans has 50,000 graduates in metro New Orleans alone and another 30,000 across the country and around the globe. You know, first-hand, the worth of a UNO degree. You also know how vital it is for future generations of students to have access to that same degree. When your alma mater thrives, your UNO diploma actually becomes more valuable. Our university community is tenacious and determined, which is why I am so confident that Privateers everywhere will pull together to help us accomplish our common goal. Everyone has a different reason for why they support the University. It may be to honor a former professor who challenged you, acknowledge an influential staff member who supported you or to simply remove an obstacle from the path of a future UNO student. Whatever your motivation, please know that this community is grateful. And our university is further fortified by your generosity. For more information, visit nextisnow.uno.edu.



UNO Proud,
John Nicklow
PRESIDENT

 @UNOPresidentJN  @unopresident

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THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

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CAMPUS SCENE

HEADLINES AND HAPPENINGS

*INSIDE
HOMECOMING*

*JAZZ AT THE
SANDBAR*

*LIMELIGHT
THURSDAY*

CAR SMASH

SWAMPBALL

KREWE OF UNO

COMMENCEMENT





HOMEcoming

It's a tradition that celebrates school pride and offers the chance to reconnect, cheer and celebrate NOLA's team. UNO celebrated homecoming Nov. 7-12, with a slate of activities on campus and around the city, including tailgating before the homecoming basketball game and post-game fireworks. BELOW: The UNO Athletic Department recognized seven inductees to the New Orleans Athletics Hall of Fame as part of homecoming activities.



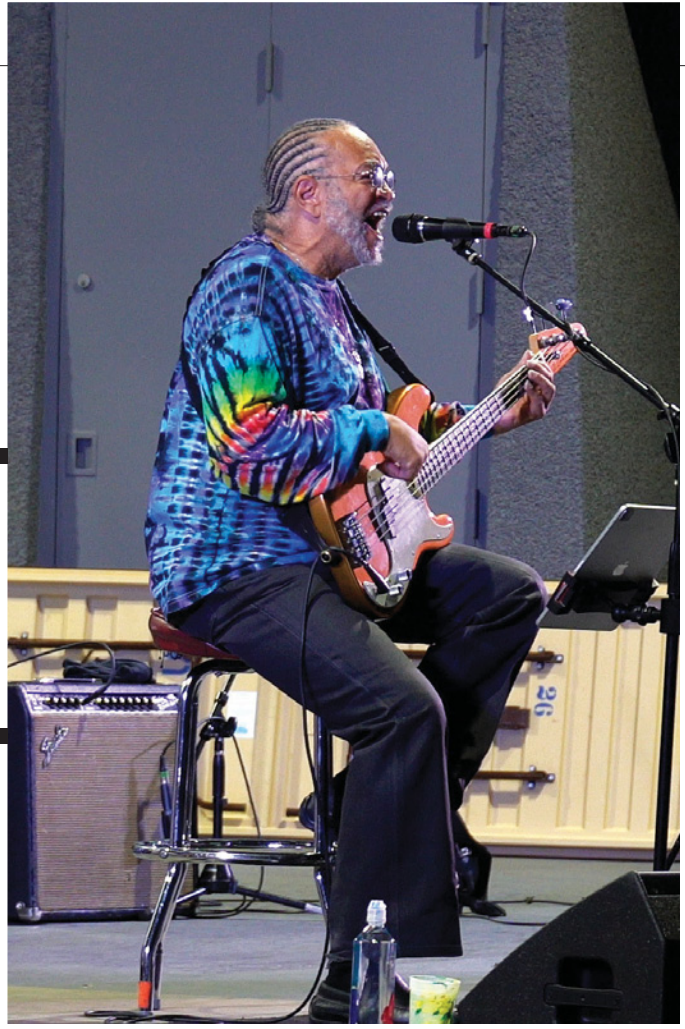
JAZZ AT THE SANDBAR

Jazz at the Sandbar is a musical tradition stretching back more than three decades. It was established in 1990 by the late music faculty member Ellis Marsalis, and pairs seasoned professional musicians with UNO jazz students on the bandstand in front of a live audience at the Sandbar, located inside The Cove. These photos are from the Oct. 26, 2022 fall series.



LIMELIGHT THURSDAY

Legendary New Orleans bassist and singer George Porter Jr. entertains during Limelight Thursday, UNO's School of the Arts newest addition to its music series lineup. The free outdoor musical concert was held at the recently updated campus amphitheater.





CAR SMASH

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity helped raise money for the charity Homes For Our Troops, a non-profit organization that builds and donates specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 veterans.



SWAMPBALL

It is a dirty game, Swampball. However, there is nothing better than getting dirty for a good cause! Teams of students, alumni, and local residents battled it out in water-filled pits on Oct. 1 for the Golden Volleyball Trophy and bragging rights, while raising money for student scholarships. The event is organized by the UNO Ambassadors and is held each fall in the Library Quad.





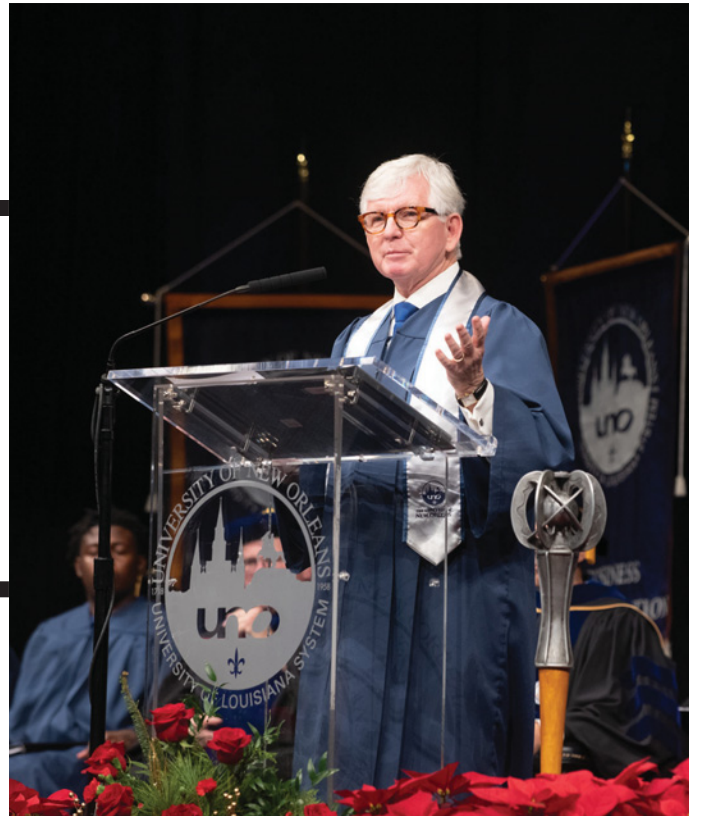
KREWE OF UNO

It was love on the lakefront meets Carnival as the Krewe of UNO rolled through campus on Valentine's Day. The krewe celebrated its 2023 theme, "Love on the Lakefront," with plenty of Mardi Gras sass, beads, faux coconuts and many other imaginative trinkets.

FALL COMMENCEMENT

Alumnus Mark Romig delivered the keynote address to UNO fall graduates on Dec. 9. Romig is senior vice president and chief marketing officer of New Orleans & Company and is also the stadium announcer for the New Orleans Saints.

"The key is to be adaptable, and to be ready at each fork in the road you come to—to make the best and right move because you believe it fits what you want to do, and when you do, you will grow," said Romig.



NOVEMBER 6 – 11

HOME COMING WEEK

EVENTS

Homer L. Hitt Distinguished Alumni Gala
Thursday, November 9

Class of 1973 – 50th Reunion Celebration Brunch
Friday, November 10

Class of 1998 – 25th Reunion Celebration
Friday, November 10

Homecoming Game and Tailgate Village
Saturday, November 12

[HOME COMING.UNO.EDU](http://homecoming.uno.edu)

More information to come.
Contact us with any questions at alumni@uno.edu
or 504.280.ALUM (2586)

THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

NEWS & EVENTS

UNO'S NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK DRAWS HUNDREDS OF LOCAL STUDENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans celebrated the value of engineering studies with a day-long event for area middle and high school students in March in honor of National Engineers Week.

More than 500 middle and high school students from several parishes in the metro area visited campus to enjoy dozens of interactive exhibits that included an underwater remote-operated vehicle, a hydraulic operated robot gripper, a NASA observatory and star dome, and many other hands-on activities.

The event, held in the University Center, was aimed at introducing the younger students to the broad field of engineering and to the faculty and students at UNO's Dr. Robert A. Savoie College of Engineering, said dean Lizette Chevalier.

"We have a number of businesses that have hands-on activities, our student organizations have hands-on activities, and the idea is to make a difference, to be present and to network with our larger community, because we are the University of New Orleans," Chevalier said. "We have about 550 kids here today and they get this chance to see

who we are too."

The University of New Orleans offers the only civil, electrical, mechanical, and naval architecture and marine engineering programs in the metro area, making it an ideal host for such an event, said Zoe Giles, recruitment outreach manager for the Dr. Robert A. Savoie College of Engineering.

"My vision for this event was to expose the New Orleans community to the world of engineering through the University of New Orleans," Giles said. "We want students to walk away with having a better understanding of the different engineering disciplines and what we do."

NASA was there with its



Hundreds of middle and high school students took part in interactive activities at UNO as part of National Engineers Week.

mobile observatory and star dome to teach about its Space Launch Program and space exploration, the naval architecture and marine engineering program had its electric eels on display and the mini Baja Club had its go-kart parked at the entrance of the University Center, Giles said.

“The go-kart was designed and built by the Baja Club,” Giles said.

Students were also treated to a screening of “Dream Big: Engineering Our World,” a feature-length film produced in partnership with the American Society of Civil Engineers. The film explores the human ingenuity behind engineering marvels large and small, and, producers say, promises to “transform how we think about engineering.”

Lataisha Rogers, a sophomore at Edna Karr High School in New Orleans, said she enjoyed the exhibits.

“It was very interesting,” Rogers said. “In the gallery they had built this roller coaster and had the kids racing (marbles). If you won, you get candy!”

The “roller coaster” experiment was a twin high-rise of twisty foam noodles set on a table with books for added lift. The exhibit, created by the UNO chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, was designed to illustrate conservation energy—how gravity and force play a role in how fast each marble travels from the top of the coaster to the bottom.

In a “perfect world,” barring friction and air resistance, the marbles should arrive at the bottom at the same time.

Tracee Brewer, a math teacher at Immaculate Conception School in Marrero, watched as some of her students constructed a tower using gum drops and tooth picks. The activity, courtesy of the New Orleans branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers, was designed to illustrate the importance of structural integrity in design and building.

“They are having a great time; some are really into the structural, civil engineering,” Brewer said. “I got some ideas to share with teachers back at school, some STEM projects that they can do.”



25-YEAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY EFFICIENCY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans has entered into a new partnership with Louisiana Energy Partners, a collaboration between Bernhard LLC and Johnson Controls Inc., that will renew campus energy infrastructure and reduce emissions.

Within UNO’s existing operating budget, the University will generate \$2.1 million of annual utility cost savings while addressing nearly \$9 million of deferred maintenance during the lifetime of the 25-year partnership.

“We are thrilled to partner with LAEP to bolster our energy infrastructure and provide the most sustainable campus for future generations of Privateers,” said UNO President John Nicklow. “The upgrades our campus will receive are near-term solutions that embrace our goals of being more sustainable and proactive in combating climate change and simultaneously create a more comfortable and reliable environment for students and employees.

UNO has fully embraced evolving the University campus to better address changing trends in sustainability, climate change, and the physical characteristics of New Orleans

and the surrounding area. The foundation of this Energy-as-a-Service partnership was built on dramatically enhancing the sustainability efforts of the University.

“A more sustainable campus and the infrastructure upgrades will also boost capabilities and add breadth to our nationally-recognized education and research programs,” Nicklow said. “Students and faculty researchers will have the opportunity to learn and improve understanding of sustainable energy practices through this partnership.”

UNO’s 200-acre lakefront campus will see \$27 million of upfront energy infrastructure and building improvements deployed in the first two years of the partnership. These improvements include a 1.8 MWdc solar array, renewal of the campus chilled water systems, upgrading building assets including air handling systems, efficiency improvements to lighting and building water systems, and retro-commissioning of building automation systems. In addition, UNO will transfer operations and maintenance (O&M) risk of their campus energy infrastructure to Bernhard’s team of experts.

UNO PROVOST DARRELL KRUGER: I'M A RELATIONAL LEADER'

AS A FORMER DEAN OF the College of Education and Human Development at the University of New Orleans, Darrell Kruger is not exactly new to UNO. However, prior to his formal return to UNO on Jan. 1 as the new provost, senior vice president of academic affairs and executive director of research and economic development, Kruger wanted to introduce himself to the campus community, so he held informal chat sessions in the University Center.

Those informal sessions—which Kruger said he plans to continue—is an example of Kruger's "walking" management philosophy. He wants to walk the campus, visit departments, and talk with students, faculty and staff on a regular

basis, Kruger says.

"You're fostering collaboration, you're trying to bring people together and break down some of those silos we stereotypically think about in higher education," Kruger says. "I'm a relational leader, so people are at the center of the work."

He succeeds Mahyar Amouzegar who stepped down after six years as provost to join the College of Business Administration faculty in the Department of Economics and Finance.

Kruger, who is from South Africa and holds a doctorate degree in geography, says his people-centered mentality is rooted in a South African philosophy of "Ubuntu." It was a term used often by the late South African President Nelson Mandela in dis-



cussing how a person's recognition of shared humanity leads to a better community.

"The short of it is that it's people centered. I can only be a human being through my interaction with you and other

human beings," Kruger says. "So being a relational leader—'Ubuntu'—is about people and relationships ... and then it's collaborative."

Kruger said he also applies lessons learned as a rugby fan and player to guide his management style. It's more about the team than it is about a single player, he says.

Kruger plans to demonstrate that team-first mentality as he assumes the reins as UNO's chief academic and research officer.

"Everyone in the organization is a leader. It's not just the president and the provost and deans and the department chairs; everyone is a leader," Kruger says. "Some of the best ideas come from people who work in the organization and who may not think of themselves as leaders ... And I need them, if we are to strengthen UNO and the academic vision of the institution."

Kruger has an affinity for quotes. In fact, he loves to collect them and years ago created a personal database that he continually updates.



Kruger, third from left, chats over coffee and croissants at UNO's Center Austria with, from left: Marc Landry, associate center director; Guenter Bischof, Center Austria director; visiting professor Eva Pfanzelter from the University of Innsbruck and Ph.D. fellow Katja Maierhofer from the University of Vienna.



UNO'S FILM PROGRAM GETS 'WORLD-CLASS' UPGRADES WITH HELP FROM \$172K STATE GRANT

The eclectic room that University of New Orleans film professor Aaron Rushin shows to visitors used to be a storage closet. Now, with the help of a \$172,000 state grant and the imagination of film studies professor James Roe, it stores a journey into sound.

Roe, who teaches film post-production techniques, including visual effects, post-production sound and editing, turned the closet into a professional

Foley suite, which is a room that filmmakers use to make sound effects in real-time for movies. Roe was the principal investigator for the Louisiana Board of Regents grant that funded key renovations and upgrades.

In the Foley suite, there are pods of rocks and gravel. A “closet” of clothes on hangers. Light switches. Boots and pillows—among other things—and a microphone to capture all of the sounds.

“Can you see? One might step on this to make the sound of footsteps,” Rushin said as he stepped in the gravel pod. “You can make different sounds so it is all synced to the film. This room makes things a lot easier rather than trying to have to jury-rig something post audio.”

The goal of the renovations, Roe said, was to provide critical infrastructure to enhance education and to enable new hands-on filmmaking methods while incorporating the new equipment into the curricula with exciting course projects that continue to prepare students for professional filmmaking.

The grant helped to update two finishing suites with faster computers, high dynamic range (HDR) monitors and expanded software capabilities that adhere to industry standard in editing, color correction and sound mixing.

“There are post editing facilities around the state that don’t have anything like this,” Rushin said. “We’re pretty proud of that.

ABOVE: UNO professor James Roe (white jacket) talks with film students during a color correction class held in one of the upgraded computer finishing suites. Roe was the principal investigator for a state grant that funded upgrades. BELOW: Film professor Aaron Rushin examines one of the upgraded cameras.

It’s a world-class facility.”

The grant also helped with the purchase of new LED lights that allows for the continued move from old style Tungsten and fluorescent lighting equipment to the new power-saver LED lights.

The enhancements will allow UNO’s program to meet current and future industry standards in film and television post-production workflows as they relate to high dynamic range and color space, Roe said.

The grant also funded a projection system for screening in the music department’s 300-seat Recital Hall, complete with a new 4K projector, a remote-control screen that drops from the ceiling and a new audio system.



The University of New Orleans celebrated honorees during a black-tie event on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the NOPSI Hotel in New Orleans.



HALL OF DISTINCTION HONORS UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans honored a select group of individuals who have had a profound impact on the University and the city of New Orleans at the second Hall of Distinction gala. The black-tie event, held Jan. 21 at the elegant NOPSI Hotel, celebrated the honorees and UNO's role in creating leaders throughout the region.

"Tonight's honorees represent different professions, different areas of expertise and even different eras," said UNO President John Nicklow. "But every single one of them is a difference-maker whose commitment, dedication and selflessness helped create a better city and a better UNO."

"Inclusion in the Hall of

Distinction reflects the respect and admiration held by the University of New Orleans for these individuals, both living and deceased. They serve as an inspiration to both our current and future students."

The class of 2023 Hall of Distinction honorees are Donald T. "Boysie" Bollinger, Ruby Bridges, Dr. Raphael Cassimere Jr., Ellis Marsalis (posthumous), Norma Jane Sabiston (posthumous), and Dr. Robert and Lori Savoie.

Bollinger is the chairman and CEO of Bollinger Enterprises LLC and former chairman and CEO of Bollinger Shipyards Inc., a family-owned marine construction and ship repair company. Bollinger Shipyards is

the largest vessel repair company in the Gulf of Mexico. UNO's Boysie Bollinger School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, one of the few such schools in the nation, is named in his honor.

Bridges is a civil rights icon, activist, author and speaker. In 1960, at the age of six, she was

the first Black student to integrate all-White William Frantz Elementary School, thereby initiating the desegregation of public education in New Orleans. She was not able to attend the gala in person, so a video of her acceptance speech was broadcast in the ballroom.

Cassimere, an emeritus



Ellis Marsalis



Norma Jane Sabiston



Ruby Bridges

history professor and alumnus, is one of the most important faculty members in the 65-year history of the University. He was the first Black instructor hired at the University, and he taught at UNO for more than 35 years. He was also a key figure in the New Orleans civil rights movement, serving as the president of the New Orleans NAACP Youth Council.

Marsalis was a UNO professor of music and a founding faculty member of jazz studies at the University. In 1990, he established Jazz at the Sandbar, a tradition of pairing UNO jazz students with professional musicians on the bandstand that has endured for more than 30 years. The acclaimed jazz artist and educator was the patriarch of New Orleans' most famous musical family. His award was accepted by his son Jason Marsalis.

Sabiston, who earned a degree in political science from UNO, worked in politics for more than 30 years, as a strategist and consultant, as well as a political director and chief of staff for members of Congress. She was a former president of the UNO Alumni Association. Her award was accepted by her sister Dottie Belletto.

Dr. Robert Savoie is the president and chief science and engineering officer of Sev1Tech, a leading provider of IT modernization, cybersecurity, cloud services and engineering. He earned a doctorate from UNO in engineering and applied science. UNO's Dr. Robert A. Savoie College of Engineering is named in his honor. An active civic leader, Lori Savoie is the chair of the WYES Board of Trustees, a member of the City Park Improvement Association and a member of the board of the New Orleans Museum of Art.



2022 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GALA CELEBRATES ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT, IMPACT

HUNDREDS CELEBRATED alumni achievement and the impact of the University of New Orleans at the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Gala, presented by the National Urban League, at the National WWII Museum on Nov. 8.

The annual gala was part of a weeklong slate of activities that marked the kickoff of Next Is Now, the University's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign.

"This is an amazing evening for the University," said UNO President John Nicklow, who noted that the University has nearly 50,000 alumni in metro New Orleans and a total of 80,000 around the globe. "The influence of our graduates is extraordinary, and it is important that we honor and celebrate our exemplary alumni."

The festivities included a fireside chat-style conversation moderated by alumnus and emcee Mark Romig and featuring 2022 Homer Hitt Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Mi-

chelle Miller and 2022 Norma Jane Sabiston Young Alumna of the Year Lauren Gibbs. Former U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu provided poignant remarks about the importance of honoring Sabiston, her dear friend who died in 2020. Sabiston was longtime political strategist and fiercely proud UNO alumna who was a previous president of the UNO Alumni Association.

Miller and Gibbs talked about the importance of their UNO education, why the institution matters to the region, what excites them most about their alma mater and why it's worth supporting. In addition to celebrating Miller, a CBS News correspondent and host of "CBS Saturday Morning", and Gibbs, owner and CEO of Gibbs Construction, the University also recognized distinguished alumni from each of its four academic colleges and athletics.

■ The College of Business Administration honored Michael Achary, senior executive vice president and chief financial

Alumnus and emcee Mark Romig hosts a fireside chat with 2022 Homer Hitt Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Michelle Miller (center) and 2022 Norma Jane Sabiston Young Alumna of the Year Lauren Gibbs.

officer at Hancock Whitney;

■ The Dr. Robert A. Savoie College of Engineering honored Dalton Boutte, a retired oil and gas executive who served as president of WesternGeco, the seismic subsidiary of Schlumberger;

■ The College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development honored Nancy Degan, a trial lawyer, partner and shareholder of the New Orleans office of Baker Donelson;

■ The College of Sciences honored Darryl Willis, corporate vice president of Microsoft's Energy & Resources Industry;

■ Privateer Athletics honored Stuart Weidie, president and chief executive officer of Blossman Gas.

FACULTY FOCUS



CENTER AUSTRIA DIRECTOR GUENTER BISCHOF FETED AS 'POWERHOUSE' OF SCHOLARSHIP

SINCE HIS ARRIVAL AT THE University of New Orleans in 1989, history professor and Center Austria director Guenter Bischof has chronicled the political eras of Austrian history while working on Austrian-U.S. relations via a study abroad program in collaboration with the University of Innsbruck.

Bischof, who grew up in the Alpine village of Mellau on the Swiss border and earned a master's degree in history from UNO, was celebrated in March for his scholarly labors and heaped with praise for the sheer volume of his published works.

"His tireless dedication to research and teaching has inspired countless students and colleagues, and his passion for his subject is truly infectious," said Ray Wang, dean of Earl K. Long Library and information services.

Wang gave an opening address before the discussion between Bischof and UNO Press editor Abram Himmelstein, entitled, "25 Years of Center Austria Publishing at UNO."

Through a partnership with UNO Press, Center Austria has published a wealth of scholarly work that has helped with the understanding of European

history, culture and politics, said Wang.

Bischof co-founded the Contemporary Austrian Studies (CAS) journal in 1993 as an annual publication. Contemporary Austrian Studies is an interdisciplinary social studies journal that covers modern Austria since 1918. The UNO Press recently published Volume 32 of the journal.

Each volume is dedicated to a specific theme, with essays, forums, historiography, roundtables, book reviews and an annual review of Austrian politics complementing each volume.

"As we celebrate Center Austria's 25 years of publishing with UNO Press, we also honor and celebrate the remarkable achievement of professor Guenter Bischof whose name is synonymous with the center," said Wang. "Over the course of his distinguished career, professor Bischof has made countless contributions to the field of history and international studies. His dedication to academic excellence and cultural exchange has helped to build lasting connections between scholars and students on both sides of the Atlantic."

Founded in 1997, Cen-

ter Austria is a research and discourse hub for Austrian and European studies at UNO and in New Orleans. The center advances understanding of Austrian and Central European culture through scholarly and artistic activities, and academic partnerships.

The University of New Orleans' flagship study abroad program in Innsbruck, Austria is the University's largest and oldest study abroad program.

A long table held a display of several dozen books that were written or edited by Bischof.

"It's just a tremendous body of work," said Himmelstein. "It's not just the number, but the breadth and depth of it is really impressive."

The cache included books about the Marshall Plan, Austrian immigration to the United States, Austrian myths and UNO Press' reigning best-seller that was edited by Bischof, "Kreisky, Israel, and Jewish Identity," by Daniel Aschheim. The book explores the life of Austria's long-serving Socialist chancellor Bruno Kreisky and the role his Jewishness played in his politics and identity.

"This is really a tremendous amount of production for any

human to create, much less somebody who was at the same time overseeing dissertation committees, being a professor, doing a lot of travel," Himmelstein said. "It's a staggering amount."

Bischof thanked his wife, Melanie Boulet, and his children for supporting his prodigious publishing quests. He was able to write many of the books, because he could plan them out while on school breaks and vacation, Bischof said.

"I have a great partner in life," Bischof said. "They allowed me to go upstairs, particularly during holidays," in order to write and research.

As he leans toward retirement, Bischof said he wants to write about interesting Austrian immigrants, some of whom he shares a connection—like Norbert Bischofberger, the Austrian inventor of the flu medication Tamiflu or the Kohler family, the makers of bathtubs, sinks and toilets. Both families came from or near his Austrian village, Bischof said.

"When you think of migration, usually you handle it with big numbers, big data," he said. "We know very little about individual biography so I think ... there are lots of fascinating stories like that."

UNO RESEARCHERS CONTRIBUTED TO LOUISIANA'S UPDATED \$50 BILLION COASTAL MASTER PLAN

FOUR UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans researchers contributed to the creation of Louisiana's updated \$50 billion coastal master plan, which is the state's proposed guiding document to address the challenges of land loss and coastal flood risk.

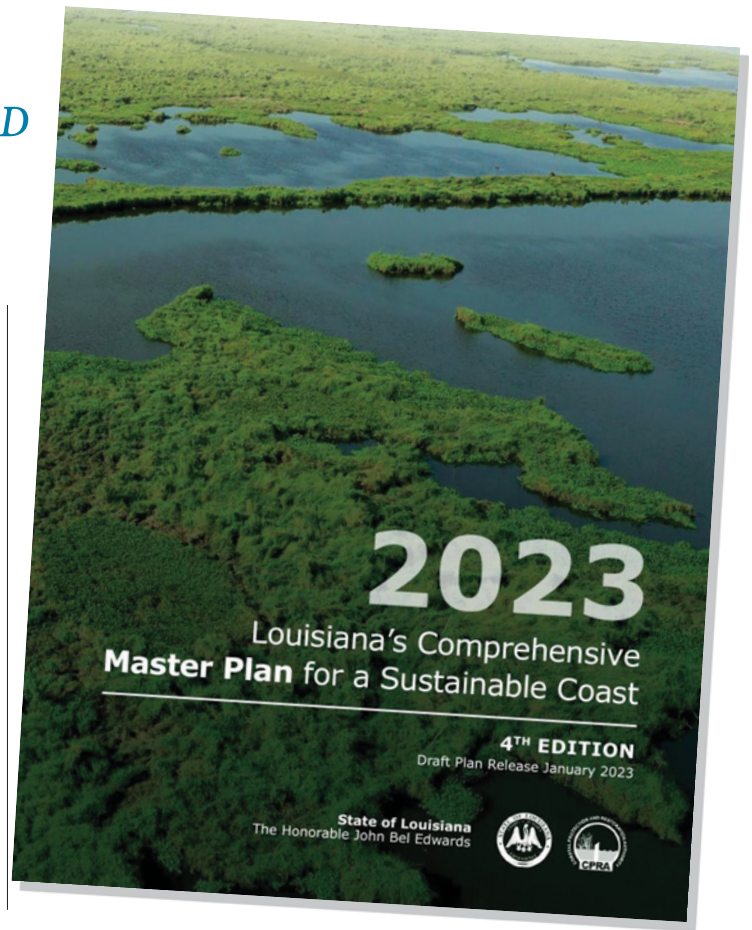
The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) released a draft of the 2023 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan on Jan. 6. The plan lays out the state's priorities for implementing restoration and risk reduction projects that officials say will result in a more sustainable coast.

CPRA is tasked with updating the master plan every six

years. Once approved by the Louisiana Legislature, the plan becomes the guiding document for the state's coastal activities and provides a clear path forward for billions of dollars of investment in the design, implementation and operation of large-scale restoration and risk reduction solutions.

UNO earth and environmental sciences professors, Madeline Foster-Martinez, Ioannis Georgiou, Denise Reed and research associate Ann O'Connell contributed to the 2023 draft plan.

Public hearings on the updated plan started in January.



COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR JAMES WAGNER AWARDED NAVAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans computer science professor James Wagner will spend his summer working with the U.S. Navy on a data privacy and security project. Wagner has been awarded a Summer Research Fellowship by the Office of Naval Research, which pairs faculty members with naval research mentors.



James Wagner

The fellowship offers an opportunity to conduct full-time research of mutual interest to faculty members and to the Navy.

Wagner will join a project at the Naval Research Laboratory where he will leverage his background in database security and data privacy to capture the

lineage of data within a system as it moves between disk and memory and undergoes transformations in memory. This project will work toward the Department of Defense's broader agenda to ensure continuous, real-time, policy-based monitoring of database activities.

"Current query monitoring tools can collect data transactions and activity across the network. Then using predefined security policies, administrators can be alerted when sensitive data is accessed," Wagner said. "However, it is possible for an attacker to write obfuscated queries that appear to be harmless to such monitoring tools but

they, in fact, pose a security risk.

"Our goal this summer is to build a more trusted approach to query monitoring; we will look at how queries are processed at a low level. Rather than monitor what comes into and out of the system, we will monitor how the data is processed. Understanding how the data moves throughout different memory regions provides a clear understanding of what a query was actually doing. While the input query may be designed to trick monitoring, the low-level data processing cannot be fooled." Wagner, who earned his Ph.D. in computer science from DePaul University, has been an assistant professor of computer science at the University of New Orleans since 2020. His research interests include database security and digital forensics.

In particular, he studies attack scenarios involving insider threats. In 2022, he was awarded a three-year, \$158,000 research grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents.

The 10-week fellowship starts June 1st and includes a \$16,500 stipend.

"We are very proud of James for being awarded the prestigious ONR Summer Research Fellowship," said Mahdi Abdelguerfi, professor and chair of the computer science department. "James is the second junior faculty member in our department awarded an ONR Summer Fellowship over the last three years. The University of New Orleans already has strong ties with NRL, and James' selection into the program further strengthens our instructional and research partnership."



EXHIBITING RESISTANCE: FREEDOM ON THE MOVE AT WHITNEY PLANTATION MUSEUM

UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans history professor Mary Niall Mitchell, who is director of the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at UNO, has been awarded a nearly \$55,000 grant to help create an exhibit at the Whitney Plantation Museum that will include a specialized tour and curriculum material.

Whitney Plantation Museum is a historic site and memorial located in Wallace, Louisiana in St. John the Baptist Parish. The museum is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history of slavery and its legacies and educates the public through tours, exhibits and programming.

The project, funded in part with a \$54,300 grant from the Whitney Plantation, will benefit those interested in learning about self-emancipation and resistance by enslaved Africans and African Americans, Mitchell said.

The proposed exhibition and related programming would focus on resistance and freedom seeking in south

Louisiana before and during the Civil War using research from the Freedom on the Move digital database as well as from the Whitney museum.

Mitchell, the principal investigator for the grant, is working in collaboration with Freedom on the Move and Cornell University, one of the five partner universities working on the database project.

The Freedom on the Move initiative has digitized more than 32,000 ads placed by enslavers seeking to locate enslaved fugitives or jailers hoping to recover reward bounties for men and women captured while fleeing enslavement. The publicly accessible database, which includes teacher resources and some 10,000 ads related to Louisiana, is a rich source of information on the history of slavery and resistance.

The need for the project is threefold, Mitchell said. It will continue to highlight and center the variety of Black experiences under slavery in the United States, including those who resisted, provide



an accessible entry model into this history for other museums, historic sites, libraries and classrooms, and allows for Whitney to continue its educational mission of sharing the stories of Black survival and resistance in new ways.

Mitchell said the exhibition is projected to launch in three years at Whitney, alongside a slate of public programming, including a workshop on the developed curriculum.

University of New Orleans history professor Mary Niall Mitchell is a lead historian for the Freedom on the Move digital database and director of the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at UNO.

TOP: A sculpture of a young girl stands in the middle of a church on site at the Whitney Plantation Museum.



ABOVE: Andrea Mosterman (in blue) and other panelists discuss the art exhibit, “The Price of Half-Freedom.” BELOW: Mosterman with the artist, Jean-Marc Superville Sovak, at the exhibit.

HISTORY PROFESSOR ANDREA MOSTERMAN’S RESEARCH IS BASIS FOR A NEW YORK CITY ART EXHIBIT

UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans history professor Andrea Mosterman’s book about slavery and resistance in Dutch New York serves as the basis for an art exhibit at the Shirley Fiterman Art Center located on the campus of Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York City.

The exhibition by artist Jean-Marc Superville Sovak is based on research in Mosterman’s book *Spaces of Enslavement: A History of Slavery and Resistance in Dutch New York*. Mosterman, along with Sovak, participated in a roundta-

ble at the art center in September.

“The Price of Half-Freedom” tells the story of eight enslaved Black men who confessed to the murder of another man enslaved by the Dutch West India Company in New Amsterdam, now New York City. The men stood willing to be collectively accused of a crime that carried the death sentence, because they knew that they stood a better chance of survival by standing together, guilty in solidarity, rather than individually in innocence.

The exhibit was on display from October through Dec. 22.



AWARD-WINNING HISTORIAN MAX KROCHMAL READY TO STEER JUSTICE STUDIES PROGRAM INTO NEXT PHASE

HISTORIAN MAX KROCHMAL, the recipient of multiple national and international scholarly awards, is set to guide the University of New Orleans doctoral justice studies program into its next phase. Krochmal arrived in August following a Fulbright Fellowship in Mexico City last year.

The justice studies program, which was approved by the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors in 2020, offers four areas of concentrations in criminal, educational, environmental and social justice. The program will enroll its third class in the fall.

“We are uniquely situated as a university and a program to have an impact across the Gulf South and nation, to create a model for effectively multiplying leadership, for creating more scholar activists who can pair research and advocacy and help to transform the region,” Krochmal says.

Prior to UNO, Krochmal spent 11 years at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth where he was a history professor and the founding chair of comparative race and ethnic studies. He has earned a reputation as an accomplished professor of history specializing in civil rights.

His scholarly work covers the gamut of justice issues, from examining coalition-building among diverse community organizers across the civil rights era to understanding social movements and relational racial formations, says Mahyar Amouzegar, the former provost and senior vice president for



academic affairs who helped to recruit Krochmal to UNO.

Amouzegar, who recently joined the faculty in the Department of Economics and Finance, also helped to establish the new doctoral program, along with language and literature professor and former dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development Kim Martin Long.

“I was looking for a leader who understood the history and culture of justice studies and who could bring a deep sense of knowledge and pride with a vast record of scholarly work,” Amouzegar says. “Dr. Krochmal embodied all these characteristics and more.”

Krochmal is adept at combining scholarly passions. He is the award-winning author of “Blue Texas: The Making of a

Multiracial Democratic Coalition in the Civil Rights Era” and co-editor of “Civil Rights in Black and Brown: Histories of Resistance and Struggle in Texas.” He also directed the oral history project undergirding the volume, with support from a National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Grant.

In November, Krochmal was the recipient of the prestigious Oral History Association Book Award for that collaborative book.

The book and project examine and record the history of African American and Mexican American civil rights activists in Texas.

“We conducted over 500 life history interviews and built a database of those interviews,” Krochmal says. “There are 8,000

Max Krochmal (far right) is the new director for the doctoral justice studies program at UNO. He’s pictured with outgoing program coordinator Steve Mumford (left) and professor Kim Martin Long.

clips in the database and it’s publicly available.”

Krochmal says the doctoral program’s continued collaboration with community groups, such as nonprofits, government agencies, as well as businesses, is key to continued growth and for forging an impact in the realm of social justice.

“I think the vision is to position justice studies to be a catalyst for social transformation, and to do that by combining people’s passions,” Krochmal says.

APPLE HAS ADAPTED CWW DIRECTOR M.O. WALSH'S SECOND NOVEL FOR TV SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans Creative Writing Workshop director M.O. Walsh's second novel, "The Big Door Prize," has been adapted into a television series for Apple TV.

The series, which stars Chris O'Dowd, was created by Emmy Award winner David West Read and premiered this spring on Apple TV+.

The book was released in September 2020 garnering early praise with starred reviews.

The novel is set in the small fictional town of Deerfield, La., the type of town where "everybody knows everybody," Walsh has said.



M.O. Walsh

The novel starts with the arrival of a strange new machine at the local grocery store that looks like a photo booth. However, the machine claims that it can tell a person what

their utmost potential would be by analyzing their DNA. The town's residents start to reevaluate their life choices and ambition after getting print outs from the machine.

In addition to O'Dowd, the series stars includes Gabrielle Dennis, Ally Maki, Josh Segarra, Damon Gupton, Crystal Fox, Djouliet Amara and Sammy Fourlas.



ST. CLAUDE GALLERY EXHIBITS 'SELECT: A FACULTY EXHIBITION'

THE UNO ST. CLAUDE Gallery in New Orleans presented "Select: A Faculty Exhibition," featuring the work of several University of New Orleans faculty members from the School of the Arts' fine arts faculty. The

new exhibition opened Feb. 11, with a 6 p.m. reception.

The exhibit displayed work by Ariya Aladjem Wolf, Tony Campbell, Josiah Gagosian, Cheryl Hayes, Jeremiah Ibarra, Kourtney Keller, Jeff Rinehart,

Jennifer Rinehart, Kathy Rodriguez and Jane Tardo.

Their works highlight a broad range of artistic practice including painting, photography, sculpture, video and fiber art.

Jane Tardo is an instructor of sculpture, sewing, and costume craft at UNO. They earned an MFA in sculpting from UNO in 2020.



UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE AWARDED \$13.5 MILLION FOR RESEARCH

RESEARCHERS AT THE University of New Orleans Transportation Institute have received a \$12 million, four-year federal grant for transit-oriented research and education conducted through the Center for Equitable Transit-Oriented Communities (CETOC).

In addition, the University received a \$1.5 million federal grant to continue its maritime and multimodal transportation research and education conducted through the Maritime Transportation Research and Education Center (MarTREC).

“These awards highlight the importance of the transportation industry to our region and our nation,” said Bethany Stich, planning and urban studies professor and director of the UNO Transportation Institute. “These combined awards, totaling over \$13 million in funding, will investigate both passenger multi-modal and freight inter-modal topics.

“These projects will focus on improving accessibility and equity, on community and supply chain resilience, and environmental sustainability.”

CETOC is a U.S. Department of Transportation Tier 1 university transportation center

that is funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as the nation’s premier source for expertise on transit. CETOC’s mission is to cultivate transit-centered, equitable and resilient communities that support residents’ multimodal travel needs and preserve the environment.

UNO is the lead of a five-university consortium that consists of renowned public transportation researchers dedicated to transferrable research, inclusive education and workforce development from the University of New Orleans, University of Utah, University of Colorado Denver, University of Florida, and Florida Atlantic University.

Guang Tian, associated director of the University of New Orleans Transportation Institute, is the director of CETOC and UNO’s principal investigator of CETOC.

In the next four years, the grant will fund \$12 million in research and education activities. Examples of some of the proposed projects include redesigning microtransit and transit network, building a national database of transit and shared micromobility, coordinating land use and transportation

planning, analyzing transit-based evacuation demand in hurricanes, and the support of UNO’s Master of Science in Transportation degree program.

MarTREC is a U.S. Department of Transportation Tier 1 university transportation center that is recognized as the nation’s premier source for expertise on maritime and multimodal transportation. Stich is UNO’s principal investigator of MarTREC.

In the last decade, UNOTI’s participation in MarTREC has funded over \$3 million in research, education and workforce development activities in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast.

Some of those funded projects include an analysis of the economic development benefits of liquefied gas in the Gulf Coast region, the impact of trade policies on the transportation infrastructure of the Lower Mississippi River, the reason for and impact of supply chain disruptions, and support of UNO’s Master of Science in Transportation degree program—the only one in Louisiana.

Also, 10 MarTREC-supported UNO students have won U.S. Department of Transportation



Bethany Stich



Guang Tian

sponsored awards, including the prestigious Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship, the Council of University Transportation Center Graduate Student of the Year and the Charley V. Wootan Memorial Dissertation Award. 🌟

UNO MATRIX

PRIVATEER NETWORK

The UNO Matrix is now the Membership Portal
for the UNO Alumni Association.

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and get your new digital membership card!**

connect • network • mentor

Features include a Job Board, UNO Business Directory,
Events Calendar, Secure Email, and More.



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THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW ORLEANS

NEXT IS NOW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

The campaign marks the first comprehensive fundraising campaign in the University's history.

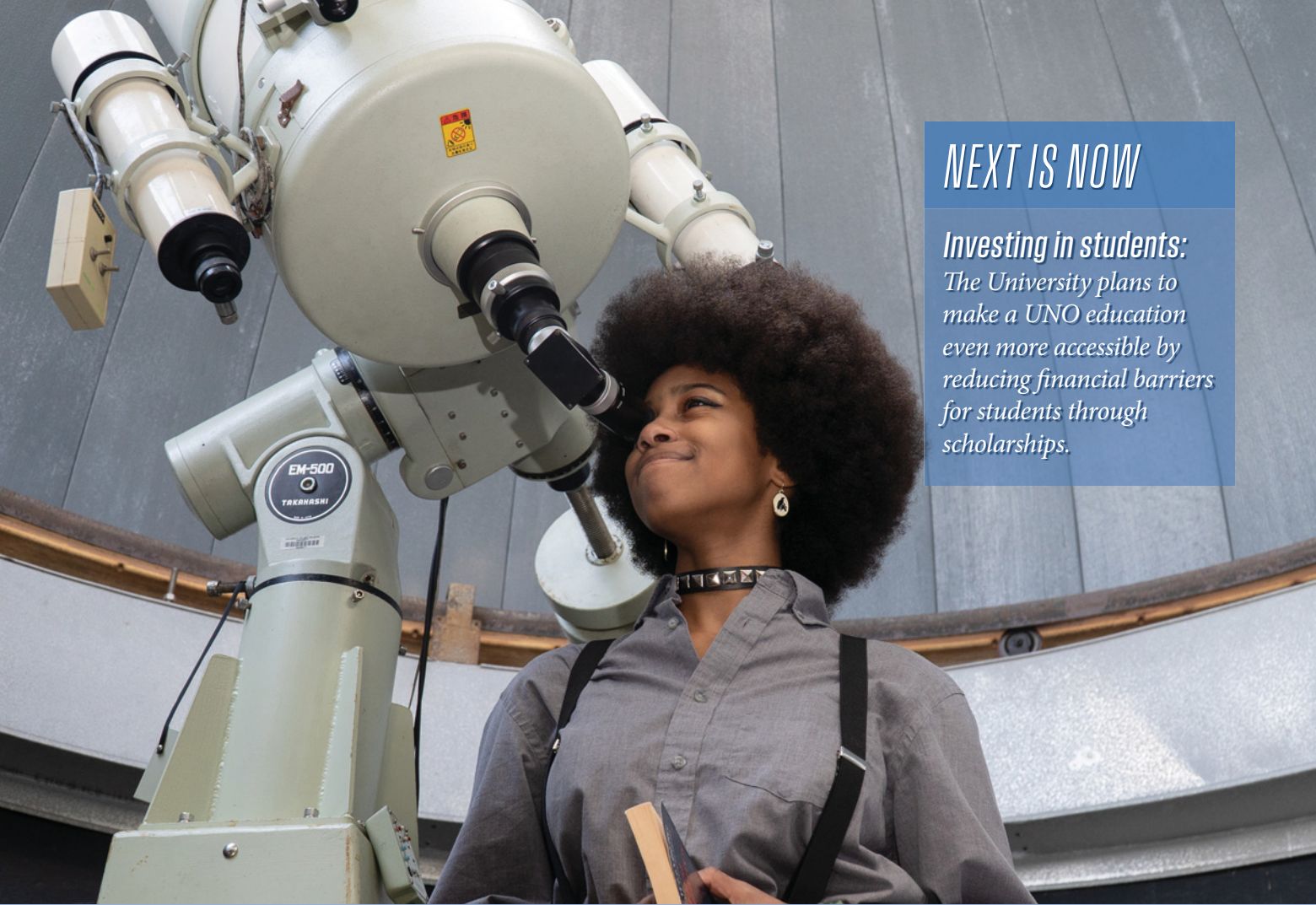
ON OCT. 14, 2022, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS announced the public phase of a \$50 million comprehensive fundraising campaign, the first in the institution's 64-year history. The campaign, which is called "Next is Now," will create an unprecedented level of investment in the University's people, programs and facilities.

"We are calling the campaign Next is Now because we are boldly declaring our ambitions to bring the University of New Orleans to new heights, and we're not waiting to do that; we

are doing it now," says President John Nicklow. "The value of a UNO degree is demonstrable and well-known throughout our city and our region. We are asking our alumni and supporters to help make that degree even more valuable by investing in the University and our students for generations to come."

The campaign is focused on accelerating transformative change in four priority areas: investing in students, creating bold academic programs, building for the future, and cultivating our knowledge.





NEXT IS NOW

*Investing in students:
The University plans to
make a UNO education
even more accessible by
reducing financial barriers
for students through
scholarships.*



NEXT IS NOW

*Creating bold
academic programs:
The University will
create new and enhanced
degree programs where
there is high-demand for
graduates.*

NEXT IS NOW

Building for the future:

The University will give students and faculty a powerful advantage by investing in the equipment, technology and state-of-the-art facilities they need to do their best work.



Learning

NEXT IS NOW

Cultivating our knowledge:

The University will expand high-impact research and empower faculty research leaders. As the city's only public research university, UNO researchers play a key role by creating and disseminating new knowledge.





The University is able to enter the public phase of Next is Now due to the generosity of donors who have provided lead gifts for the campaign. They include: Dr. Robert and Lori Savoie, Donald T. “Boysie” Bollinger, Gary and Martha Solomon, John and Virginia Amato, Frank and Paulette Stewart and Henry Bernstein.

“The University of New Orleans has meant so much to this community for the past 64 years, it is only fitting that we continue to improve it every day,” says Gary Solomon Sr., a UNO alumnus and campaign co-chair. “The Next Is Now campaign will ensure a stronger future for not only our students, but the community as a whole. It is an honor and a privilege to play a role in solidifying UNO’s bright future.”

“The University of New Orleans has the only College of

Engineering in greater New Orleans, making it invaluable to our future,” says Dr. Robert Savoie, a UNO alumnus and campaign co-chair. “An engineering degree from UNO is known to be not just an excellent value, but an excellent degree, as is evidenced by our many highly successful alumni.

“The vision Dr. Nicklow has presented for the University, as embodied in the Next is Now campaign, will enhance the contributions of UNO to the state of Louisiana for many more years.”

In honor of the campaign, several New Orleans landmarks were illuminated Privateer blue in November, including the Caesars Superdome, the Hibernia Tower and the Canopy of Peace at the National WWII Museum. 🌃



Alumna Chloé Duplessis: Artist, Consultant Urges Others

'Create your own story'

BY LITTICE BACON-BLOOD



PLEASURE FILLS UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS alumna Chloé Duplessis' voice as she talks about her life and work with colloquialisms like "Oh, snap!" or "snickety-snap!" peppering her animated speech. That latter phrase is what Duplessis, a Denver-based artist and consultant, reached for when the city's elections division asked her to create an "I voted" sticker.

These stickers are the ubiquitous badge of democracy given to voters during election season.

"Keep in mind this is someone who was like student government president in high school," Duplessis says while laughing about her self-described "nerdy" tendencies. "I had to sit down and compose myself."

"I was like, 'Oh, snickety-snap! The election sticker!'"

The design that Duplessis created features Braille, sign language and low vision-friendly colors to accommodate the vision impaired community. It was unveiled in September and is the first-of-its-kind to be distributed to Denver voters, according to city officials.

"As a legally blind artist, I couldn't be more proud to have been afforded the opportunity to create an accessible, 'I voted' sticker for the City of Denver," Duplessis says. "People navigating disability often feel excluded or even ignored, but it's important to remember that everyone has value and everyone deserves to be seen and heard."

Duplessis has a genetic condition that affects her central vision. She is slowly losing her sight.

"I can't see details anymore at this point," Duplessis says. "(If I'm sitting in front of a table, I see the table, but if you ask me what book is on top of the table I couldn't tell you. It's just a blur."

Duplessis has refused to be sidelined by her vision loss and travels the country giving lectures on accessibility and hosting art workshops.

"We are all navigating something," Duplessis says. "Whether it is physical disability, mental challenge, emotional challenge, we have all got something to bear. It's all about being accessible and inclusive."

Duplessis used the sticker project as a teaching moment. Many people are not aware that there are varying degrees of blindness, she says.

People with low-vision, like Duplessis, can see certain colors more readily than other colors. Colors such as ivory, gray, or versions of taupe or beige are difficult to detect, Duplessis says.

"If you have low vision, it's just a blur because the eye can't pick up on the pigment."

However, if Duplessis passes something that is a candy apple red color or aqua, her eye is able to pick up that contrast.

"So, when you look at that sticker you will actually see there are colors that are easier for people that are low vision to receive," she says. "And they (city officials) were blown away. They had no idea."

Duplessis was commissioned for the project based on her reputation for creating art and immersive experiences that center on accessibility and community.

Duplessis, owner of Duplessis Art Studio,

describes her artwork as historical commentary. She uses current events and history, such as the civil rights movement, for inspiration.

"I'm serving as a reflection of the culture. I'm not telling people to believe one thing or the other. I'm just showing what is," she says. "These things happened and that's how I weave history throughout all of my pieces. Everything I create has a connection to an article I read or history."

"Most of my work is digital collaging at this point. I love doing physical collage, but it's a lot harder because of my vision loss," says Duplessis.

Duplessis has more than 20 years of experience in intercultural engagement, arts administration and advocacy. She also conducts workshops and gives lectures on art, accessibility and inclusive design.

For years, making art had been a stress-relieving hobby for her, says Duplessis.

"I would do glorified vision boards, I would do collages. I would do an accent wall in my apartment wherever I was living, and just cover it in images and pictures and it just brought me such joy," she says.

"I thought that was just normal until I would visit other people's houses and their walls were empty!"

She earned a degree in general studies from UNO in 2002 with an emphasis in cultural studies that included courses in anthropology, history, urban studies and international development.

"So basically working with people and engaging with people," Duplessis says. "It was such a blessing because I use that to this day."

After graduation, she worked at UNO and Tulane University assisting students with financial aid. Hurricane Katrina in 2005 caused her to return to her hometown of Shreveport, La.

She ran for a school board seat and lost "miserably," but was able to reconnect with the city and its residents, Duplessis says. She worked as an executive assistant in the Shreveport mayor's office for four years.

"My beat was anything having to do with young people and progressive programming. I was over arts and culture," she says. "Then, I went into business for myself, basically taking what I'd learned."

Duplessis became a consultant for creatives who lacked the knowledge or willingness to find funds or other resources to further projects or broaden their visibility.

"I knew where the resources were. I knew where the funding was," says Duplessis. "I knew where the organizations were that said we need something cool and creative and I knew where the artists were."

In 2019 Duplessis and her husband, whom she met when they were both students at UNO, decided they wanted to explore a different business market. They were preparing to move to Denver with their young daughter when Duplessis learned that she was suffering

from Stargardt disease, a rare degenerative vision condition.

"(The doctor) said there's no cure for it. We know very little about it and eventually, you're going to lose your sight," Duplessis says.

Devastated, Duplessis cried for hours.

"I asked God tearfully, how do I show up now? How do I do this? I don't know how to do this," Duplessis says.

She recalled her despair in thinking that diagnosis meant giving up her work.

"And that was my first mistake. I thought that ... everything that I had worked to create required sight," Duplessis says. "The reality is, when you're navigating disability and those things are taken away, you have to show up with all of you. You can't lean or rest on just

one aspect of your personality or your skillset."

Growing up in a military family that moved frequently, Duplessis had learned long ago the importance of adapting, adjusting and "rolling with it." She also clung to the "silver lining" her eye doctor had mentioned.

The other form of Stargardt disease causes blindness during adolescence, typically between the age of 12 and 16, Duplessis says.

"All I could think about was all that I had seen as a young woman. The experiences with my family, with church, with volunteering, meeting my husband on UNO's campus, going to the Cove ... traveling abroad, working with all of these people," Duplessis says. "I could not feel sorry for myself."

They made the move to Denver right before the coronavirus pandemic.

"I told my mama we're going and there's no place we can go that God won't be. He will send people to support us and to show us love," Duplessis says. "We're going to shift how people view disability because we've all got something we're navigating."

Duplessis recently opened a larger art studio in downtown Denver called the Duplessis Arts and Culture House and continues to marvel over the opportunities and exposure that has come her way.

"I was told to go home and file for disability three years ago. If I had done that, I would still be sitting in my living room (in Shreveport)," Duplessis says. "I knew I wanted more for myself and more for my daughter."

She urges anyone who wants to reach people with their work to create their own story. That advice is rooted in hurdles Duplessis said she's had to overcome that stretch back to her childhood as a "brown girl" growing up in the South to adjusting to her recent vision loss.

"I want people to realize that you can shift your story," Duplessis says. "I think about all of the people that we have been able to meet and impact with our work. So create your own story, create your own version of success." 🌍



University of New Orleans alumna Chloé Duplessis, who is legally blind, recently created the first-ever visually accessible "I voted" sticker for the City of Denver.

A photograph of Kevin Mangum, an athletic trainer for the New Orleans Saints, standing on the sidelines with his arms crossed. He is wearing a dark blue polo shirt and pants. In the background, several Saints players in white jerseys and gold pants are visible, some holding helmets. The scene is set on a football field during a game.

ALUMNUS KEVIN MANGUM HAS A SIDELINE SEAT FOR NFL ACTION AS VETERAN ATHLETIC TRAINER

BY LITTICE BACON-BLOOD

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS ALUMNUS KEVIN MANGUM has spent more than four decades on the sidelines for the New Orleans Saints as an athletic trainer, keeping an eye on the health and well-being of the players—and getting to know fan favorites, including Archie Manning and Deuce McAllister.

Mangum hails from Tylertown, Mississippi and grew up watching Manning play football, first at Ole Miss and then later as the Saints quarterback.

“Then all of a sudden being in the same facility with him,” was an extraordinary experience, says Mangum, who started working for the Saints in 1981. “I’ve just had great friendships with so many former players . . . I still keep in touch with a lot of them. Deuce McAllister is a great friend.”

Mangum, who earned a master’s degree in physical education from UNO, is in his 42nd season as an athletic trainer for the Saints. It’s a career that has given him a view to many storied victories—including a Super Bowl win and the epic “rebirth” game in the Louisiana Superdome following Hurricane Katrina.

“It’s been a very rewarding career for me. There’ve been some great games,” Mangum says. “Of course, the Super Bowl victory, there’s no better feeling than that. It was a huge game for us.”

“The return to the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina when we beat Atlanta in the rebirth game, that’s something you never forget!”

Mangum is among the club’s longest tenured employees and has worked for 10 coaches since arriving fresh out of college. His



contributions have helped the Saints athletic training staff earn several awards, including the 2007 Southeastern Athletic Trainers' Association (SEATA) Professional Athletic Trainers Award, the Fain Cain Memorial Award in 2006 and the NFL Athletic Training Staff of the Year in 1986 and 2006.

After his third year with the Saints, Mangum began taking night classes at UNO during the offseason.

"I knew that they had a strong program at UNO, the quality of education was good," Mangum says. "It was preparing me for the future. At the time I didn't know if I wanted to give college athletic training a try ... so having that master's degree was important."

Mangum completed his degree in 1988 and has two sons who are also UNO graduates.

"So, we definitely have a connection to the university," he says.

Last year Mangum was honored by the club to receive the Joe Gemelli "Fleur de Lis" award for his contributions to the Saints organization. Mangum, along with running back and special teams player Fred McAfee and wide receiver Devery Henderson, were honored in October in conjunction with the home game against the Las Vegas Raiders.

"It's just great to be recognized for an award as prestigious as that," Mangum says. "It's nice to be recognized and felt like you've made some contributions to the success of this team, whether it's getting a player back on the field or whatever."

Ironically, a sprained ankle his freshman year of high school sidelined Mangum and sparked an interest that blossomed into a career.

"I played defensive back. I was an OK athlete," Mangum says laughing. "I wasn't great, but I held my own."

While being treated for the ankle sprain, Mangum began questioning the trainer about his treatment. He asked questions about the whirlpool and the warm water motion exercises he was told to do.

"I said, 'What am I doing this for? What does this do?' He reached up on his shelf and pulled down a book, *Modern Principles of Athletic Training*," Mangum said. "He said, 'Read the book and find out.'"

Mangum started reading and researching athletic injuries and was hooked.

"I said, 'You know, this is really interesting, and I think this is what I want to do.' That's when it all got started," Mangum says. "Thank goodness he pulled that book off the shelf. It was a start of a good career for me."

As part of the Saints sports medicine team, which also includes an orthopedic surgeon and internal medicine doctors, Mangum is involved with the treatment and rehabilitation of injured players as well as preventative treatments.

"Each individual player has individual needs that they need taken care of before they get to practice or a game. We're all responsible for that," Mangum says. "Our sports medicine staff collectively takes care of the players each day."

During football season, Mangum says his job is a seven-day assignment. He typically arrives at the Saints Airline Drive training facility around 5:30 a.m. Players start arriving for treatment around 7 a.m. Mangum also travels with the team for away games.


"Starting at the end of July through January, it's a seven-day a week job. We're here Monday to Monday," Mangum says.

The Saints training room is equipped with 15 treatment tables, a rehabilitation and a recovery area that includes whirlpool tubs, an underwater treadmill and a 7-foot deep "cold plunge" pool.

"We keep it about 55 degrees. The players like it after practice," Mangum says. "It just helps with the recovery."

Despite the demanding schedule, Mangum enjoys the challenges. The best part of the job is helping players return to the field, Mangum says.

"I think really the satisfaction of seeing a player return to the field after being away from the game and knowing that I played a part in his return to the game ... is a big part of what you really enjoy." 🏈



Alumna Dr. Tina Tan fights infectious diseases and disinformation

BY LITTICE BACON-BLOOD

DR. TINA TAN'S LAUGH IS EASY AS SHE REFLECTS ON THE frenetic pace that has been her work life the last three years. As a pediatric infectious disease specialist whose research expertise—and advocacy—is in the field of vaccines for preventable diseases, Tan has been extremely engaged on multiple fronts.

"It has been a very interesting three years," Tan says, referring to the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the surge of patients suffering respiratory illnesses who were swamping hospitals around the U.S. last winter.

"You deal with it one day at a time. Obviously, the most important thing is to provide the best care possible to the patients that are

presenting to you."

Tan, like many of her medical colleagues, is not only attempting to fight off the germs that cause preventable diseases; she's also finding herself having to combat disinformation about the very medicine that can thwart those ailments.

"What happened during the pandemic is that we saw a significant decline in the vaccination rates, not only in pediatrics, but in the adult population and we still have not caught up," says Tan, who is a pediatric infectious disease physician at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital and a pediatrics professor at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. "One thing

about vaccines today is that they are one of the safest interventions that you could use in order to protect your child against potentially devastating and fatal disease.

“Social media and the internet and the misinformation there has really done a disservice,” Tan says.

Besides her doctoring duties, Tan holds a number of administrative positions outside the hospital. She is the chair of the Global Immunization Advocacy advisory group for the American Academy of Pediatrics, vice president of the board of directors of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and a member of the Center for Disease Control board of scientific counselors, among others.

Tan’s clinical research has to do with vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases and her current project is working with the Lurie Cancer Center of Northwestern, which is one of the largest cancer treatment centers in the country, to implement a vaccine protocol.

“I’m working with some of the physicians and nurses there in getting newly diagnosed adult cancer patients vaccinated with their routine vaccines so that they have some protection against vaccine-preventable diseases before they start their cancer therapy,” Tan says.

Tan is also the editor-in-chief for *Contemporary Pediatrics*, a major medical journal used by pediatricians, nurse practitioners and family practitioners who provide primary care to pediatric patients.

Since the pandemic, Tan says she’s had to spend more time trying to explain to parents that ‘what you read on social media is not science.’

“The science behind this really shows that these vaccines are safe and very effective, and they do protect against the diseases from which they are supposed to,” Tan says.

Tan, who earned a biology degree from UNO in 1982 before attending medical school at LSU, says she has always been attracted to a career in medicine and felt drawn to work with younger patients.

“My mom will tell you that ever since I was 4 years of age, I always said that I wanted to be a doctor,” Tan says. “I can remember babysitting when I was like 11 or 12 and just thinking, ‘I really enjoy taking care of kids,’ and people used to always tell me that ‘you have a way of dealing with children.’”

“I always knew that I wanted to work with children. I really felt like this was a population that people needed to advocate for because kids don’t really have a voice of their own,” Tan says.

Tan says her interest in infectious diseases stems from a love of working out puzzles.

“Since I was very little, whether it was a crossword puzzle, a jigsaw puzzle or reading something like a mystery and trying to figure out what was going on, I always liked to solve puzzles,” Tan says. “And infectious diseases is really solving a puzzle every day in order to make someone better.”

Tan grew up in New Orleans and graduated from Ben Franklin High School. She was introduced to UNO via a dual enrollment program while in high school and was impressed by the course offerings in the College of Sciences, Tan says.

“Looking at the bachelor of science program, it really allowed whoever was going to do that the opportunity to develop a very strong base for going into whatever field of science they chose,” Tan says. “Especially for people who wanted to go to medical school, dental school, vet school, etc.”

Tan recalls taking a histology course at UNO as part of her major and hearing that doing well meant she was extremely prepared for a similar class in medical school.

“It was taught by Dr. Holmquist ... She was very rigorous and very demanding of the students in her course, but she was this excellent teacher,” Tan says. “I worked really hard in her class. I got an

University of New Orleans alumna Dr. Tina Tan is a pediatric infectious disease physician at Lurie’s Children Hospital and a pediatrics professor at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago.



A and had no problems in medical school!”

Tan says her medical career has been enjoyable because she’s taken advantage of the opportunities that have come her way. She encourages students to do the same, even if they are unsure of their skills.

“I don’t think people tell younger individuals that enough,” Tan says. “A lot of people are like, ‘I don’t know if I want to do that because I don’t know a lot about it.’ Well, that’s a chance for you to learn.

“You learn every single day,” Tan says. “I would say definitely take advantage of opportunities that present themselves to you and follow your dreams.”

ALUMNA

KIKI BAKER BARNES

IS THE TRAILBLAZING COMMISSIONER OF THE GULF COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS ALUMNA KIKI BAKER BARNES is a consummate competitor whose tenacity pushes her to search for solutions, instead of reach for excuses. The former standout UNO basketball player and record-setting triple jumper is now the trailblazing commissioner for the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference.

Barnes, who was appointed commissioner following a 16-year stint as the athletic director at Dillard University in New Orleans, made history as the first Black woman commissioner in the 40-year history of the GCAC. She is also the first Black woman commissioner in the history of the National Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NAIA), an association founded in 1937 that includes more than 250 member institutions.

“I am most excited about being able to provide solutions that will help my athletic directors and our schools to thrive,” says Barnes who earned a bachelor’s degree in general studies and a doctorate in higher education leadership from UNO.

The GCAC is comprised of eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee and Texas. Barnes’ job is to expand the number of member schools and sports, as well as act as advocate in building partnerships, strengthening the conference brand and hosting championships.

Barnes held the job on an interim basis for three years before being selected as commissioner in 2022. Under her leadership, the conference has added three new schools and is looking to add additional sports next year. She recently helped to close a deal on a \$1.2 million media rights agreement that includes live streaming of GCAC conference games and championships.

“It allows us to be in the space where we can give money back to schools,” Barnes says. “We’ve never been in position to do anything

like that.

“I think that’s what makes me most happy about being in this role is really being able to do work that I can see actually moves the needle for our programs.”

Barnes has proven most adept at building programs. She was hired as the athletic director and head women’s basketball coach at Dillard in 2006, just months after Hurricane Katrina. Re-hired, in truth, because she—along with nearly the entire athletics staff—was let go shortly after the storm ravaged the campus in August 2005, leaving damaged facilities and financial uncertainty in its wake.

It was Barnes’ job to stitch the tattered athletic department back into some semblance of a program. She tackled the task with prayers and an innate ability to see the possible in a seemingly impossible situation.

“I would say the grace of God, because there wasn’t a road map. There wasn’t a how-to,” Barnes says. “Every day you show up at work and you’re trying to figure out what (fire) are you going to put out. I believe that God prepared me to build.

“Who I am at the core is a person who can build. I have vision, so I can see things that (other) people can’t see. If you can see a thing, you can understand how to work backwards to get there.”

Barnes is credited with not only rebuilding Dillard’s athletic programs, but also making them stronger. She added three new teams, established the university’s first athletics endowed scholarship and revived a college rivalry series with Xavier University of Louisiana that continues to draw alumni back to the campus.

Her efforts have earned her accolades such as Athletic Director of the Year honors from the GCAC, Sports Illustrated and Empower Onyx’s 100 Influential Black Women in Sports in 2022. In 2021, she

was named the Nell Jackson Nike Executive of the Year by Women Leaders in College Sports.

Barnes, who initially considered a career in broadcast communications, was working as a graduate assistant at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette when she felt her true calling. Members of the women's basketball team called her "Coach Kiki."

"I was so amazed that they sought me out for advice. They wanted to know about my experiences since I'd just finished playing and that gave me all this credibility that I never knew would go over so well with them," Barnes says. "I learned the value of when people trust you enough to listen to you, you have an obligation to do the best job, to be honest, to have integrity."

"I remember thinking, 'This is it, I'm going to lead young women. I know this is what I'm supposed to do.'"

Barnes later became a head basketball coach at Southern University-Shreveport before returning to UNO to obtain a doctoral degree. She has created a mentoring program to help other women who are seeking careers in the sports industry to navigate the currents.

Barnes, who has a consulting company, has also developed a professional leadership program, "So You Want A Career in Athletics," that is aimed at connecting young women with career and mentorship oppor-

tunities in athletics.

Mentoring is a natural extension of her personality, Barnes says.

"I had been doing it already anyway. I was the captain on every team I was on. I've always led," Barnes says. "People have always looked to me for advice."

Growing up in Minden, La in the 1980s and watching Olympic track star Florence Griffith Joyner capture the imagination of the world, Barnes was not immune to the allure.

Having won her 5th-grade field day with a medal for speed in the 100-yard dash, Barnes was certain she was up next.

"I really thought I was FloJo!" Barnes says laughing at the memory.

In junior high and high school Barnes excelled at basketball and track. She claimed a spot on the varsity basketball team as a freshman and by her senior year, she was garnering interest from colleges.

Barnes also was a state champion in the high jump and finished third in the state in the triple jump her senior year.

After a two-year stint at a junior college in Texas, Barnes arrived at UNO. One of her fondest memories is beating fellow Sun Belt conference member Louisiana Tech, which was ranked 4th in the nation.

"Most people didn't believe it was possible, until we did it," Barnes says.

The Privateers handed the Louisiana Lady Techsters a 66-63 loss at Lakefront Arena on Jan. 11, 1997. It was an especially sweet win for Barnes who says she felt

University of New Orleans alumna Kiki Baker Barnes made history as the first Black woman commissioner for the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference and in the history of the National Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

snubbed because the school, which was located about 30 minutes from her home in Minden, didn't recruit her as high school senior.

"I intended to do that from the time I signed (with UNO)," Barnes says with a laugh. "I felt that I owed it to myself, and I owed it them to say you missed out on a good one!"

The chip on her shoulder was motivating, but Barnes says she also had a mindset to put in the hard work that she knew it was going to take to defeat them.

"The work is setting you up to compete," Barnes says. "You're never guaranteed success, but you increase your chance of success when you commit to doing the work. So, whether you're tired or not, you commit to doing the work ... you show up and you give your best effort."

That is the advice Barnes, who also set a UNO record in the triple jump, shares with anyone who asks: If you are committed to a goal, you must commit to do the required work.

"And what's required doesn't change because you don't feel good today," Barnes says. "You're either committed to the goal, or you're not."

You have to be committed to not only the goal, but also the learning process, Barnes says.

"You already have everything you need; you just have to commit to developing what you have," she says. "I am the same person I was at 5—the dreamer, the seeing things—I just had to learn how to use it."

Barnes says she took each job opportunity to learn how to use and hone her gifts.

"I built a basketball program. I built an athletics department, and now I'm building a conference," Barnes says. "So, you have everything you need, you just have to commit to the process of being better at it." 🙌



ATHLETICS



Samantha 'Marble' Dyson:

Throwing Self-Expression into Track and Field

BY RANDI BOHLER



SAMANTHA “MARBLE” Dyson isn’t your ordinary track and field thrower. In fact, there isn’t anything ordinary about the 2022 Southland Conference hammer throw champion, and if you were to ask her, she’d probably tell you it’s the key ingredient to her success.

Following her winning throw at the outdoor conference championship, Dyson stood tall atop the podium sporting a half blond and black hairstyle with long colorful nails resembling those of the late Olympic medalist Florence Griffith Joyner, New Orleans across her chest and a gold medal in hand.

Track and field isn’t only a sport in which Dyson excels; but it is her avenue for self-expression.

A native of Punxsutawney, Pa., a rural town about the size of a women’s cross-country course, Dyson relied heavily on her imagination to push her toward a life that existed outside of the only city she knew. She credits her adopted mom for instilling in her the belief that there were no limits to what she could achieve.

“When I was younger, I wanted to be a handful of things: an astronaut, a makeup artist, a professional baseball player,” Dyson says. “I remember people telling me that I could only pick one thing, but I learned that wasn’t the case.”

Although she was homeschooled until college, Dyson and her seven siblings were always active.

“I did basketball, ballet, gymnastics, all-star cheerleading, all-star hip hop and baseball,” Dyson says. “I wanted to try track because my brothers were doing it, but I knew I didn’t want to run.”

After giving throws a try,

she quickly realized it was more than just a hobby—it was a gift. Dyson was able to participate in the Punxsutawney Area School District’s athletics program even though she was schooled at home.

“I still had the opportunity to compete and break all of their records,” she says.

Dyson remains the record holder for the indoor shot put with a throw of 13.20 meters and the discus throw with a throw of 41.70 meters at Punxsutawney Area High School.

“I love throwing because it’s a very individual thing to do and it’s very technical, so it helps you find yourself,” Dyson says. “It’s very empowering. It reminds me of Hercules.”

Dyson began her collegiate career at Youngstown State in Ohio. There, she racked up a 2021 Horizon League Outdoor Championship gold in the shot put, silver in the hammer throw and bronze in the discus throw.

Despite her success, Dyson felt the city of New Orleans would align more with her eccentric style and that the University of New Orleans would be a place she could call home.

“As I discovered myself, I realized that people’s perception of you has nothing to do with you,” Dyson says. “And what I love about this university is that I feel no judgment. I can dress and be who I want without any judgment in and out the (throwing) ring.”

As a Privateer, Dyson took bronze in the weight throw at the 2022 Indoor Southland Conference Championship, earned All-Southland Indoor Third-Team status, took silver in the discus throw and won the hammer throw at the 2022

Southland Conference Outdoor Conference Championship.

While her hard work and dedication prove foundational to her accomplishments, Dyson’s confidence also comes from the freedom to express herself while in the ring.

“It makes perfect sense that Marble found her craft doing the throwing events. When you get to the highly competitive level she is at, it is a work of art to be able to properly throw the implement to maximize the output and distance, and Marble does this beautifully,” said Head Track & Field Coach Brock Moreaux.

“When she hits it right, it’s a masterpiece. In addition, I love the way Marble brings her own flare to the ring with her unique mixture of hair, nails and makeup. When she steps in the ring, you know who she is and she screams self-confidence, and that is a big competitive advantage.”

Her wardrobe is part of Dyson’s personal strategy.

“If you look good, you compete good,” she says. “Every two weeks, I change my look. I dress how I feel every day.”

When she isn’t training, Dyson can be found working on her growing cosmetology business.

As she prepares for her final indoor season in the silver and blue, she wants her example to encourage other student-athletes to express themselves in their sports.

“I was inspired by a girl in high school who would walk in the throwing ring with her glasses on. I loved that because she always did super well,” Dyson says. “My message to other students and student-athletes would be that life is a journey of self-discovery. Being authentic to you is how you will achieve what you want!”

New Orleans Athletics Opens New State-of-the-Art Beach Volleyball Facility

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans athletics department cut the ribbon on its new Privateer beach volleyball facility, the only one in Orleans Parish, in December. The facility was commemorated at a ceremony presented by the athletics department with remarks from University President John Nicklow and Vice President for Athletics and Recreation Tim Duncan.

While home to the Privateers beach volleyball team and devoted fans, the facility is also officially open to the public for rentals.

“We’re excited about the opening of our newest athletic facility that will house our beach volleyball program,” said Kimberly Gallow, senior women administrator and associate athletic director for operating & capital projects. “With years of

planning, this project has come to fruition and will continue to support our women’s programs, university students and community members through rental opportunities.”

Named New Orleans Privateer Beach, the venue can hold approximately 300 student-athletes and fans. The facility has five beach volleyball courts with new nets and bleachers. Strategically investing in facilities and strengthening the University’s connection to its community are both goals within the athletic department’s

strategic plan.

“These courts mean so much to our program and our community. Having this facility will bring more people to our campus between us hosting high school camps and clinics, and even adult leagues,” said head beach volleyball coach Amy Blanke. “Building this new beach facility finally gives our team a home and getting to play in front of our friends and family here is something that we’ve been striving for for a long time.”





Privateer Women Capture First-Ever Southland Conference Championship

After finishing oh-so-close the previous year, the University of New Orleans women's cross country team would not be denied, winning the 2022 Southland Conference Championship. The team ran away with the conference championship in October

by 55 points over second-place finisher Lamar University. Head Coach Brock Moreaux was named Southland Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year in his first season at the helm.

Blake Dean Wins 200th Game

Blake Dean achieved another milestone in March, picking up his 200th win as the Privateers head baseball coach. The victory, against the Mississippi Valley State Delta Devils, came four years to the day after his 100th win, which was in Lafayette against the Ragin' Cajuns.

Dean has been the New Orleans head coach since 2015.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

(Lower right) Lissy Amato, John Amato, Virginia Amato and UNO President John Nicklow at the dedication ceremony for the Virginia Rosanne Amato Memorial Patio on the campus of the University of New Orleans. A number of current and past UNO students who have received Amato family scholarships attended the ceremony.



University Dedicates Virginia Rosanne Amato Memorial Patio

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW Orleans has dedicated the Virginia Rosanne Amato Memorial Patio at the front entrance of the Earl K. Long Library. The patio honors the late daughter of John and Virginia Amato who have pledged \$1 million to Next is Now: The Campaign for the University of New Orleans.

The Amatos' philanthropy, through their family foundations, has already provided scholarships for more than 200 UNO students.

"Few people have done more to impact the lives of our students than John and Virginia Amato," says UNO President John Nicklow. "We are pleased

to honor the memory of Virginia Rosanne Amato in this way. Her legacy continues to live on through the legions of UNO students who benefit from the Amatos' generosity."

The dedication ceremony was attended by a number of current and past UNO students who have received Amato family scholarships.

"Virginia and I have chosen to support UNO because we strongly believe that UNO is a vital part of our community," John Amato says. "It is really the university for our community, and it attracts many students who will remain in New Orleans and help improve

the city. Also, UNO's student population contains a number of older and nontraditional students who are now back in school and may not be eligible for financial assistance other than loans. These students are mature and they possess a great desire to succeed.

"Lastly, because of UNO's relatively modest tuition, whatever monies we can make available will be able to help more students."

The Amatos, who made their first gift to the University in 1991, have established three scholarships at UNO: the Virginia Rosanne Amato Memorial Scholarship, the James

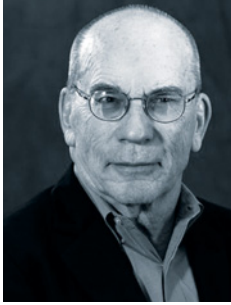
Russell Theriot Scholarship in Sciences and The Virginia and John Amato Family Foundation Scholarship. In 1996, Virginia Rosanne Amato was tragically killed in a tour group bus accident during a study abroad trip to India.

"This is a fitting location on campus to thank the Amatos and to honor their daughter Virginia," Nicklow says. "The Earl K. Long Library is the heart of our campus—both in terms of geography and significance in the lives of our students. All of our students will cross the patio in front of the library numerous times during their college career."

DONALD ZIMMERMAN, PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF UNO'S HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DONALD L. ZIMMERMAN, a University of New Orleans professor of healthcare management and director of the University's undergraduate healthcare management program, died Dec. 28, 2022 at Houston Medical Center of complications from surgery. He was 71.

"During his time at UNO, he was a great mentor to many junior faculties and a wonderful colleague who cared deeply about our students and the healthcare management program," said Dong-Jun (DJ) Min, UNO marketing professor and chair of the management and marketing department. "He uplifted the lives of those around him, and we will long remember



Donald L. Zimmerman

Don's kindness, positivity, energy, tenacity and ability to leap over hurdles no matter how tall."

Zimmerman came to UNO in 2015 to serve as the inaugural director of the undergraduate healthcare management program. The program blossomed under his leadership and recently received AUPHA accreditation, said Pamela Kennett-Hensel, dean of the College of Business Administration.

Zimmerman worked closely with regional leaders on a number of efforts to improve the community's health and was an active member of the Association of University Programs in Healthcare Administration, the Healthcare Data and Analytics

Association and the American Public Health Association.

"To say that he was passionate about healthcare management education is an understatement," Kennett-Hensel said. "He was a bundle of energy and worked tirelessly to provide our students with the best education possible and to secure them jobs upon graduation."

Before turning to full-time academic work, Zimmerman was engaged in national and state health policy developments for 20 years as a senior health policy researcher and project leader at George Washington University and Research Triangle Institute. In those roles, he worked on a variety of health policy issues for national executives and legislative leadership, including as a professional staff consultant to the U.S. Senate and as a special adviser to the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General.

KENNETH J. LACHO, FORMER MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR AND FOUNDER OF UNO'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

KENNETH J. LACHO, A former business management professor whose career at UNO spanned nearly 60 years and included the founding of UNO's entrepreneurship program, died Nov. 27, 2022. He was 88.

Lacho retired in 2021 after more than 57 years as a faculty member in the College of Business Administration. His nearly six decades at UNO is a service record for a faculty member.

"Dr. Lacho was a valued member of the College of Business Administration family. He was a pioneer in entrepreneurship education and cared deeply about his students and their well-being," said Pamela Kennett-Hensel, dean of the College of Business



Kenneth J. Lacho

Administration. "He educated generations of local entrepreneurs in his 57 years at UNO. College of Business Administration alumni always reminisce about Dr. Lacho's courses and the impact he had on their lives."

A native of St. Louis and resident of Covington, Louisiana for 17 years, Lacho arrived at UNO in 1964 after serving a stint in the Air Force and earning his master's and doctoral degrees in business administration from Washington University in St.

Louis.

His areas of research included entrepreneurship and small business. His academic honors include being elected as a fellow in the Association for Small

Business and Entrepreneurship, the Allied Academies Academy of Educational Leadership Creative and Innovation Education Award, U.S. Small Business Administration Raymond Hilgert Lifetime Achievement Award and the U.S. Small Business Administration Vision 2000 Models of Excellence award.

Lacho also taught in the UNO Training, Resource and Assistive Technology Center's Exceptional Entrepreneurs of Louisiana (ExcEl) Program, which helped persons with disabilities to start their own business.

Lacho is survived by his wife of 60 years, Judith Schoenwaller; his children, Kenneth D. Lacho (wife Rose Angelocci) and Kelli Lacho Lundin (husband Michael Lundin); and his grandchildren, Elizabeth Lundin, Rebecca Lacho, Michael Lundin II and Rachel Lacho.

OLOF LUNDBERG JR., EMERITUS SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN AND EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT

OLOF LUNDBERG JR., WHO spent nearly 50 years as part of the management faculty in the College of Business Administration at the University of New Orleans, died Dec. 28, 2022. He was 80.

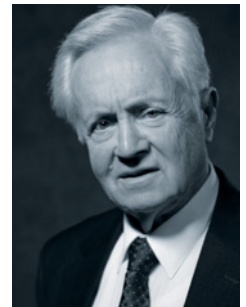
Lundberg arrived at UNO in 1971 and retired in 2020 as emeritus senior associate dean and emeritus professor of management.

"He played an integral role in the growth and success of the College of Business Administration," said Pamela Kennett-Hensel, dean of the College of Business Administration. "He mentored numerous faculty and students. Not surprisingly, many of us considered Olie to be more than a colleague; he was family."

Lundberg served stints as department chair of management and marketing and was the senior associate dean of the College of Business Administration from 2014 until his retirement.

Lundberg met his wife, Anna Maria Paone, at UNO. They married in 1973 and made New Orleans their home. According to his family, raising his three sons was the passion that guided his life.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, his sons Derek (Kara Knowles) and Alec (Kallen Forster), and his sister Louise Deisseroth (Dr. Albert Deisseroth) of Washington D. C.; four grandchildren, Carter and Mia Lundberg and M. Gunner and Gray Forster. He was preceded in death by his son Marc.



Olof Lundberg Jr.

ALUM NOTES

1960s

Walter LeBon (B.A., 1964)

Walter LeBon published a new book, *On the Trail of the Catahoula, A Geographical Investigation*, published by UNO Press. LeBon earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of New Orleans.

1970s

Ralph Leopold (B.A., 1975)

Ralph Leopold, of Ralph Leopold and Associates, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services in Metairie, Louisiana, recently earned certified military financial advisor (CMFA) certification. Leopold earned a degree in business administration from the University of New Orleans.

Elwood F. Cahill Jr. (B.S., 1977)

Elwood F. Cahill Jr., a real estate attorney with Sher Garner Cahill Richter Klein & Hilbert, L.L.C. in New Orleans, Louisiana, was named to the Super Lawyers 2023 List of Top Louisiana Lawyers. Cahill holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Barbara Bryant (B.S., 1979)

Dr. Barbara Bryant has been named executive vice president and chief medical officer at Versiti, Inc., a national leader in blood health innovation headquartered in Milwaukee. As part of Versiti's executive leadership team, Dr. Bryant will lead the organization's Medical Sciences Institute (MSI). Dr. Bryant earned a bachelor's degree in medical technology from the University of New Orleans and LSU Medical Center. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch.

1980s

Peter Trefonas (B.S., 1980)

Peter Trefonas received the 2021 Carothers Award from the American Chemical Society Delaware Section. Trefonas earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of New Orleans.

Daniel Lund (B.S., 1985)

Daniel Lund, a construction litigation attorney with Phelps Dunbar LLP in New Orleans, Louisiana, was named to the Super Lawyers 2023 List of Top Louisiana Lawyers. Lund earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of New Orleans.

Janet Richards (Ph.D., 1985)

Janet Richards, a professor of literacy and qualitative research at the University of South Florida, recently published her 18th book, *Engaging Students in Socially Constructed Qualitative Research Pedagogies*. Richards holds a doctorate in education from the University of New Orleans.

Steven Kelly (B.S., 1987)

Steven Kelly has been named the new associational missions strategist for Morehouse and Northeast Louisiana Baptist Associations. Kelly earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of New Orleans and a master's of divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Gabe Corchiani (B.S., 1988)

Gabe Corchiani recently opened a restaurant and bar, Parish Line Bistro, in Metairie, La. Corchiani earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of New Orleans.

Nina Dunbar (M.A., 1988)

Nina Dunbar has been named donor advisement officer at Santa Barbara Education Foundation. Dunbar holds a master of arts administration from the University of New Orleans and a bachelor's of fine arts from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University.

1990s

Leslie Boissiere (B.S., 1990)

Leslie Boissiere, vice president, external affairs at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has been appointed to the National Board of Directors at Playworks. Boissiere holds a master's degree in business administration from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business and a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of New Orleans.

Tristan Edwards Manthey (B.S., 1992)

Tristan Edwards Manthey, a bankruptcy attorney in New Orleans, Louisiana with Fishman Haygood, L.L.P., was named to the Super Lawyers 2023 List of Top Louisiana Lawyers. Manthey earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of New Orleans.

Gwen Sanders (B.S., 1990, M.S., 1992)

Gwen Sanders was named 2022 Outstanding Civil Engineer of ASCE Louisiana Section. Sanders earned a bachelor's and master's degree in engineering from the University of New Orleans.



Dan Crumb (B.S., 1987)

For 13 years, Dan Crumb, who holds a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of New Orleans, has been the chief financial officer for the National Football League's Kansas City Chiefs. In 2021, he added the title executive vice president.

This year, Crumb will add something else—a second Super Bowl championship ring.

The Chiefs are the world champions after defeating the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LVII. Crumb traveled to Arizona for the game and celebrated the win on the field with players and others.

Crumb also attended Super Bowl LIV in 2020 when the Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers.

Crumb with punter Tommy Townsend.

2000s

Jed Liuzza (B.S., 1991)

Jed Liuzza has been appointed interim chief human resources officer at Hutchinson Regional Healthcare System in Hutchinson, Kansas. Liuzza holds a bachelor's degree in management from the University of New Orleans.

Jeff Trammell (M.B.A., 1993)

Jeff Trammell has been promoted to chief operations officer of Merchants & Marine Bancorp in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Trammell holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Louisiana State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of New Orleans.

Jonathan Mathews (B.A., 1994)

Jonathan Mathews was named team manager of the Fort Wayne TinCaps by The San Diego Padres. Mathews, who also played baseball at the University of New Orleans, earned a bachelor's degree in economics from UNO.

James Whatley (B.S., 1994)

James Whatley has been named chief information officer of Mary Kay Inc. in Dallas, Texas. Whatley holds a bachelor's degree in management information systems from the University of New Orleans.

Rayanne Darensbourg (B.S., 1996)

Rayanne Darensbourg has been hired as new CEO of Children's Museum of Houston and appointed to the Benetech Board of Directors. Darensbourg holds a master's degree in public administration from Strome College of Business, Old Dominion University and a bachelor's degree in education from the University of New Orleans.

Chanel Christoff Davis (B.S., 1996)

Chanel Christoff Davis of Dallas, Texas was named a 2023 Women's Business Enterprise Star by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. Davis, CEO and co-founder of the sales tax advisory firm, Davis Davis & Harmon, LLC, holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of New Orleans.

Jennifer Dexter (B.S., 1996)

Jennifer Dexter has been named executive director of St. Tammany Parish Recreation District No. 1 and Pelican Park in Mandeville, Louisiana. Dexter earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of New Orleans.

Shannon McKeon Diodene

(B.S., 1997)

Shannon McKeon Diodene has been named principal of the year in St. Charles Parish Public Schools for the 2022-23 school year. Diodene, principal of Norco Elementary School, earned a bachelor's degree from the University of New Orleans and her master's from Southeastern Louisiana University.

Christian Dean

(B.A., 1998, M.A., 2000, Ph.D., 2004)

Christian Dean, a certified counselor, has published a self-help book, *Ladders and Shovels: How to Climb Out of Emotional Holes and Stop Digging Them*. Dean earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in counseling and a doctor of philosophy degree in counseling from the University of New Orleans.

Jill Zimmerman (Ph.D., 1998)

Jill Zimmerman was honored at the Los Angeles County Commission annual "Women of the Year" awards and scholarship celebration. Zimmerman, dean of student life and services at Antelope Valley College, earned a doctorate in counselor education, with minors in higher education administration and research and statistics from the University of New Orleans.

Monya Criddle (M.Ed., 1999)

Monya Criddle was named the district's elementary school principal of the year in Jefferson Parish Public Schools for the 2022-23 school year. Criddle, principal of Ralph Bunche Elementary School, earned a master's degree in education from the University of New Orleans.

Darcey Delatte (B.S., 1999)

Darcey Delatte started a new position as vice president of finance at Louisiana Federal Credit Union. Delatte earned an accounting degree from the University of New Orleans.

Whitney Samuel Drennan

(M.A., 2000)

Whitney Samuel Drennan has been named new head of school for St. Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie, Louisiana. Drennan earned a master's degree from the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Ericka Flood (B.S., 2000)

Dr. Ericka Flood has joined Ochsner Health Center-Gonzales in family medicine. Flood earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of New Orleans and a medical degree from St. Christopher Iba Mar Diop College of Medicine in the United Kingdom.

Michael Klumpp (B.S., 2000)

Michael Klumpp has been named CFO of Metairie Bank and Trust Co headquartered in Jefferson, Louisiana. Klumpp, a member of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants, earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of New Orleans.

Kim Ngan Nguyen (B.A., 2000)

Kim Ngan Nguyen, a family law attorney at Hoffman Nguyen & Kuehl in New Orleans, Louisiana, was named to the Super Lawyers 2023 List of Top Louisiana Lawyers. Nguyen holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of New Orleans.



Robert Vischer (B.A., 1993)

Robert Vischer has been named president of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. The 137-year-old Catholic university is the state's largest private university. Vischer, who previously served as dean of the law school, is the second layperson to lead the university.

"Rob is known as a highly effective relational leader with a strong dedication to the mission of the university and someone who puts the students at the center of every decision and action," said Amy Goldman, chair of the presidential search committee and vice chair of the St. Thomas Board of Trustees. "The board has put its faith in Rob as the leader who will continue the St. Thomas trajectory to become the undisputed premier private university in the Midwest."

Vischer received his bachelor's degree in political science, summa cum laude, from the University of New Orleans, and his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.



2010s

Kelly Theard (B.A., 2000)

Kelly Theard, a professional liability attorney at Deutsch Kerrigan LLP in New Orleans, Louisiana, was named to the Super Lawyers 2023 List of Top Louisiana Lawyers. Theard earned a bachelor's degree in drama and communications from the University of New Orleans.

Blake Fernandez (M.B.A., 2001)

Blake Fernandez has been appointed vice president, investor relations of Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. and Plains GP Holdings in Houston. Fernandez holds a bachelor's degree in economics from LSU and a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Orleans.

Chauncey Parker (M.F.A., 2001)

Chauncey Parker was cast as the Witch in The New Orleans Opera's production of "Hansel and Gretel" that opened in November. Parker earned a master's degree in fine arts performance from the University of New Orleans.

Chloé Duplessis (B.A., 2002)

Chloé Duplessis was selected by the city of Denver, Colorado to design the first-ever low vision accessible "I VOTED" sticker for the city. Duplessis earned a degree in general studies from the University of New Orleans.

Michael (Jay) Trapani (B.S., 2002)

Michael (Jay) Trapani has been elected and sworn in as mayor of Waveland, Mississippi on Jan. 3, 2023. Trapani earned a bachelor's degree in business management and marketing from the University of New Orleans.

Sheri Salvagio (M.B.A., 2003)

Sheri Salvagio has been named president and CEO of Cabrini High School by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Cabrini's board of trustees. She holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of New Orleans and a master's degree in religious education, as well as a bachelor's in psychology from Loyola University New Orleans.

Eduardo Gallo (B.S., 2004)

Eduardo Gallo, who earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of New Orleans, recently was awarded a nearly \$2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study impulsive behaviors. Gallo is an assistant professor in the biological sciences department at Fordham University in New York.

Jason Neville (B.S., 2004)

Jason Neville has been hired as the new executive director of Friends of Lafitte Greenway, a non-profit organization in New Orleans. Neville holds a bachelor's degree in planning and urban studies from the University of New Orleans.

Vanessa Brown-Lewis (M.Ed., 2006)

Vanessa Brown-Lewis was named the district's high school principal of the year in Jefferson Parish Public Schools for the 2022-23 school year. Brown-Lewis, principal of West Jefferson High School, earned a master's degree in education from the University of New Orleans.

Joseph Darbonne (M.B.A., 2009)

Joseph Darbonne has been hired as a financial consultant at JD Prime Investment Services in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Darbonne holds a master's in business administration from the University of New Orleans.

Marielle Songy (B.S., 2009)

Marielle Songy has published a new book, *The Absinthe Frappé*, from LSU Press. Songy earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of New Orleans.

Lauren Mikulak (M.U.R.P., 2010)

Lauren Mikulak has been hired as community development director for Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Mikulak holds a master's in urban and regional planning from the University of New Orleans.

Karla Russo (M.Ed., 2010)

Karla Russo was named the district's middle school principal of the year in Jefferson Parish Public Schools for the 2022-23 school year. Russo, principal of Haynes Academy, earned a master's degree in education from the University of New Orleans.

Christian Pennington (B.S., 2011)

Christian Pennington has joined the Small Business Administration's Little Rock office as a lender relations specialist. Pennington holds a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of New Orleans.

Charles "Joe" Eagan III (M.B.A., 2014)

Charles "Joe" Eagan III has been appointed general manager of Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home in Metairie, Louisiana. He is the vice president of the Louisiana Funeral Directors Association and holds a bachelor's degree in business from Louisiana State University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Orleans.

April Hamm (M.F.A., 2014)

April Hamm selected as one of 12 scholars for the 2023 Cleveland Institute of Music Future of Music Faculty Fellowship by the Cleveland Institute of Music. Hamm earned a master's degree from the University of New Orleans.

Tommy Jamerson (M.F.A., 2014)

Tommy Jamerson has been selected as the first-ever resident playwright at The Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts in Hammond, Louisiana. Jamerson earned a master's degree in playwriting from the University of New Orleans.

Denise Lewis Patrick (M.F.A., 2015)

Denise Lewis Patrick has been named a Distinguished Communications Professional by Northwestern State University's Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts. Patrick, an author, holds a master's degree in creative writing from the University of New Orleans.

Suzanna Ritz Malliett (M.A., 2016)

Suzanna Ritz Malliett has been hired as the new executive director of Körner's Folly Foundation with oversight of a 22-room Victorian house museum built in 1880 in Kernersville, North Carolina. Malliett holds a master's degree in arts administration from the University of New Orleans.

Yamini Mudaliar (M.U.R.P., 2004)

Yamini Mudaliar has been promoted to studio manager, architecture for the international design firm, Ware Malcomb, in the firm's Atlanta office. In her expanded role, Mudaliar will help lead the growth and management of the Atlanta architecture studio in addition to managing select projects.

Mudaliar brings more than 16 years of industrial experience. She joined Ware Malcomb in 2019 as a project manager with the advanced manufacturing team before being promoted to senior project manager and then to senior project architect.

Mudaliar is a registered architect in Georgia and Texas and holds a master of urban and regional planning degree from the University of New Orleans, as well as a bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Karnataka in India.



Angela Brooks (M.U.R.P., 1999)

Angela D. Brooks, a Chicago resident, has begun her term as president of the American Planning Association (APA), a 41,000-member organization committed to advancing better and more just communities through good planning.

Brooks is the first Black woman to be elected president of APA. She will serve two years as president, leading the 16-member APA Board of Directors in governing the association, setting strategic goals, and elevating the importance of planning across the U.S.

Brooks, currently director of the Illinois office of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the profession's highest honor bestowed upon a planner.

Brooks earned her bachelor's degree from Jackson State University and her master's degree in urban planning from the University of New Orleans.



2020s

William Van Hoof (B.A., 2017)

William Van Hoof has been hired as a customer support associate at Torsh, a New Orleans-based education technology company. Van Hoof earned a bachelor's degree in film and theatre arts from the University of New Orleans.

Brett Pellegrin (M.B.A., 2019)

Brett Pellegrin has been promoted to consulting manager at the accounting firm Postlethwaite and Netterville in Baton Rouge, La. Pellegrin earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of New Orleans.

Nora Seilheimer (M.F.A., 2019)

Nora Seilheimer has been named the first executive director of Children's Nature Playscape in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Seilheimer earned a master's degree in creative writing from the University of New Orleans.

Brandt Daniels (B.S., 2020)

Brandt Daniels has started new position as assistant general manager at UNO Lakefront Arena. Daniels earned a bachelor's degree in naval architecture and marine engineering from the University of New Orleans.

Madison "Madi" Hannan (M.S., 2020)

Madison "Madi" Hannan, an anatomy and physiology, animal science and biology AP teacher at Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans, has achieved national board certification by the National Board Certified Teachers. Hannan holds a master's degree in secondary education.

M. Sydul Karim (Ph.D., 2021)

M. Sydul Karim has been hired as an assistant professor of business at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Karim earned a doctorate in finance from the University of New Orleans.

Emily Mikesell (M.M., 2022)

Emily Mikesell has released a new album, *Kaleidoscope*. Mikesell holds a master's degree in music study from the University of New Orleans.

Leah Perez (M.A., 2022)

Leah Perez has been hired as student counselor and rhythm moderator at Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans. Perez earned a master's degree in counseling education from the University of New Orleans. 🗣️

Sheba Turk (B.A., 2011)

Sheba Turk, a former WWL-TV anchor and reporter in New Orleans, has joined Los Angeles television station KCAL-TV as its new weekend anchor and reporter.

Turk, who earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of New Orleans, spent just over a decade at WWL where she worked her way up from an associate producer to a co-anchor of WWL-TV's Eyewitness Morning News.

Turk is also the author of the book, *Off Air: My Journey to the Anchor Desk*. The inspirational story lets readers in on how she worked her way from behind-the-scenes to the anchor desk in the span of about two years, pushing through financial challenges and self-doubt.



TELL US YOUR NEWS!



DID YOU: Get married? Get a new job? Receive an award? Have a baby? Send your Alum Note to alumni@uno.edu

Love on the Lakefront

We asked alumni to share their “Love on the Lakefront” stories for a special Valentine’s Day social media series. These proud Privateers met their future—ahem, mates, while at the University of New Orleans. Here are some of the stories and pictures from our #UNOPROUD community who found love on the lakefront.

Christina (Enger) Loga and Scott Loga

AS TOLD BY CHRISTINA: “My name is Christina (Enger) Loga and I met my husband, Scott Loga while we were both attending UNO.

Scott was studying for his master’s in business administration and I was finishing my undergrad in elementary education. I had an upcoming sorority dance and needed to find a date to bring to the dance. I asked my sorority sister, Mary-Lynn (who became my sister-in-law) and she told me she had a single brother who was interested in attending the dance with me.

We went on a blind date with several other sorority sisters to the French Quarter where we hit it off immediately. I thought he was absolutely gorgeous and was so laid back and genuine around my silly sorority sisters and I.

We started dating soon after and we were married on July 13th, 1990 and just celebrated our 32nd wedding anniversary! If it wasn’t for UNO and Alpha Xi Delta, I wouldn’t have met my Prince Charming and the man of my dreams.”



Kylee Freiermuth and Raul Monroy Hernandez

AS TOLD BY KYLEE: "I met my fiancé at UNO. We were both engineering students.

We met in fall of 2017, but were just friends until fall of 2018 when we started dating.

We both were part of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship so we met through that. We are engaged; the wedding will be April 8th this year! I live in Houston and Raul lives in NOLA, but he's moving to Houston right before the wedding.

I graduated in spring 2020 with a degree in naval architecture and marine engineering. Raul graduated in spring 2021 with a degree in electrical engineering with a concentration in computer engineering."

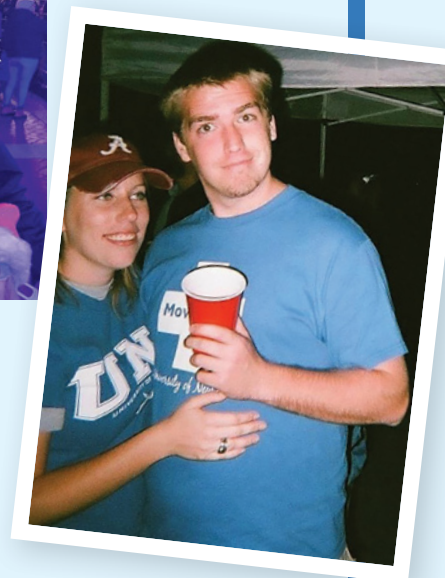


Erin and Capt. Eric Gallatin

AS TOLD BY ERIN: "Eric and I met out and about in college. He was a Lambda Chi and I was a Delta Zeta! The first time we met, I forgot him. But the second time stuck. From there we developed a friendship and love. It helped that our UNO friends (now lifelong friends) were always doing things together and we probably never would have found each other if it had not been for these friends and UNO.

It's funny thinking back on it, because in the moment, we definitely loved each other. But love can grow when cared for and I can absolutely say without a doubt, I am more in love with Eric now than ever. The steps you take in life can be made so much sweeter when you have someone to walk with.

We have lived in some amazing places across this country and have our own little family now and it all started at UNO."



John and Jan Reuther

AS TOLD BY JOHN: "John '76 met Jan '77 in the College of Sciences while both had part time student jobs. John's computational chemistry job crossed paths with Jan's computer science help desk job. They dated soon after, many times attending UNO basketball games in what is now the Health and PE center.

John and Jan raised five amazing kids in New Orleans and worked together for 20 years at Eurofins Central Analytical Laboratories in the UNO Research and Technology Park, where the company grew to 130 wonderful employees.

John and Jan returned with friends and family to the campus many times over the years, attending Jazz at the Sandbar or the annual Crawfish Mambo. The experience we had at UNO was the launch of a truly incredible family journey."

Jan Reuther passed away suddenly in 2021. John Reuther has established a memorial scholarship in Jan's name in partnership with Eurofins.



THEN AND NOW



IN RESIDENCE

CAMPUS RESIDENCE HALLS HAVE MATURED over the years, in terms of style, structure, and space. This undated photo of a room in Bienville Hall speaks to the quaintness of a certain bygone era. Let's see if you can spot the tell-tale showpiece – or even know what it is!

Conversely, this updated photograph taken in the living room of a Pontchartrain Hall room in 2019, illustrates the more spacious and well-lit space. Here's a clue to the showpiece question: Both photographs have one pictured. 🕵️





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“This scholarship will permit me to finish my degree. Without it, I don’t know how I would have been able to continue my education. This scholarship is possible because of your donations to assist students in need. Just know that when I am handed my diploma, you, in part, made it possible. – Noah, Class of 2024”

At the University of New Orleans, nearly 77% of students receive financial aid each year. However, most students still have a financial gap between the funds they receive and the total cost of their education.

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