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Dillard University Dedicates Georges' Auditorium in New Professional Schools & Sciences Building

Major Donation to be Used for Student Scholarships

Actor Wendell Pierce to Offer Tribute at Evening Ceremony, Nov. 18

(New Orleans, LA) – On Thursday, Nov. 18, Dillard University will pay tribute to Dathel and John Georges and the Galatoire's Foundation, who have this year made a major donation to Dillard University for academic scholarships for deserving students. The auditorium, located in the new Professional Schools and Sciences Building, will be named the Georges Auditorium in their honor. The dedication program starts at 6:30 p.m. and will feature music by the Dillard University Choir, and remarks by actor Wendell Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Georges and University leaders. The dedication is open to the public and refreshments will be provided by Galatoire's Restaurant.

"Roughly 95% of our students receive some kind of financial or scholarship assistance," said Dr. Marvalene Hughes, president of Dillard University. "The generosity of the Georges family and the Galatoire's Foundation has the potential to help dozens of our students pay for college. That is a wonderful gift for any young person, and it is a blessing for which the University is thankful."

"I had the pleasure of visiting Dillard's campus earlier this year and was made aware of the need," said John Georges, lead investor in a business group that partnered with the Galatoire family to own and operate Galatoire's restaurants in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. "Many of these students are the first in their families to attend college. I look at this gift not just as a downpayment on the students' futures, but as an investment in our future as a community."

The Georges' gift to Dillard University will be donated through the Galatoire's Foundation. Founded in 2010, the 501(c)3 organization is dedicated to giving back to the New Orleans community.

"This donation marks the first major funding effort on behalf of the Galatoire's Foundation," said Dathel Georges, trustee of the Galatoire's Foundation. "The Foundation was formed with the goal of giving back to the region. Contributing to Dillard University, which has provided quality education to students in New Orleans for so many years, seemed like a natural fit."

The restaurant is known for community activities and donations, raising more than a half million dollars for charity in the last five years.

In 2008, John and his business partner made a similar donation to the University of New Orleans Athletic Department to rebuild the basketball arena when state funds fell short.

WHO: Dillard University President Marvalene Hughes, Dathel and John Georges, Actor Wendell Pierce, invited dignitaries and guests

WHAT: Dedication of the Georges Auditorium

WHERE: Professional Schools and Sciences Building
Dillard University
2601 Gentilly Boulevard

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010
6:30 p.m.

For more information on the event and/or media arrangements, please contact Maria Mercedes Tio at Dillard University at 504.816.4620 or mtio@dillard.edu.

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