The 2020 – 2021 academic year will truly be memorable. The entire year took place during a global pandemic that as of the end of May had killed almost 600,000 people in the United States alone. As the world learned how to live with COVID-19, higher education found new ways to operate during this time. Hybrid courses and Zoom classes became the norm, socially distanced cafeterias and social events dominated the out of class experience. We learned to see people smile not by their mouths but their eyes, because we were masked most of the time.

COVID-19 was an awful lemon, but as most HBCUs have done throughout our history, we made lemonade. In fact, we made some of our best lemonade this past year. Our accreditation was reaffirmed for an additional ten year period. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd we launched a Center for Racial Justice which promptly provided a number of educational forums.

More faculty, staff and students were sought out by local, regional and national media outlets for expert commentary.

We also set many records. Our new freshman class had a record high school grade average. We received the largest private gift in our 152 year history courtesy of Mackenzie Scott. Our endowment reached a record high. We raised a record amount of money during Giving Tuesday.

I always tell people that resiliency is in the DNA of Dillard, a University that survived Hurricane Katrina. That spirit helped us lean into the new normal to make this year one of our best ever, a year when we worked together in an amazing fashion. The lesson for all of us is that when we work together, we can achieve record results.

Working as a team, we made great lemonade this year.

Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough
Student ACHIEVEMENTS

Dillard University students receive a cutting-edge education and the tools to network with trailblazers in the career industries they are most interested in. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Dillard students excelled by receiving graduate school acceptances, scholarships, internships and job opportunities. Here are highlights of these accomplishments!

2021 Graduate School Acceptances

- Chapman University School of Law
- Chicago-Kent School of Law
- Claremont Graduate University
- Emerson College
- Emporia State University
- Florida Coastal School of Law
- Georgetown University Law Center
- George Washington University
- Georgia Tech University
- Grand Canyon University
- Jackson State University
- John Marshall Law School
- Kennesaw State University
- Liberty University
- Louisiana State University
- Louisiana State University Law Center
- Loyola University New Orleans School of Law
- Meharry Medical College
- New York Law School
- Nicholls State University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Central University School of Law
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Southern Methodist University School of Law
- Southern University Law Center
- South Texas College of Law
- Southwestern Law School (CA)
- St. George's University
- Suffolk University
- Southern University of New Orleans Millie Charles School of Social Work
- Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- Tulane University
- University of California Hastings School of Law
- University of California Irvine
- University of California San Diego
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Houston
- University of Kansas
- University of Memphis School of Law
- University of Miami School of Law
- University of Mississippi
- University of New Orleans
- University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law
- University of North Texas Dallas College of Law
- University of Notre Dame
- University of San Francisco School of Law
- University of the District of Columbia
- William Carey University

Internships

- AccessLex LexScholars Program
- Duke University Pre Law Undergraduate Scholars Program
- In Our Own Voice-Government Affairs Department
- Johns Hopkins School of Medicine’s History of Medicine Department and Humanities Collaborative Joint Research Program
- Kansas School of Medicine
- Leadership Alliance FYRE Summer Research Program
- Purdue University
- University of Memphis Pre Law Undergraduate Scholars Program

Job Opportunities

- DELL Technologies
- Power Coalition and Southern Coalition for Social Justice
- Mayor Latoya Cantrell’s Office Of Communications
- Washington Football Team
- ESPN
- Disney Branded Television
- BET
Some Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

-Dr. Ashraf Esmail and Professor Brandon Hamann ‘19, published a book through Hamilton Books titled “Terrorism Inside America’s Borders.”

-Dr. Roland Bullard was named to the Florida Atlantic University Alumni Association (FAUAA) Board of Directors.

-Dr. Marc Barnes article, “Cultivating the Relationship: The Intersection of Traditional and Pandemic-era Donor Cultivation Strategies” was published by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

-Dr. Mona Lisa Saloy was named as a representative of university faculty for the Louisiana Folklife Commission.

-Drs. Jana Smith and Eva Baham were named to the team of seven historians that has been assembled to scrutinize New Orleans public school names for ties to the Confederacy or slave owners.

-Dr. Ashraf Esmail was invited and accepted to serve on the Board of Directors for Court Watch NOLA

-Rachel Mercadel ’75, is the new chair of the board for Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, becoming the first woman to hold that position.

-Zella Palmer, endowed chair and director of the Dillard University Ray Charles Program in African-American Material Culture received the Louisiana Creole Research Association Founders Award.

Some Alumni Accomplishments

-Quibulah Graham ’93, was appointed by Orlando Health as corporate director of diversity and minority business development.

-Dr. Jeremy Dwaine Daigle ’05, was named by the Chicagoland Children’s Health Alliance as medical director of its Healthy Active Living Program.

-Monica DeLancy ’99, received a $50,000 grant from the Oprah Winfrey Foundation to support her organization, We Thrive in Riverside.

-Kirkland & Ellis law firm’s first Black partner, Michael D. Jones, Esq. ’82, worked pro bono with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a coalition of students and alumni from Maryland’s HBCUs. They sued the state for failure to dismantle the remnants of its former segregated higher education system.

-Shana Broussard ’91, made history in January by becoming the first Black chair of the Federal Elections Commission.

-Evolve Benton ’08, named one of Yahoo’s Top Ten public speaking coaches.

-Chelsea Bosley Robinson, Esq. ’17, made University history when she became the youngest member ever added to the Dillard board of trustees.

-Traelon Rodgers ’21, was introduced as part of the inaugural cohort of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund Marshall-Motley Scholars Program. Rodgers earned a full scholarship to law school plus support for the first seven years of his career.

*Alumni are encouraged to share their achievements with Dillard University. Please share your good news with alumnirelations@dillard.edu.
Did You Know?

1. Incoming students entering Dillard in 2016 graduated in 4-years or less at a rate of 36.2%, exceeding the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) predicted rate of only 22.8%.

2. The graduation rates for new students enrolling at Dillard continue to outperform HERI’s predicted graduation rates.

3. Dillard University awarded 213 baccalaureate degrees during the 2019-20 academic year.

4. The academic programs awarding the most credentials were:
   - Biology - 33
   - Public Health - 33
   - Criminal Justice - 21
   - Psychology - 20
   - Business Administration - 15
   - Mass Communication - 15
   - Computer Science - 11
   - English - 9
   - Nursing - 8

5. The breakdown by academic college was:
   - College of Business - 23
   - College of Arts and Sciences - 182
   - College of Nursing - 8

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