

HONORING THE NINETEEN

Saturday, May 31, 2025

Viewing: 9:00 AM | Service: 11:00 AM

Lawless Memorial Chapel, Dillard University

2601 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70122

University
Medical Center
New Orleans
LCMC Health



DILLARD
UNIVERSITY



Leipzig Human Remains Repatriation

In the 1880s, a doctor named Emil Ludwig Schmidt, of Leipzig, Germany, was given 19 individuals' crania by New Orleans doctor, Henry D. Schmidt. These "specimens" are enumerated in catalog at the University of Leipzig with racialized/colonialist labels; 17 of 19 individuals' names are listed in this catalog. All were either African American or of mixed African American, European American descent. They are:

Adam Grant, age 50, male
Isaak Bell, age 70, male
Hiram Smith, age 20, male
William Pierson, age 43, male
Henry Williams, age 55, male
John Brown, age 48, male
Hiram Malone, age 21, male
William Roberts, age 23, male
Alice Brown, age 15, female
Prescilla Hatchet, age 19, female
Marie Louise, age 55, female
Mahala, age 70, female
Samuel Prince, age 40, male
John Tolman, age 23, male
Henry Allen, age 17, male
Moses Willis, age 23, male
Henry Anderson, age 23, male

The locations of the rest of the bodies are unknown, however, because research indicates that Dr. Schmidt was associated with the State of Louisiana's Charity Hospital in New Orleans at the time, it is theorized that they may have been interred in the hospital's cemetery at the end of Canal Street. The context of transactions in human remains in the 19th century is horrific.

In the 1800s, the medical field became increasingly obsessed with the study of the human cranium (skull), to the exclusion of the rest of the skeletal parts. In what is termed phrenology, some doctors theorized that they could tell personality or whether an individual was virtuous or immoral, intelligent or dull-witted, just by measuring the skull and interpreting the differences in the individual bumps and crevices. Some doctors then used the differences in crania to theorize the superiority of one race over another. Not all doctors agreed with these racist theories but did not object to the study of the skull. Hence, Western museums and research institutions competed to obtain specimens from around the world. It was easy to get around what little, if any, laws there were concerning the disposition of human remains and large collections were amassed, mostly in Europe and the United States.

In 2023, the City of New Orleans Archaeologist was contacted by the University of Leipzig, Germany to assist in their desire to repatriate a portion of their cranial collection that came from New Orleans during this dark chapter in our history. As the individuals' crania were acquired in a "colonial context and unethically," it is their mission to "contact the countries of origin for possible repatriations."

To help with this process of repatriation, the City Archaeologist reached out to several entities including the Louisiana Department of Justice that handles cases of repatriation, the University of New Orleans Anthropology Department that has expertise in human remains projects and Dillard University, for its expertise in African American history.

Order of Memorial Service

In Decency and In Order

Funeral Procession	Dr. Michael White's Original Liberty Jazz Band <i>and The Black Men of Labor Social Aid and Pleasure Club</i>
Processional.....	Congo Square Drummers Clergy, Faith Leaders, University Student Pallbearers <i>and Cultural Repatriation Committee</i>
Opening Meditation.....	Rev. Eugene M. Boger <i>Bethany United Methodist Church</i>
A Call to the Gathering.....	Ms. Freddi Williams Evans <i>Member, Cultural Repatriation Committee</i>
Musical Selection	Dillard University Choral Ensemble <i>Dr. S. Carver Davenport, Director</i>
On Behalf of the Community	Dr. Monique Guillory <i>President, Dillard University</i>
On Behalf of the City	Hon. LaToya Cantrell <i>Mayor, City of New Orleans</i>
On Behalf of University Medical Center	Ms. Charlotte Parent <i>VP, Business Development, UMC</i>
Instrumental Solo	"Home at Last" Dr. Michael White <i>An original composition for this Memorial Service</i>
A Call to Remembrance.....	Dr. Eva Baham <i>Chair, Cultural Repatriation Committee</i>
Tribute	"Say Their Names" Prof. Carolyn Nur Wistrand <i>Performed by the Dillard University Theatre Ensemble</i>
Words of Faith	Bishop Brandon Boutin <i>Full Gospel Baptist Church</i> Rev. Dr. Demetrese Phillips <i>African Methodist Episcopal Church</i> Ms. Nana Sula 'Janet' Evans <i>Ewe/Ga, Ghana</i> Father Sidney Speaks <i>Catholic Community</i> Mr. James Brown <i>The Bahá'í Community of New Orleans</i> Ms. Mikhala Iverson <i>SGI Buddhism</i> Brother Willie Muhammad <i>Nation of Islam</i> Mr. Aaron Bloch <i>Jewish Foundation of Greater New Orleans</i> Rev. Brenda Square <i>United Church of Christ</i> Bishop Tom Watson <i>Non-Denominational Christian Church</i>
Recessional.....	"AJaJa" Kumbuka African Drum and Dance Collective
Jazz Funeral.....	Dr. Michael White's Original Liberty Jazz Band <i>and The Black Men of Labor Social Aid and Pleasure Club</i>

Repatriation Project Contributors & Program Participants

City of New Orleans

Hon. LaToya Cantrell
Mayor

Principal Support – Dillard University

Dr. Monique Guillory
President

Principal Funder – University Medical Center

Charlotte Parent
VP of Business Development

Brandy Sheely
General Counsel

LaDana Williams
Director of Public Relations

Principal Resource – Universität Leipzig (Germany), Faculty of Medicine

Prof. Dr. Martin Gericke
Institut für Anatomie

Mandy Wagner
Office Coordination, Chair II

Cultural Repatriation Committee

Dr. Eva Semien Baham
Chair, Dillard University (Ret.)

Freddi Williams Evans
Independent Scholar

Fred Malo Johnson
Founder, Black Men of Labor

Clyde Robertson
Professor, Southern University of New Orleans

Dr. Jana Meyers Smith
Professor, Dillard University

Leon Waters
Board Chair, Louisiana Museum of African American History

Professional Advisors to the Project

Dr. D. Ryan Gray
Professor, University of New Orleans

Michael Godzinski
Archaeologist, City of New Orleans

Christine Hallings
Anthropologist, UNO

Ryan Seidemann
Attorney & Anthropologist, UNO

Jessica Strawn
Acting Superintendent of Cemeteries, City of New Orleans

City of New Orleans Advisors

Madison Harvey
Former Asst. City Attorney

Charmaine Johnson
Asst. City Attorney

LaNitra Hasan
Project Delivery Unit Director

Student Participants (By Role & University)

Pallbearers:

Armani Allen, Asia Collins, Alexandria Dawson, Asia Dawson, Aubree Dawson, Abby Lynn Gonzales, Jayvin Joseph, India Woodard (Dillard), Juleea Berthelot, Pharrell Every, Kennedy Franklin, Alexandria Leonard-Graham (Loyola), Gallyn Bell, Kyce Vaucresson (SUNO), Douglas Carey, Tyler Holmes (Tulane), Faith Carr, Erleen Ellis (UNO), Madison Pichon, Nyla Williams (Xavier)

Women’s Ensemble (Dillard):

Abby Lunn Gonzalez, Makiya Hill, Zaria Ivory, De’Naijah Jones, Carli Martin, Makayla Perkins, Martique Redditt

Theatre Ensemble (Dillard):

Jordan Melancon, Colby Muse, Kamiah Turner, DoMonique Warren

Camera Crew (Dillard):

Cody Brown, Emmanuel Taveras

Dillard University Faculty & Staff

Malachi Casimire
Communications Specialist

Cortheal Clark
Chair, Humanities / Theatre

Jacob Cochran
Visual Communications Specialist

Tara Cunningham
Director of Communications and Marketing

Dr. S. Carver Davenport
Choir Director

Bernel Davis
Mass Communication / Camera Crew

Ronette King
Special Assistant to the President

Mark Raymond
Chief Technology Officer

Carolyn Nur Wistrand
Theatre Professor & Playwright

Ushers

Members of the Charles Deslondes Branch of ASALH

Members of the Congo Square Preservation Society

Professional Services

Ron Bechet
Chair, Art & Performance, Xavier

Clifton Faust
Visual Artist

Nia Gates
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Sheleen Jones
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Joan Rhodes
D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home

Albert “Mankh” Smith IV
Visual Artist

Gwendolyn Thompkins
Journalist

Eric Waters
Photographer

Program Printing Sponsored by:

UNO Richard Wallin Boebel Professorship in Anthropology

Funeral Service Entrusted to:

Rhodes Funeral Home