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SUNO hosts special advanced screening of CNN's *New Orleans Rising*



CNN's Soledad O'Brien and star of Tremé, Wendell Pierce, look on as a panel discussion about the redevelopment of Pontchartrain Park takes place. Photo by Eddie Francis.

NEW ORLEANS, LA - Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) served as the host site for a special advanced screening of CNN's *New Orleans Rising* on Monday, August 2, 2010. An overflow audience watched the report that is hosted and produced by CNN's **Soledad O'Brien**. *New Orleans Rising* is a documentary which primarily focuses on the post effects of Hurricane Katrina on Pontchartrain Park, the historic African-American neighborhood that surrounds SUNO, and the efforts of veteran stage and screen actor **Wendell Pierce** to bring his neighborhood back.

"It was an honor for us to host this important event," said Victor Ukpole, SUNO's Chancellor. "We are proud to share a wonderful history with the residents of Pontchartrain Park, and it is this pride that inspires all of us to strive to make this

neighborhood and our institution even more viable for the immediate and long-term future."

The evening was hosted by Pierce, who grew up in Pontchartrain Park and currently stars in HBO's critically-acclaimed series *Tremé*. At the conclusion of the report, Pierce, Ukpole, O'Brien and others participated in a panel discussion. *New Orleans Rising* premieres Saturday, August 21st, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Central on CNN. Images from the event can be seen at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sunoknights/>.

Southern University at New Orleans is a four-year public institution founded in 1956. Located in the Gentilly area of New Orleans, Louisiana, the University is an accredited liberal arts teaching institution which serves more than 3,100 students. SUNO, known for its highly engaged faculty and personal academic support, offers undergraduate degrees in seventeen academic programs and graduate degrees in four academic programs. The University accepts students under the Louisiana Board of Regents regional admission criteria, and is a member of the Southern University System. More information about Southern University at New Orleans is available at SUNO.edu.

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