



*Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service*

## **New Orleans (LA) Chapter**

**Celebrating more than 60 years of service to the community**

**August 28, 2023**  
**For Immediate Release**

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### **Chapter awards \$20,000 in scholarships to local students**

**(New Orleans, LA)** -- The New Orleans (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to high school and Historically Black College and University (HBCU) scholars at its annual Swing Into Spring event.

HBCU Scholarship awardees are:

**ASHTON BRODEN** attends Xavier University of Louisiana, majoring in Mass Communication, with a concentration on Multimedia Production. Ashton currently maintains a 4.0 GPA and is a past recipient of The New Orleans Chapter of The Links, Incorporated's scholarship award. He is also the recipient of the Inaugural Walsh Scholarship, and a chosen member of the UNCF Mellon/Mays Undergraduate Research Fellows Program.

**YOUMA DIABIRA** attends Xavier University majoring in English Education with a Minor in African Diaspora Studies. Youma maintains a 3.8 GPA with plans to become an English teacher. Youma's efforts as a student leader have aided in building and uniting black student unions, and most recently she expanded her advocacy efforts to reproductive justice, as a fellow for the 2022-2024 class of the Next Generation Leadership Institute sponsored by *In Our Own Voice*. Youma also serves as a Policy Advisory Fellow for the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies and is leading a launch for a student-led emergency contraceptive dispensary.

**OSCAR POYDRAS** attends Southern University of New Orleans, with dual majors in Social Work and Substance Abuse and Addiction Counseling. He maintains a 3.6 GPA. Oscar is the Vice-President of the Southern University at New Orleans Student Government Association and founder of the Knight Ambassadors, a student-led recruitment and support system. He is also a published author and the secondary editor for the SUNO Observer, a member of the Epsilon Nu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, a member of the Students for Prevention and Education of Substance Abuse, a student representative of SUNO's Judicial Affairs Committee, and a Yard Ambassador and Influencer for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. Oscar is also a musician and previously toured with Trombone Shorty.

**more...**

## **Chapter awards \$20,000 in scholarships .... add one**

The high school graduate honorees are:

**GRACE HAMMOND** graduated from Isidore Newman High School, where she maintained a 4.0 GPA. Grace was a Student Activity Representative, a House Member Leader, a Student Ambassador, and a representative of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group. Grace has been honored and recognized by many organizations for her hard work and dedication and currently attends Tulane University, with future plans to become an attorney, judge, or elected official.

**JANIYAH THOMAS** graduated from L.B. Landry High School, with dual enrollment at Delgado Community College. She is a certified Clinical Medical Assistant through the New Orleans Career Center. Janiyah maintained a 3.8 GPA. She also volunteered with church food drives and in feeding the homeless. She worked at Raising Canes, was a four-year honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. Janiyah attends Grambling State University and aspires to become a highly skilled pediatric nurse.

**KENNEDY SCOTT** graduated from McDonogh 35 College Preparatory School where she maintained a 4.0 GPA. Kennedy was a straight “A” honor roll student and ranked #1 in her class. She also earned a certification as a patient care technician and a certification in digital media. Kennedy volunteered as a mentor with Young Ladies that Lead. Kennedy was also an honor member in College Track of New Orleans. She attends the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and aspires to become a certified nurse practitioner.

**MADISON LEVY** graduated from Ursuline Academy where she maintained a 3.8 GPA. Madison was a cheerleader at Holy Cross High School from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Madison was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and the Key Club. Madison was also on the Alpha Honor Roll, received the Junior Civic Leadership Academy Cohort 3 Award, and was designated a National Hispanic Honor Society Scholar. Madison currently attends Xavier University and aspires to ultimately obtain her PhD in Public Health or Psychology.

**SUNDIATA RICHARD HALEY** graduated from the Willow School where he maintained a 3.7 GPA. Sundiata was an honor student and took all honors or AP classes. He was president and founder of the Modern Media Club, a film and art appreciation club. He served as a four-year officer of the Black Student Union and played basketball for three years. Sundiata currently attends Howard University with plans to become a filmmaker, creative writer, screen play writer and/or attorney.

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## **Chapter awards \$20,000 in scholarships .... add two**

Sunni LeBeouf and Robyn McCormick serve as the Chapter's Scholarship Committee Chairperson and Co-Chairperson.

### **About the New Orleans Chapter of The Links, Incorporated**

Since it was chartered on November 20, 1957, members of The New Orleans (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated have engaged in implementing program services through the five National Program Facets: Services to Youth, International Trends and Services, National Trends and Services, Health and Human Services and The Arts. The Chapter's major initiatives include sponsoring the local competition for the Scripps National Spelling Bee; a partnership with Mary McCloud Bethune Elementary School; Obesity Awareness Day; and Law Day, in which Bethune Elementary School students are trained in legal proceedings and participate in a mock trial. The main focus areas are: financial support for college students, education and youth activities to assist youth in fulfilling their intellectual potential; addressing issues affecting the African American community through health and wellness projects; fostering cultural appreciation through the arts; and collaborating with other Link chapters to provide services and assistance to global friends. Tracey Flemings-Davillier is the President of the Chapter. For more information, visit [www.neworleanslinks.org](http://www.neworleanslinks.org) and follow the Chapter on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @NewOrleansLinks.

### **About The Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated**

The Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated is comprised of 84 chapters located in seven states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina) and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. For more information, visit [www.salinksinc.org](http://www.salinksinc.org).

### **About The Links, Incorporated**

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of nearly 16,000 professional women of color in 299 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the United Kingdom. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. Links members contribute more than **1 million** documented hours of community service annually – strengthening their communities and enhancing the nation. The outstanding programming of The Links, Incorporated has five facets which include **Services to Youth, International Trends and Services, National Trends and Services, Health and Human Services, and The Arts**. The programs are implemented through strategies such as public information and education, economic development, and public policy campaigns. Visit [www.linksinc.org](http://www.linksinc.org) for more information.

**more...**

**Chapter awards \$20,000 in scholarships .... add three**



Ashton Broden



Youma Diabira



Oscar Poydras



Grace Hammond

**more...**

**Chapter awards \$20,000 in scholarships .... add four**



Janiyah Thomas



Kennedy Scott



Madison Levy



Sundiata Haley

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