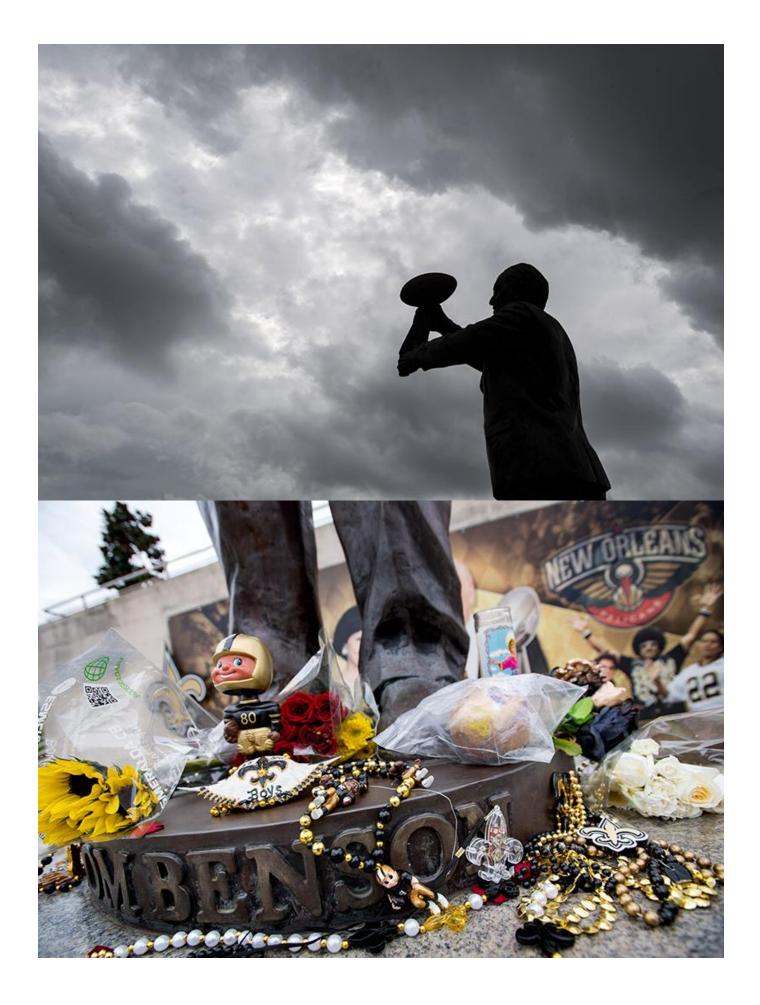
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March 16, 2018 4:00 PM Paula Burch-Celentano pburch@tulane.edu



New Orleans Saints fans Sissy White, left, and Ebony Bristo-Allmond smile for a selfie at the Tom Benson statue on Champions Square. Benson, a native son and owner of the Saints and the New Orleans Pelicans, died on Thursday after being hospitalized with the flu. White and Bristo-Allmond work nearby and decided to spend their lunch break to pay respects to Benson. A self-made millionaire from humble beginnings, Benson will be remembered for his generosity and his lifelong devotion to his hometown. On Tulane's uptown campus, Benson Field at Yulman Stadium is named in honor of Benson and his wife, Gayle.



Tom Benson's likeness raises the Lombardi Trophy toward the sky. The statue, by sculptor Brian P. Hanlon, was dedicated in 2014.

A makeshift memorial expands at the base of the statue.