"Wheel of Fortune" Spins Into New Orleans

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"Wheel of Fortune" headed to New Orleans for "College Week" tapings, with Tulane students competing against students from other area colleges on Saturday (April 16) at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The popular game show taped three weeks' worth of shows, marking the first time the show's production returned to the city since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In addition to "College Week," the taped shows that will air later this year celebrate popular aspects of New Orleans culture on the themes of "Celebrating New Orleans" and "Fabulous Food." Participants got a behind-the-scenes look at Pat Sajak and Vanna White as contestants competed for cash and prizes. Created by Merv Griffin in 1975, "Wheel of Fortune" continues to be America's No. 1 show in syndication as it enters its 28th season.



In front of a colorful New Orleans-themed set, the audience watches the "Wheel" action.



Tulane sophomore Maggie Osburn, left, smiles beside host Pat Sajak while playing "Wheel of Fortune" in front of a Tulane backdrop.



Green Wave cheerleaders pep up the audience during a taping session.



Surrounded by audience members, the Tulane University Marching Band performs at the beginning of a show taping.



"Wheel of Fortune" fan Ryan Jones, a Tulane sophomore, enjoys the show at one of the taping sessions. Jones was one of the handful of Tulane students who got a chance to spin the wheel.