

The Insider: Forum to revisit the desegregation of Tulane

February 20, 2013 4:45 AM Alicia Duplessis Jasmin
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Several of the first African Americans admitted to Tulane University will return to campus on Wednesday (Feb. 27) at 6:30 p.m. for a forum commemorating the 50th anniversary of the university's desegregation.



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The forum takes place in the Kendall Cram Lecture Hall of the Lavin-Bernick Center with a reception immediately following.

Participants will include Pearlie Hardin Elloie, who received a master of social work from Tulane in 1965, and Barbara Guillory Thompson, who received a doctoral degree in sociology in 1974. Elloie and Thompson were the two original complainants in the desegregation case that set in motion the decision to admit black students.

Carolyn Barber-Pierre, assistant vice president for student affairs, says Wednesday's forum is the first of several events planned to commemorate the end to 129 years as a segregated institution. The remaining events will be announced at a later date.

“We encourage students and the community to come and meet some of the first African Americans to enroll at Tulane and learn about this period in the history of Tulane,” says Barber-Pierre, who will moderate the panel. “These African Americans courageously challenged, enrolled and forged the trail for others to follow.”

Other participants will include Judge Edwin Lombard, one of the first African American men enrolled in the undergraduate program; Deidre Dumas Labat, the first African American female enrolled at Newcomb College, and Gloria Banks, one of the first students enrolled at the School of Social Work.

The forum is sponsored by the [Office of Multicultural Affairs](#) and the Tulane Black Student Union.

More information can be found on [Facebook](#) or by calling 504-865-5181.

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