

[NOLA authors launch books at Tulane](#)

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A dual book launch will present a new book of modern history about the 2013 Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans and a history of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The books are on display at the Garden District Book Shop. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

You never know what might happen at the Super Bowl. During the 100 days prior to New Orleans hosting Super Bowl XLVII in 2013, business leaders and tourism officials declared the rise of the “new New Orleans,” brimming with hope and energy. But the watershed moment culminated in darkness when the lights went out in the Superdome.

In a new book, [*New Orleans Boom and Blackout: One Hundred Days in America's Coolest Hotspot*](#) (History Press, 2015), Tulane University alumnus Brian Boyles unearths the conflicts, ambitions and secret histories that defined the city at this pivotal time.

The [New Orleans Center for the Gulf South](#) at Tulane will present Boyles' work of modern history at a [book launch and reception](#), along with a second New Orleans-based author, [Benjamin Morris](#), whose book, *Hattiesburg, Mississippi: A History of the Hub City*, was published by History Press in 2014.

Boyles and Morris will read from their works and hold a Q&A session on Wednesday (Feb. 4) at 7 p.m. in the Freeman Auditorium of Woldenberg Art Center on the Tulane uptown campus. Joel Dinerstein, director of the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, will moderate.

Boyles, a 1999 Tulane grad who majored in history, is vice president of content at the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Morris, an award-winning writer, received a research fellowship from the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South for the first full-length narrative history of Hattiesburg.

"The Gulf South Center is proud to host these two young authors and celebrate the release of two books that investigate the history and culture of the region," Dinerstein said. "Both works are significant contributions to our understanding of the making of modern New Orleans, Mississippi and the wider Gulf South."

The event is free and open to the public, and copies of the books will be available for purchase at a book signing following the discussion.

"We look forward to two stimulating talks and then a wide-ranging discussion with community, faculty and students." — Joel Dinerstein, director, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South