The Observer

EXPRESS ENLIGHTEN ENTERTAIN

The Official Newspaper of Southern University at New Orleans

The "X" Years

By Thalneisha Weston - Senior Editor (Class 2023)

reetings, Class of 2023! Within these past few years, many of our fates have been what "x" represents in mathematics as the unknown. Do not feel alone if you have had any doubts along your journey. I understand your struggle. Here is a little about mine. During my first year at SUNO, I welcomed my son into the world, and many wanted me to believe I would not complete my degree. Determined to prove them wrong, I doubled down on being a parent and student. With my tunnel vision on, I managed to be recognized by the Psychology Department for Outstanding Student Services and made the Honor Roll or Dean's List every semester. But, of course, when everything goes right, something must go left.

In October of 2021, I lost my mother to COVID-19 and hardly saw a way forward. But instead of giving up, I vowed to finish, not for me but for her. Shortly into my grief, I discovered the organization I am speaking to you from, *The SUNO Observer*, which is the gift I did not know I needed. A safe place to create, connect, and cater to our university and city. The journey we have taken to get where we are is worth cherishing. The narrative changes for each of us on May 13, 2023, because we will walk across the stage and begin the next chapter of our lives.

Please take this day to bask in the glory of being today's celebrated and tomorrow's leaders. We have had our fair share of trials and tribulations to get where we are, but WE MADE IT! Every teary eye, sleepless night, and loss has rewarded us with wearing a cap and gown and being handed our degrees. Continue striving for excellence while persevering through whatever life hands you. Being gifted with the opportunity to experience an HBCU and be called a SUNO Knight happened here at 6400 SUNO Knight Drive. So, wear your royal blue and gold pridefully and remember our moments together. ONCE A KNIGHT, ALWAYS A KNIGHT! Congratulations to the Class of 2023 from The Observer.

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From the Desk of the Editor-In-Chief

ello SUNO Knights. It has been a pleasure to serve as vour SUNO Observer Editor-in-Chief for the Fall of 2022 and Spring of 2023. These three years of working with The Observer have been a phenomenal journey as I learned about myself as a writer, editor, and leader. More importantly, with my establishment of The SUNO Observer Podcast, we can reach students and connect with the New Orleans community like never before. As always, I thank Malery Louis for her efforts in establishing The Observer as a cohesive organization on SUNO's campus.

I want also to thank the staff, who have been by my side throughout my leadership and never gave up on me. But more importantly, I want all of our SUNO Knights to know that I appreciate you for always supporting us and our efforts to make The Observer a voice for everyone. Last but not least, to our 2023 graduates, as you cross over from students to official alums, I ask that you do not cease your efforts to make SUNO a brighter university, continue to give back, serve incoming students, and invest in the future of Southern University at New Orleans and prove that We Can Go Anywhere From 6400 SUNO Knight Drive!

Sincerly Yours,

Jasmine M. Boskent

Editor-in-Chief



THE OBSERVER STAFF 2023-2024

The staff of The SUNO Observer is honored to manage the official student newspaper of Southern University at New Orleans. We accept the challenge to serve all SUNO students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters. We take our journalism duty seriously and work hard to report news and information that is accurate, relevant, and beneficial to our readers. We cannot do this without your input and support. WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK, OPINIONS, CAMPUS EVENTS, CAMPUS NEWS, IDEAS, AND CONTENT SUGGESTIONS!! Email us today at sunobserver@suno.edu and let us know what you want to see in The Observer!

Sr.-English



Jasmine Boskent Editor-in-Chief & Graphic Designer

Fr. English



Asharia Lewis Staff Writer

Jr. Social Work



Dana Bailey Managing News Editor & S.K.L. Host

Mr. Adam Falik **Faculty Advisor**



Sop. CIS



Reginald Dorsey Staff Writer

Sr. Social Work



Irie Arnaud Advertising & Social Media Manager

Sr. Psychology



Weston Senior Staff Editor Staff Writer

The Observer is proudly under the advisement of the Office of Student Activities and Organizations. We are a student publication. THE SUNO OBSERVER - Although we are an entity of the Student Government Association, we operate independently.

Corrections

Facts and accuracy are our goals. As the voice of the Southern University at New Orleans student body, we are committed to our job. We are committed to ensuring the fairest, truthful and accurate accounts of our work. In the event of an error, we will place all corrections in this area in each edition. Please email corrections to The Observer at sunoobserver@suno.edu.

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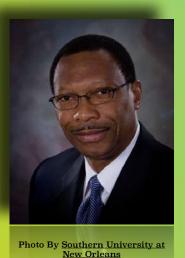
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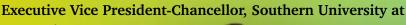


Chancellor's Corner

UNO Knights, I am pleased to share exciting news about our university's progress in promoting diversity and representation in critical fields. A year ago, we launched the Department of Nursing to

increase diversity among healthcare workers in Louisiana. Today, I am thrilled to announce that we are continuing this work in the STEM field. In Fall 2023, we will welcome our first cohort of students to our new Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity program. This program is a crucial step towards building a STEM workforce that better represents the people of Louisiana and supports the state's initiative for a more diverse and inclusive cyber workforce. The demand for cybersecurity professionals continues to grow as the world becomes increasingly digitized. Graduates of our program will be wellequipped to enter this exciting and rewarding field with skills and knowledge that are in high demand. As Knights, we take pride in our commitment to excellence and service. This new program can expand our reach and impact even further. I look forward to seeing the fantastic contributions that our SUNO Cybersecurity students will make in the future. Thank you for your continued dedication to your education and our community.

Sincerely, James H. Ammons, Jr., PhD





Team F.O.R.C.E For SUNO

Written By: Balie Martin

he Observer and Southern University at New Orleans want to thank all the students who participated in the campaigning for Our Coveted 64th MISS SUNO and her Royal Court, along with our Student Government Association positions. To our new Miss S.U.N.O. and S.G.A. members, remember, in the words of Stan Lee, "With Great Power comes Great Responsibility." The F.O.R.C.E. (Focusing on Rebuilding the Collegiate Experience) Administration came out the gate with a blast in the glass, starting the campaign week off with "Mocktails and Mingle." Throughout the week of March 23rd-31st, they held multiple events, from the Multifaceted Trio of S.U.N.O. to bringing the future of New Orleans band culture to play an arousing arrangement of jazz and marching songs, Taco Tuesday, and even a cookout. The week was a plethora of significant representations of New Orleans culture and reformation of our S.U.N.O. Knight family's foundation. We thank the new 64th Miss S.U.N.O., Ciara Perique, S.G.A. President, Dana Bailey, Vice President, Oscar Poydras, and Royal Court for another special election.

The F.O.R.C.E. Administration has much in store for S.U.N.O., according to VP Oscar Poydras, "Improve the social functions and quality of life for the students of S.U.N.O. as well bridging the gap with administration and students."

We look forward to seeing their fall progress and F.O.R.C.E. **MOVING ON!!!!!!**

SUNO Greek Life





Good Knight News: PURPOSE

Written By: Patrice Juluke

et me introduce myself to the whole campus of Southern University at New Orleans. My name is Patrice Juluke, and I'm a fresh staff member of *The SUNO Observer*. I'm a sophomore here, and my major is Addiction Behavioral Counseling Prevention, and my minor will be in Psychology. I'm excited to be a SUNO Knight! I love my fellow students and want to help move your year forward with great news. Since the pandemic we all experienced the woes of quarantine, but now we can move into a new direction. My plans are to keep you encouraged and motivated and knowing that you are supported in every way. Now listen up: we are all in this together! We come here to impact each other in a way that is contagious. We need each other to survive and make it. This path you are on is called your P.U.R.P.O.S.E.

P = You have a Purpose!

U = You are Unique!

R = You have a Reason!

P = You have Personality!

O = You are the next Observer!

S = You are Success!

E = You do Exists!







SUNO's School of Social Work Shakes Things Up With DCFS

Written By: Jasmine Boskent

outhern University at New Orleans's Millie M. Charles School of Social Work has over sixty years of outstanding community service and student development since its founding in 1956. Also, its recent contribution to New Orleans, The Center for Grief & Trauma Therapy, provides counseling services for community children and adults, providing a compassionate and conducive environment. With the financial assistance of The Wisner Foundation, these services are free to the public, while allowing graduate interns to have on-the-job experience with licensed clinical workers. The School of Social Work's latest program accepts all students, regardless of their academic major. The Title IV-E Program is a partnership between The School of Social Work and the Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy to provide students with extensive training and professional development. This program aims to create a cohesive partnership with SUNO's School of Social

Work and the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, create opportunities, and have a stable child welfare workforce in New Orleans. *The SUNO Observer* Podcast discussed the program with Assistant Professor Holly M. McKenney, D.S.W., and Title IV-E Program Coordinator, Monique Hurst, in celebration of March being National Social Work Month. McKenney gave a deep dive into the program's purpose, stating, "Title IV-E is part federal funding part of the Social Security Act and was designed originally for foster care and child welfare. The goals were to develop programs that ensured children's safety, enabling permanency (meaning stable residency or placement), and promoting the wellbeing of children and their families." However, McKenney also expresses that not all universities have Title IV-E programs and Southern University at New Orleans having one is essential for not only providing a professional experience for social work graduates

and undergraduates but opens the door for other academic fields. This opportunity benefits diverse educational programs. McKenney states that, "there are many benefits to this, but one of the pilot programs that we're starting this year, which is we are opening the program to majors other than social work. So, if you have an interest in working with children and families, you are not sure what you want to do with your degree, or you are happy in your program but want to work with children and want to learn more about it, we encourage everyone to come to our open house." No one knows about this opportunity more than Monique Hurst, who is not only a Title IV-E Coordinator but also graduated from the program herself. Hurst expresses the value of this program, stating, "The benefit of students taking advantage of this Title IV training program is to gain knowledge and employable skills to enhance the workforce and to implement what they have learned in class work and practice into a professional setting." McKenney and Hurst believe that the School of Social Work's Title IV-E program is a tremendous opportunity for all



SUNO students. The Millie M. Charles School of Social Work continues to provide tools for our students but, more importantly, develops compassionate and well-rounded professionals for the New Orleans community. Title IV-E is only one of the great programs the School of Social Work offers, so remember to stay tuned to what they have in store this year for our SUNO Knights!

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Mardi Gras 2023

























Photo By Nice Guys NOLA

NOLA Eateries: Black Owned Edition

Written By: Thalneisha Weston

ave you found yourself constantly going to the same places to eat? Are you searching for something new or having an uncomfortable encounter at a place you used to love? Well, no worries! I have two fresh locations to share with you that have exquisite food with the bonus of being black-owned and operated. These establishments prove

that we can enjoy excellent food while supporting worthy businesses. First up is a hot spot by the name of Nice Guys NOLA. Located at 7910 Earhart Blvd, you will find a restaurant filled with people from all over the city enjoying food,

music, laughs, and, best of all, one another. Nice Guys is famous for their exotic menu, which features Boudin Burgers, Messy Fries, Oyster Bread, Salmon, and Crawfish Mac & Cheese, with a colorful pink margarita to wash it down. The list goes on, but these are only a few highly-raved items you should try. The perfect photo opportunity also present itself with a stylish decor and neon signage surrounding the building; this place is full of vibes and adventure. Glen and Allison Charles are responsible for Nice Guys' concept and creativity in every dish. The brunch and dinner days/times are on their website, niceguysnola.com. This next spot, which I consider a hidden gem, is 14 Parishes Jamaican Restaurant, a vegan-friendly eatery known for its quality service and attention to detail. I had the pleasure of ordering the jerk chicken and shrimp, which was delicious. The



Photo By The Camellia Brand

spice in the sauce had a juicy kick to it. My husband enjoyed the jerk chicken with mac and cheese and



Photo By <u>14 Parishes</u> Jamaican Restaurant

raved about its flavor. Besides the food, I genuinely enjoyed the cultural experience it provided so close to home. The unforgettable atmosphere is at 8227 Oak St., New Orleans, LA 70118. Chef Blake leads this family-owned restaurant, as he was born and raised in Spanish Town Jamaica but landed in New Orleans, his wife's hometown. The couple opened this restaurant together back in 2016 and have been flourishing ever since. Hopefully, these culinary endorsements will nudge your pallets towards some appetizing alternatives. Although I could not list them all, remember to support your local black-owned and small businesses whenever possible. If

you have any places or people you would like to give a spotlight to, please do not hesitate to contact us on our Instagram page @suno_observer. We would love to use our platform to provide exposure to community members!



Photo By The New York Times

Systematic Eradication: Connecting the Dots

Written By: Jalisa Peters

lorida's governor, Ron DeSantis' rejection of African American Studies AP courses in the state leaves us speculating. The decision has sparked debates nationwide while encouraging other states' educational boards, such as Texas's testing the waters to make similar maneuvers. It makes one question the educational integrity of local and state governments, affirming race as the biggest issue garnering these decisions. Gov. Ron DeSantis' has claimed that the rejected AP course is an "indoctrination attempt" on high school students. However, as a concerned Black woman, I beg to differ on DeSantis' claim. Censoring such

classes, and thereby censoring knowledge of the history classes such as this sets a precedent for chosen ignorance, for not knowing the history classes as such offers. Growing up in the New Orleans' public-school system, I was exposed to the "basic" history of America mainly from the perspective of White Americans. My middle school and collegiate years were fundamental in informing me of my cultural identity as a Black person. As a student who took high school AP courses, the thing I treasured most was diving deep into history. It's this content that weaves and addresses appropriation where it's due. Florida's rejection of the course is a systematic censorship of the dogma. The course's criterion posted on NBC News, details the content that would've been

taught, and its rejection undermines the cultural identity of a group that fundamentally built America from its economic growth to cultural influence. The course, which DeSantis intends to cancel addresses the entire path of how we started, progressed, and where we can go in the future. It's a scheme to eradicate the narrative from being told. Young minds will be culturally influenced in ignorance until they realize the truth. Unfortunately, I am a product of finding out the truth later, to only learning certain aspects of the African American impact, from the originally African diaspora to the current situation, later in life when I sought this information out on my own. While Florida and DeSantis attempt to censor this history, I recognize the significance of knowing this cultural history as it applies to my own self-identity. The expression of black culture



Photo By WFUS News

in New Orleans, in the landscape and history of the city, from Congo Square to the murals illuminating buildings across the city like fireworks points to a culture, education, and history in continual progress. Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art (SUNOMA) is another place that demonstrates this significance. The primary focus of this museum lies in the preservation of the narrative. It's a matter of connecting the dots to finding our way home, to what makes us unique and the same. Censorship of those dots, which is what DeSantis and his like-minded seek, is a means towards eradicating the narrative. Our narrative.

Make Sure To Always Know Your Location



Stay Alert & Aware Knights

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The SUNO Observer Podcast



Episode 1, Season 1

The SUNO Observer Podcast Episode 3 Featuring Student Support Services

> January 13th, 2023 Spin Only on Spotifi Link in Bio

Episode 3, Season 1



Episode 7, Season 1

The SUNO Observer Podeast fit Colligate Black & Christian



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Episode 8, Season 1





Episode 9, Season 1



Episode 10, Season 1

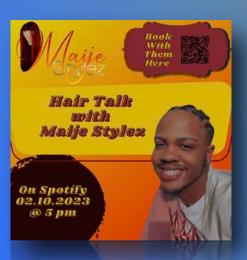


Episode 2, Season 1



Episode 4, Season 1

SOUTHERN



Episode 5, Season 1



Episode 6, Season 1



The College Journey Is No Obstacle With The JCS Project

Written By: Jasmine Boskent

arning a college degree is a milestone, especially for those of minority communities and low-income families. It is also a student's first step towards individual freedom and professional development. However, college is a long journey that we only complete with a team backing and supporting us through each obstacle. Although many of us have family and friends to assist and support us, a significant number of individuals go on their academic journey alone. It is why Tiffannie Jones created The JCS Project: Just for College Students, to support HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) students nationwide. The SUNO Observer Podcast sat down with Jones, who described how this innovative organization began when her younger cousin attended college. Traditionally, many families will take the trip to drop off a freshman student at school and leave, but that idea did not sit well with Jones. She expresses how this project with care packages mailed to students. "When I started putting everything together to ship out these boxes, it dawned me that, well, she's not my only cousin, they have kids at my church that are in college, and my coworker's kids. I started these packages for ten girls, and the people were like, 'My son is in

college' well, I don't know what to put in a boy package, like what do you get for them? So, this great organization came about because if my cousin had not gone, I wouldn't have started it until one of my kids had gone off. But when they dropped her off, it freaked me out, like you don't leave her there. She's your child. Someone needs to help her, so that birthed the JCS Project." In the African American community, attending an HBCU is an honor and makes a generational impact. However, our HBCUs are flawed; many

university students still face issues that discourage them from not only attending college but from completing their degree. From tuition, transportation, housing, and more, there are plenty of obstacles that HBCU students face that cause them financial and mental anguish. Jones is aware of these issues. She told us, "I'm just now learning, or its just being brought to my attention that there are food insecurities on college campuses. So, last year I started a new program underneath the JCS Project called The HBCU Food Pantry, and with that program, what I've started to do is to start mailing off boxes to HBCUs that already have a pantry on campus. It is a new project that I just started, and it started slowly, as I thought I had all the time in the world, and then JCS just picked up, and next thing you know, I needed to be everywhere. I want to continue providing these free care packages and send them directly to the food pantry." Every college student knows the struggle of waiting for our semester refund to stock up our grocery and snack pile. But with the help of The JCS Project, there is more than just an organization providing a solution for food insecurity among HBCU students. Jones and her team formulate relationships



with students that last a lifetime stating, "I have a daughter in college, and she goes through a lot, you know, there are things that come up personally and at the campus, and students need support, they need help, they need to know that people love them, people care about them, and are routing for them because we don't just want you to go to college we want you to graduate. That's a big deal that means something!"



"New Age Swing" Taking R&B by Storm: Lah Pat Editorial Exclusive

Written By: Jasmine Boskent

very artist has a story that drives their creativity and determination. Some start their journey young, vibrant, and new to entertainment, allowing all the world to see them fail or succeed. Then there are one-hit wonders, continuously gripping the thread of fate that can bind them to stardom. However, some break that line between tradition and innovation. Regardless of their background, they fight for their place in the entertainment sector, and that is what artist Lah Pat continues to do. Born and raised in New Orleans, breakout artist Lah Pat loves the city's colorful culture and vast diversity. Even after relocating to Houston, Texas, during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Pat holds New

Lalb Part

Orleans culture close to his heart. But what makes him stand out amongst other artists is his continuous drive to revolutionize the cultural landscape of R&B music. In a recent interview with *The SUNO Observer* Podcast, Lah Pat spoke about how his new sound, "new age swing," will drastically change the idea of traditional R&B. "I call my sound gumbo because I mix a lot of different genres in one. I'll sing on a trap beat or take an R&B beat and speed my cédants up. I always want to do something different. Or I'll have something more of Neyo's soul sound, so I like to mix it up and show that, just like J Cole says, 'It is not right or wrong. There is only a song.' So, it's how you structure a song, if it makes sense or has good quality of sound, that is just that." The passion that Pat has for music is what leads him through troubling times, such as the duration of his eight-year incarceration at the age of sixteen. Throughout this period in his life, he went on to take his music to the next level, becoming a completely self-taught musician. Pat honed his skills in vocal techniques, remixing, the music business, and culture, which made the city of Houston recognize his artistry upon his release. Lah Pat's 2022 single "Rodeo," a re-imagination of Ginuwine's classic 1996 hit "Pony," has brought him enormous success. The song currently has over 10 million views worldwide and 100k video challenges on TikTok, along with 6.5 million views on YouTube. Houston media platforms, such as osuojhijoHouston, as well as

traditional radio stations, also push his local recognition, allowing Houston fans to welcome Pat to the music scene with open arms, which is why he claims the city as his second home. As Pat gears up in pursuit of more hit records, he journeys with New York's record label company, 300 Entertainment. Lah Pat shared with the Observer the importance of artists supporting their home state, as well as the crime issues in New Orleans, causing a rift between artists' local support. "Let's say grow huge like Meghan (Meg the Stallion) huge and their (New Orleans fans) like 'come back to the house, come back home,' and I come back and something tragic happens.... some people I feel don't come outside because they're afraid of what might happen. Every city has crime, but

a 'hiccup city' like New Orleans is different; people are built differently." While Lah Pat

loves and appreciates the support and love of Houston, it is disheartening for him to see New Orleans in a state of such unpredictable crime. However, that does not change his love for the city's unique cultural atmosphere, as he continues to display his Orleans roots in his craft. Like his music, Pat is a gumbo pot that consistently brings something new to the identity of R&B, and he hopes to convey not only New Orleans and Houston but the world on his journey of "new age swing" or "gumbo."

Word of The Day: Love

Written By: Reginald Dorsey

Love? What is love? Love is Love.

Love is... I have gas, Can I have a ride up the street? Keep it. I will take you there and to the east.

Love is... Jesus, what are we going to eat? I do not know, but all I have is ten dollars we both can feast.

Love is... Are you going to sleep? You do not have to bring a blanket because I have a cover for your feet.

Love is... O my god. What am I going to do? Love would have the right words to get you through.

Love is like being the man in the middle. Why can't I just be? Just be me. Just be free.

Free from what all love is not. Love is all of that. All of that which you do not seek.

Not the flirtatious smiles, not the pretty teeth. Not the sexy bodies, not the big piece. Not the flashy rides, or the designer on his feet.

So do not go looking for love, because then it would show in deceit.

Love is patience. Love is kind. Love is the thing that would have you reaching for eternity.

Reach for the galaxy. Travel far and wide through the deepest sea.

Love, love for love because either way It will set you free. Free from all the lies and deceit.

The City of Ashes

Written By: Ria

The riots struck like a crow flaps its wings

New Orleans stood quiet.

Still marching, but not tearing down things

You can't break something that's already broken

You can't set a fire on fire

New Orleans has been burning for years

Our people are tired of shedding tears

So No..

They don't burn down their city...

Because that's all they've got

But it's crazy because other cities are fighting for their number one spot

My home-town is on fire too

With no one to help us

Not even that blue and white striped crew

So we just let it burn

Because the flames continuously consumes and kills

Is this Orleans culture or sweet thrills?







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Black History Fun Facts

Written By: Jasmine Boskent

The New Orleans Tribune, or la Tribune de la Nouvelle Orléans, was the first African American ran publication in New Orleans and was established by free people of color in 1866.

Before the integration of baseball in 1947, New Orleans had many Negro League Teams, such as the Black Pelicans, who played segregated games at the Pelican Stadium.

In 1943, seventeen-year-old Bernice Delatte was arrested for defying segregation laws for public transportation in New Orleans.

Inspiring Civil Rights Activist, Rosa Parks, took similar actions in Montgomery, Alabama, leading to the bus boycott of 1953.

The Free Southern Theater, initially established in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1963, later moving to New Orleans in 1965, was essential to the contributions of developing African American artists and activists through the Black Arts Movement of 1965-1975.

In 1969, SUNO students took a stand against the unethical dispute of educational funds and, with the assistance of the Black Panthers, took Governor John McKeithen hostage to address their concerns effectively.

In 1992, Dorthy May Taylor, the first female elected to the New Orleans City Council, passed an ordinance that desegrated group membership among parade krewes.

#WEARESUNO



SPRING 2023 VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1













We Thank All Of Our Observer Staff & Fellow Knights For Another Great Semester!











