



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

Contact: Patrice Bell-Mercadel (504) 520-5452
or Richard Tucker (504) 520-5425

***Xavier to Host Resistance and Redemption
in Black New Orleans: Past, Present, Future***

New Orleans LA - Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) will host a special program, *Resistance and Redemption in Black New Orleans: Past, Present and Future* Sunday, Oct. 22, at 2:00 p.m. in the Xavier University Center's McCaffrey Ballroom, 3rd floor. This event is hosted and sponsored by XULA's own Dr. Michael White, Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities' with Xavier University in Louisiana as part of the Culture of New Orleans Series.

The program, which will include a musical presentation by Dr. Michael White and the Original Liberty Jazz Band, is free and open to the public.

This presentation will examine various forms of black resistance to racism and oppression throughout New Orleans' 300 year history – from slave uprisings and escape, Reconstruction era turmoil, early 20th century struggles and Civil Rights era protests into today's battles over issues like police brutality and Confederate monument removal.

The program will feature a special panel of distinguished speakers discussing social, legal and physical resistance throughout the city's existence. Included will be a discussion of black New Orleanians' unique forms of cultural resistance through social club parades, jazz, and Mardi Gras Indian traditions.

Panelists will include longtime Civil Rights activist Rev. Samson "Skip" Alexander; Plessey vs. Ferguson case descendants, Phoebe Ferguson and Keith Plessey; author and son of Civil Rights Attorney, A. P. Tureaud, Jr.; community activist and founder of Take 'em Down NOLA, Malcolm Suber; and former Black Panther and historian Malik Rahim.

About Michael White

Dr. Michael White, the Rosa and Charles Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities of New Orleans Music and Culture at Xavier, teaches both Spanish and music at Xavier. He is a 1976 Xavier University of Louisiana graduate.

White has been instrumental in keeping alive the New Orleans jazz tradition of his ancestors, some of whom were among the earliest jazz musicians. A professor of Spanish and African American Music at Xavier University in New Orleans, White has become well known on the jazz scene. He performs, writes and lectures on jazz, and is among a very few current clarinetists to develop an original authentic interpretation of the exciting New Orleans style.

He has been widely acknowledged as an expert in the field of traditional New Orleans jazz, and often functions as a consultant, board member or commissioner for a number of local, state, and national organizations and institutions. He currently serves as a commissioner of the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior. He has coordinated, performed in and hosted numerous jazz programs for Jazz at Lincoln Center, several universities and many other organizations.

In addition to touring worldwide with his own Original Liberty Jazz Band and other groups at major concert halls (such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center) and festivals, he has appeared in numerous documentaries, films and interviews. White has performed and/or recorded with noted musicians such as Wynton Marsalis, Lionel Hampton and Marcus Roberts. He has played on twenty recordings, including his own critically acclaimed Crescent City Serenade and New Years at the Village Vanguard. During the early and mid-90s he was selected to the Downbeat Magazine Critics' Poll several times in the clarinet category.

White has been given numerous awards and recognition for his contributions, including the rank of Chevalier of Arts and Letters by the French Government in 1987 and a National Heritage Fellowship Award by the National Endowment of the Arts in 2008.

About Xavier University of Louisiana

XULA students *Leave Ready* to serve, care, and lead their communities. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. Take a moment to learn more about how Xavier is preparing students for the future at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD4mb-jYZC8>.

Once again, Xavier University of Louisiana received national accolades as one of the best universities in the country. Most notably, XULA is ranked as the best value among southern regional colleges and universities in the 2018 edition of "Best Colleges" by the U.S. News Media Group. Xavier also ranked No.1 in its grouping, heading the list of only 15 schools that qualified for the Southern Region category listed under "Great Schools, Great Prices."

To book interviews about our recent accomplishments and or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the arts, contact Patrice Bell Mercadel, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at 504-520-5452 or via email at pbellmer@xula.edu.

###