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**XAVIER UNIVERSITY SHOWCASES 'ROOTS'  
AN EXHIBITION OF 3 DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS**

(New Orleans, La.) – The work of internationally recognized artists Ron Bechet, Rontherin Ratliff, and Patrick Waldemar will be on display in the Chapel Gallery at Xavier University of Louisiana until April 17.

The exhibition entitled 'Roots,' is on the first floor of the administration building, located at 1 Drexel Drive. It is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The exhibit is presented by the African American and Diaspora Studies Program and the Department of Art. The display focuses on both the metaphorical and literal roots found within Louisiana's environmental and cultural landscape.

Utilizing the Louisiana landscape, Ron Bechet's work creates metaphors for diasporic realities. Rontherin Ratliff is a younger generation New Orleans artist who is part of the extremely prolific and talented artist's collective, Level Art.

Ratliff's work examines issues of longing, home, aging and exclusion.

Patrick Waldemar is a Jamaican artist who works between Kingston, New Orleans and Miami. His newest body of work, *Magnolia Suite*, examines the Magnolia as a metaphor for a society still deeply stratified and yet invariably interconnected both spiritually and psychically.

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**About Xavier University of Louisiana**

Xavier University of Louisiana founded by Saint Katherine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1925 is the only historically Black and Catholic university in the Western Hemisphere. It is a private, liberal-arts based, co-educational institution offering 40 undergraduate majors, five master's degree programs, and a doctor of pharmacy program.