**End of Summer Report**

My name is Jacqueline Best, and this summer I spent my time in FURSCA researching and creating a thesis on the subject of Creole cookbooks written in Louisiana. Over my eight weeks in the program, I analyzed ten cookbooks written by both white Creoles and Creoles of Color between 1866 and 1990. Unlike in other literary works, where societal perspective can sometimes be limited by different factors, cookbooks are able to define the food, culture, and history of a region. As an International Studies and French double major with a concentration in Public Policy and Service with the Ford Institute, I am in the process of writing my thesis entirely in French. A majority of my analysis of these cookbooks functions within the framework of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, as I consider his ideas of assimilationism, segregationism, and anti-racism within the context of the cookbooks. By focusing specifically on the implications of racism within these cookbooks, I aim to better understand the nuanced culinary history of New Orleans while also recognizing the often forgotten impact of Creoles of Color in modern Louisianan and American food pathways.

What is understood today by the vast majority of American and international travelers is that the culture and cuisine of New Orleans is strongly linked to French culture and cuisine. Tourists visit New Orleans to celebrate "Mardi Gras," stop in the French Quarter and enjoy beignets and cafe au laits at the Café du Monde, then sit back and relax enjoying what they believe to be a small slice of France in the United States. My research aims to further consider how this conception of New Orleans is very closely related to the deliberate exclusion of African influence in a cuisine that is so intrinsically linked to the African continent.

Thanks to FURSCA, I was able to accomplish a number of goals associated with my research. The ability to really delve into these cookbooks, analyzing both the cookbook authors and the recipes themselves, helped me immensely as I began the process of writing my thesis and preparing to present at the Elkin Isaac Research Symposium in 2023. I was also able to actually cook a few of the recipes of out the cookbooks I am studying as I prepared a Creole Dinner for my fellow FURSCA peers. Furthermore, this experience has really provided insight into my future career aspirations, as I hope to continue research on different aspects of Francophone culture as I pursue further education in graduate school with the goal of becoming a French professor.

It was incredibly rewarding to have my advisor Dianne Guenin-Lelle by my side throughout the summer, as she acted as a mentor and guide in the daunting process of starting and writing a thesis. I also wanted to give a big shoutout to Elizabeth Palmer and Renee Kreger for fostering such a positive FURSCA community. To the Harriet E. Elgin 36' Endowed Fellowship, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in Albion’s FURSCA program this summer. This summer provided many benefits that will greatly influence my future education and research endeavors. Thank you!

The link below is the presentation I created on my research project:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15uX_KYS9Oedg1Le6edge2hDddSisssG7/view?usp=sharing>