

CELEBRATING OUR



YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

2026-27 CAMPUS THEME



PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



Sebastian Cantero, Drew Wright, and Kloie Watkins-Simpkins

The Evolution of Pursuit: Classical Virtue, Digital Realities, and the Future of the American Ideal

This panel examines “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” in the 21st century by contrasting Enlightenment ideals with 21st-century realities. Sebastian Cantero opens the inquiry by reframing happiness as a commitment to Aristotelian virtue and purposeful living rather than external achievement. Drew Wright investigates how digital landscapes and social media have fundamentally shifted our perceptions of reality and fulfillment. Finally, Kloie Watkins-Simpkins analyzes the “youth perspective,” questioning if these founding aspirations remain viable for Generation Z. Together, they will attempt to bridge classical philosophy and modern technology to interrogate the evolving nature of American civic identity and our collective national aspirations.

Sebastian Cantero, SOU student, M.S. Ed Leadership in Higher Education, B.S. Philosophy & Political Science.

Drew Wright, SOU student, Electrical Engineer with a Philosophy Minor

Kloie Watkins-Simpkins, SOU student, Psychology with a Philosophy Minor

ALL CAMPUS THEME LECTURES ARE **FREE** AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, May 20 • 7:00 pm
SU 319 • SOU Student Union