

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 6, 2017

Dear Southerners and Friends,

Betty and Joseph "JD" Kyles are amazing Southerners. This Southern University family is truly Alumni Federation royalty. I bumped into the couple this weekend at the Memphis Chapter Scholarship Gala. And, as always, the Kyles family was front and center ensuring everything came together perfectly. While Betty is not president of the chapter anymore, she is supporting the chapter as much as ever. She alone sold 68 tickets to the gala. JD was the life of the party and made sure that everyone had a great time. Of course, their lovely daughters, Tracey and Tia, were there to make it a true Kyles/SU experience.

		
<p>Betty Kyles & LaToria Howard at Memphis Gala</p>	<p>JD & Betty Kyles, after she received the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award</p>	<p>Dr. Tracey Kyles Graham, Preston Castille, and Tia Kyles</p>

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LaToria Howard, the chapter's new president, and Donald Ray Batiste, Jr., the chapter's vice president, are so lucky to have such great mentors and they know it. LaToria and the chapter presented Betty the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Gala for her years of incredible service to the Memphis Chapter. She is very much still the matriarch of the Memphis Chapter. But, it was clear that the scepter was being graciously passed on. After LaToria's presentation to Betty, she invited Memphis scholarship recipient, Kara Robinson, an 18-year old nursing student and Memphis native, to address the audience. Betty, LaToria, and Kara represented three generations of women who personify Southern's greatness. Well done, Memphis! Thanks to all of our chapters who are working so hard to provide scholarships to help recruit the best scholars from around the country to attend our Alma Mater.

	
Scholarship Recipient, Kara Robinson, is an 18-year old nursing student from Memphis	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hudson, diehard Southernites, enjoying a wonderful evening at the Memphis Scholarship Gala

The energy and growth of our alumni chapters across America are phenomenal. As we celebrate Founders Day this week on Scott's Bluff, it is quite apparent that Southern has thrived for 137 years because of our alumni, who celebrate and champion this powerful educational institution. This week we remember the names and contributions of Felton, Joseph and Octavia Clark, T.T. Allain, P.B.S. Pinchback, and so many others who helped establish this institution. However, it is the new Southern University royal families like, Betty and JD Kyles, Vincent and Verna Brown, James "JB" and Betty Brown, Dennis and Barbara Brown, Reggie and Mackie Joseph, Kevin and

Tracey Taylor Jarrell, Derrick and Anita Warren, Shawn and Denise Armstrong, Domoine and Sharmayne Rutledge, and Michael and Brunetta Adams, who will make this great university even greater, just to name a few. (If I have left off the list of "royal families", please give me buzz.) It is the chapter leaders around the country and the national officers of this dynamic Alumni Federation who spread the good news, not only about Southern's founding, but also its bright future that say to America, "Southern University will be around educating American scholars for centuries to come."



This week, the Jags are gearing up for the SWAC basketball tournament in Houston. We wish our men and women the best of luck! On Saturday, President Kestee Weir and the East Baton Rouge Parish Chapter will host its Annual Alumni Breakfast. I look forward to introducing SULC Chancellor John Pierre as our guest speaker. In the Southeast, President Pat Johnson and the Atlanta Chapter will host its Annual Founders Day Brunch. On Sunday, I'm flying to the west coast to join President Angela Goodwin and the Sacramento Chapter at its Annual Founders Day "Jazzy Brunch." DuWarn Porter, SUAF Midwest Regional Director and Chicago Chapter President, will be the guest speaker. A little further south in L.A., Camille Mayor and the L.A. Chapter will also host a Founders Day Celebration. These events are further testaments to the strength of the Federation throughout the country. I'm so proud to be your National Alumni President. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve Southern.

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124 Roosevelt Steptoe Baton Rouge, LA 70803 Phone: 225-771-4211

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D.C. Chapter at 2017 Scholarship Gala

Happy Founders Day!

Preston

Preston J. Castille, Jr., Esq.
National President
HBCU Alumni Coalition President