Dear Fellow Southernites and Friends:

Charlotte, North Carolina is known by many as the Queen City. But, last weekend, the royal throne belonged to the Southern University Human Jukebox in the Queen City Battle of the Bands. Seated next to me in the stadium was a Winston-Salem graduate who was there with his son, a high school student. The night started with a face-off with Talladega College and the Jukes. Talladega played and the crowd applauded politely. Then, the Jukebox cranked up the volume, and the father spontaneously and perfectly summed up the crowd's reaction and shouted, "Oh My God!" Needless to say, I was proud to be wearing my Blue and Gold.



Dr. Chance Lewis and Charlotte Jaguars at Alumni Roundup in the Queen City



Director Nathan Haymer (center) meeting with Southernites before the Battle of the Bands

Charlotte alum Dr. Chance Lewis and the Charlotte Jaguars rolled out the red carpet for the Jaguar Nation. For the last several months, he and others, like Pia Millican and Mitzi Sims Porter, have been working to locate Southern alums in the Charlotte area with the hopes of being able to form a new chapter. Well, hats off to Chance -- the Charlotte Jaguars showed up, and they are now officially organizing the new chapter. I bumped into Southernites such as Theodore Pikes, who was the first student to receive a PhD from Southern. I also ran into Robert Chamber who recently received his PhD in Urban Forestry. Having traveled to New Orleans, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta and Charlotte over the last six weeks, there is no doubt that, from the West Coast to the East Coast, our alumni are prominent all across America.



Director Derrick Warren, Dr. Cheryl Taylor, Asst. Director Khadijah Thompson, Monroe Chapter President Dilcie Green and SUAF President Castille in Monroe



Monroe City Councilwoman and SU Alumna Juanita Woods and President Castille at ULM Meet & Greet

Yesterday, I drove to Monroe, Louisiana to join Monroe Chapter President, Dilcie Green, and the Monroe Jags for a Meet and Greet with University of Louisiana at Monroe fans. We met at the Monroe Regional Airport. It's an impressive facility, and there were as many Southern Jags as there were Warhawks. Mayor Jamie Mayo, organized a fantastic evening that featured the two university presidents. Dr. Belton made us proud! Southern Alumna Juanita Woods, a newly-elected city councilwoman, spoke to the crowd. I really enjoyed getting to know her better, and believe she will do a fantastic job representing the City of Monroe. President Dilcie Green is an amazing lady. She has truly impressed so many from both Southern and ULM by helping to organize a week of activities that very much have a Bayou Classic feel to them. ULM and the City of Monroe are bracing for a huge crowd of Jaguar fans this weekend.



Kudos to President Dilcie Green and the Monroe Chapter for a Great Showing at the ULM v SU Meet & Greet at the Monroe Regional Airport

In the meantime, the outpouring of support for South Louisiana flood victims from Southernites around the country has been heartwarming. Special thanks to Houston Chapter President Tracey Taylor-Jarrell, the Houston Chapter members, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, and Pastor Byron Stevenson of The Fort Ben Church for the contributions they made this week. Please continue to support the many, many families that have lost so much during the Great Flood of 2016.



SU Alum Tony Pegues and Dr. Robyn Merrick at Monroe Regional Airport enjoying the Meet & Greet



President Castille, SUAF Southern Regional Co-Directors Tammy Clark & Pat Johnson, along with North Carolina Alum Theo Pikes

I hope to see you tomorrow in Monroe!

Go, Jags!

Preston

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

