SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI FEDERATION
POST OFFICE BOX 9746
BATON ROUGE, LA 70813-9746

E LinkedIn: http://linkedin.com/in/preston-castille-50527613
E-Mail: Preston.Castille@TaylorPorter.com
Twitter: @PrestonCastille
Direct Dial: 225-381-0217
Mobile: 225-317-3363

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 17, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

The Houston Mardi Gras Gala was indeed epic. In fact, "epic" typically describes most of the Houston Chapter's events. The Chapter is still the largest in the country and had an impressive showing of Houston area alums and Southern University supporters attending the Gala. Congratulations to Chapter President Tracey Taylor-Jarrell and Gala Committee Chair Aegeda Fountaine for planning a fabulous event. I had the pleasure again this year of sitting at the VIP table with President Belton, Vice Chancellor for Finance Ben Pugh, Foundation CEO Al Harrell, National Past President Dennis Brown, President Taylor-Jarrell, and their spouses.



Preston Castille and Houston Chapter President Tracey Taylor-Jarrell at Houston Mardi Gras Gala



Preston Castille and long-time, dedicated alumnus Barbara Jack at Houston Mardi Gras Gala

President Belton shared with the crowd many of the successes of the Southern University System, and mentioned that there will be more opportunities to expand the footprint of Southern University in the near future. For example, we are now into the seventh week of the Southern University Law

Center offering classes in downtown Baton Rouge. The classes are going extremely well, and are very popular among our students. This week, my Trial Advocacy students heard from attorney Andre' Gauthier, a successful plaintiff's lawyer and Southern University Law Center alum, on "Effective Opening Statements". The downtown location has given me an opportunity to expose my students to more practicing attorneys and local judges, given that many of their offices are only blocks away from the school.

	
Houston Alums Enjoying the Mardi Gras Gala	**Alums from Plaisance, Louisiana Travelled to Houston for the Festivities**

Black History Month continues to be filled with wonderful community programs. I was again given the honor of introducing Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome as the guest speaker of the joint luncheon of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society (the local minority bar association), the Baton Rouge Association of Women Attorneys, and the Federal Bar Association. It was quite moving that not only was the Mayor female, but three of the four bar association presidents were also female. I think it's really a great moment in history that it has now become commonplace for women, who were traditionally under-represented in leadership roles, to hold so many leadership roles across the state and country.

	
SULC Alumnus Attorney Andre' Gauthier spoke to SULC students earlier this week.	**Preston Castille along with Legal Pioneer, Johnny Jones, and Mayor President Sharon Weston Broome at Joint Bar Luncheon**

I am very optimistic about the future of this country for my two girls. Abigail, who is 7, and Jillian, who is 12, certainly face a much brighter future. Today, Abigail will be portraying Katherine Goble Johnson, the famous female African-American NASA mathematician featured in the hugely successful movie "Hidden Figures" at her school's Famous Americans Program. I was very proud to see her all dressed up and looking "scholarly" as she headed off to her first-grade class presentation.

There are many more wonderful things to come for our city, our state, and our country. Like the Tracey Taylor-Jarrells of the world, I look forward to the women of the country leading the way.

Sincerely,

Preston

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