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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Southernites and Friends:

Happy Homecoming, Jaguars! It has been a great homecoming week so far here on the Bluff. Felise Thompson-Doyle, our 87th Miss Southern University, along with the other campus queens, looked absolutely beautiful at Miss Southern's coronation Wednesday night.

Yesterday was such a real treat. I began the day as the guest speaker at the *1880 Society* meeting. The success of the *1880 Society* and the Foundation continues to grow along with the *1880 Society* membership. I then stopped by the Alumni House where alums were gearing up to work on our L'Universite' Du Southern Reste Belle, i.e., our "Keep Southern University Beautiful" project. Special thanks to Houston Chapter President Pamela LeBrane and D.C. Chapter Treasurer Verna Brown for shepherding this wonderful collaboration with our students and alumni.

From there, I walked over to the Cotillion Ballroom for a sneak preview of the HBCU documentary, ***Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities***. I cannot thank Los Angeles Alumni Chapter President, Camille Mayo, enough for presenting this opportunity to the Alumni Federation and to the University. The documentary was an in-depth look at the history of HBCUs from their founding to the present. It was a powerful production by Firelight Media. Firelight is beginning a 10-campus tour showcasing the documentary, which will air on television in February. Thanks to Camille, Southern is the first HBCU to get a sneak preview of the documentary. Following the movie, I had the great pleasure of serving on a panel with the movie director, Stanley Nelson, along with Dean Frank Ransburg, former National Alumni President Jerry Cole, activist and former Southern University student Fred Prejean, Dean Cynthia Bryant, and SULC Chancellor John Pierre.

It was great to see so many alumni join us for the joint Alumni Federation and System Foundation Welcome Reception at the Donald Wade House last night. The collaboration with the Federation and the Foundation has been absolutely outstanding, and I cannot wait to hear the announcement of the results of the *Million Dollar March* this year, which we expect to be another multi-million dollar contribution to the University. The check presentation will be made at half-time during the homecoming game.

Last night capped off with the Class of 1967's class reunion dinner. It was really inspiring for me to share the evening as the class celebrated its 50th anniversary. That experience was truly what

homecoming is all about. Seeing alums come home who had not been on campus in years was a very special occasion. Congratulations, Class of 1967!

Today is another big day of homecoming activities. It started off with the David Quiett Memorial Homecoming Golf Tournament sponsored by the East Baton Rouge Parish Chapter. Chapter President Kestee Weir and the Chapter could not have picked a more beautiful day to have a golf tournament. There are many more events scheduled throughout the day and evening including the Chapter Presidents Breakfast and our Alumni Roundup featuring Keith Frank, scheduled to begin at 6:30 this evening. Unfortunately, the Homecoming Parade has been postponed, and the game moved to 1:00 p.m., because of Hurricane Nate's anticipated landfall here in the Louisiana area. However, we intend to have a great time before the storm arrives. I look forward to seeing you today and tomorrow as we wrap up our homecoming weekend.

Again, welcome home, and Geaux, Jags!



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