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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 1, 2017

Dear Southern University Family:

Our thoughts and prayers are with our families and friends in Texas and Southwest Louisiana who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Just one year ago, we here in the Baton Rouge area were dealing with similar devastation caused by the historic flooding. This week also marked the 12-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina that ravaged the New Orleans area. Unfortunately, three short weeks later Hurricane Rita delivered Louisiana a second blow. It is during times like this that we as a state and as a country come together to help our fellow Americans. Thanks to all of you who have given to the Texas Flood Relief fund established by Southern University though the SU System Foundation. If you have not already donated to the fund, please consider doing so by clicking the link attached here in ***News & Notes***.

We are all very excited that the Jaguar football season officially kicks off 1:30pm Sunday. The excitement begins tonight in the F.G. Clark Activity Center with the "Kickoff Extravaganza" featuring eight football icons. It will truly be a star-studded event. Pro football Hall of Famers Aeneas Williams and Mel Blount will be there, as will Harold Carmichael, Ken Ellis, Frank Pitts, Rufus Porter, Rich "Tombstone" Jackson and Isiah "Butch" Robinson.

The season opener should be a good one as we face South Carolina State in Mumford Stadium. ESPN will televise the game, and we are looking forward to a large turnout to support our football team and the 2017 edition of the Human Jukebox. Please tune in to the ESPN Pre-Game Show Sunday morning on FM 104.5 sponsored by the Alumni Federation. Tomorrow night, the Home Chapter is hosting its annual Jaguar Jamboree, and the Federation is happy to be a sponsor of that event. It's going to be an All White Party with lots of entertainment.

Today, the SU Law Center is celebrating its 70th anniversary, as it welcomed its first set of students on September 1, 1947. The Law Center hosted a wonderful reception last night at the Donald Wade House, will feature a series of events throughout the day today, and will end the celebration tonight with a gala. The SU Law Center is only one of six accredited HBCU law schools in the country, and we are so proud of its success in producing some of the best and brightest lawyers, jurists and scholars in the country. We wish the Law Center continued success as it showcases the "Seriousness of Purpose" that is greatly admired and respected across the nation.

The Alumni Federation is continuing to grow. Last week, the Federation approved the chartering of the SUAF Entertainment & Education Chapter. This chapter will not be limited to a geographic region like many of our other chapters, but rather focused on promoting Southern University around the country as a leader in the Music and Entertainment Industry. Next week, alums from White Castle, Louisiana will join us Tuesday night at the Alumni House to install new officers of the White Castle Chapter. Earlier during the week, SUAF Louisiana Co-Regional Directors, Bess Vaughn and Freddie Price, hosted a Louisiana Region teleconference with the Louisiana Chapter presidents. It was a great meeting, and I look forward to Bess and Freddie continuing to lead the growth of our Louisiana chapters over the next year.

See you in Mumford Stadium Sunday, and best wishes again to our Texas and Louisiana families and friends impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Sincerely,



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