Southern University Alumni Federation

Post Office Box 9746
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813-9746

E-mail: Preston.Castille@TaylorPorter.com
Direct Dial: 225-381-0217
Direct Fax: 225-215-8750
Mobile: 225-317-3363

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Southernites and Friends:

Sydney Monix is a sophomore and Tulane student ambassador majoring in Neuroscience and Communications. Her parents are proud Southernites. But, as you would expect, they are very supportive of their daughter and her decision to attend Tulane. I had a great time talking to the three of them before the game Saturday. Sydney knew lots of facts about the university and was quite impressive. I decided to look up some additional facts about Tulane. It currently has an undergraduate enrollment of about 6,662 students according to *U.S. News and World Report*. Tuition is $51,010 per year. It has an Uptown campus, where the football game was played, and a downtown campus, where its med school and center for health science programs are located. It also has an endowment of $1,209,322,000. (Wow. $1.2 billion. That's huge.)



Sydney Monix with her parents, Benjamin Thompson and Sabrina Monix



The rain did not stop the Jags from tailgating Saturday. We took it inside the Tulane Student Union!

Tulane's student body isn't much larger than Southern's. In fact, when we add our Shreveport, New Orleans and Baton Rouge campuses together, our enrollment is actually larger. I had never been inside Yulman Stadium. It isn't big, but it is pretty spectacular. It cost $75 million to construct and seats 30,000 people. After a little digging, I discovered that Richard Yulman, the former chairman and owner of Serta and member of the Tulane Board of Trustees, donated $25 million toward the construction of the stadium. Benson Field (the football field) is named after the Benson family (the owners of the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans). Tom and Gayle Benson donated $7.5 million.

	
Federation officers and NOLA chapter members made the best of a wet Saturday afternoon before the Tulane game.	These Chicago Alums travelled from near and far to support the Jags.

As Marian, Abigail (our 6-year old) and I walked through the stadium after half time, it seemed that every significant, and even insignificant, part of the stadium was named after a donor. Lately, it seems that Southern has really caught on to this strategy. At Jaguar Park, for example, you will see more plaques with the names of donors on the columns. The Foundation is selling bricks and pavers and walkways. My plaque went up about a week ago. While Marian and I are proud of our donation, it pales in comparison to the donations of the Yulmans and the Bensons.

So, when I see Tulane, a school about the same size as Southern in terms of enrollment, with seemingly an abundance of resources, I'm reminded how it got there: incredible alums showing amazing support for their alma mater. I left New Orleans thinking I need to work harder for Southern and donate more. We need more alums engaged and giving back to support our alma mater. I enjoyed the hospitality that our New Orleans Chapter showed the Jaguar Nation last weekend, but it is great to be back home this weekend for our home opener. As you walk around our campus tomorrow and sit in Mumford Stadium to watch the Jaguars play and the Jukebox jam, think about what you can give to Southern to make it better. Don't ask what can Southern now do for you as an alum, but rather what can you do for our "Dear Southern." I'll be doing the same.

Serving Southern,

Preston

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