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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 9, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

Let it Sneaux! Let it Sneaux! Let it Sneaux! Southern University and much of Baton Rouge was shut down yesterday as the city was blanketed with a rare snow fall. We had about 5 inches of snow in the area, and oh what fun it was for my children and so many others here in South Louisiana. It is really starting to look like, and feel like, Christmas. Our chapters are hosting Christmas parties around the country. The Home Chapter had its Christmas Social Wednesday and honored the SUBR Computer Science Department and Computer Science Alumni Dexter Henderson, Calvin Mills, Jr., and our very own Executive Director, Derrick Warren. The Chapter also honored several members of our custodial staff along with a special recognition of Alumna Twahna P. Harris, for the wonderful service they provide to our great University and Alumni Chapters. Please check out my group selfie of the chapter on my Facebook page.

Last weekend, I had the privilege of attending the Southern University Alumni Federation WASUAA Chapter retreat at our Alumni House on campus. The chapter serves Ascension, Assumption and St. James Parishes. Congratulations to Chapter President Tamiko Francis Garrison and the newly-elected chapter officers on a great start to their administration. It was wonderful seeing the chapter taking advantage of our newly-renovated space in the Alumni House. Anita Burnett Cann commented how "warm and inviting" the new space looks now. The Federation greatly appreciates the compliment, and we are happy to share the space with all of our members and chapters.

Yesterday, the Federation's Student Recruitment and Student Retention Committees held a joint meeting to wrap up the year. Special thanks to Federation 3rd Vice President Carlton Jones, who chairs the Recruitment Committee, and Dr. Robert Ford and Houston Chapter President Pamela LeBrane, who chair the Retention Committee, for their service this year. Among the many things discussed were plans for the 2018 SU National Academic Signing Day, expansion of the Federation's Scholarship Program, and expanding the TOP JAGS program to chapters around the country. Earlier this week, the Memphis Alumni Chapter, led by Chapter President LaToria Howard, held a personal information meeting for top-performing high school students in the Memphis area. TOP JAGS program founder, Eldred Jackson, attended the Memphis event, and Distinguished Professor of Physics and Dean of the Honors College, Dr. Diola Bagayoko, was the guest speaker. We hope this will become a national initiative that all our chapters will embrace. The Student Recruitment and Student Retention Committees are exploring expansion options of

these and other initiatives to be showcased at our 2018 National Alumni Conference in Baton Rouge.

For those of you in the Northern and Midwestern states who are accustomed to snow, please forgive our excitement over yesterday's "Sneaux Day" here in Louisiana. We don't get to experience this weather event often. I greatly enjoyed all of the pictures and posts of Facebook. Be safe as we enjoy the cold weather!

Merry Christmas!!



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