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:



I am pleased to announce that the Alumni House is undergoing a facelift. As I arrived on campus last night to teach my Evidence class at the Law Center, I noticed the work crew across the street at the Alumni House. I stopped by our humble little home after class and was thrilled to see the renovations had begun. Many of you have already begun contributing to the renovations, and I cannot thank you enough.

Our new Executive Director, Derrick Warren, and Assistant Executive Director, Khadijah Thompson, moved into the Alumni House when they joined the Federation staff this summer. I am sure Ms. Glinda Rutledge is pleased to have some company in the house. For several years, she has been the only person in the Alumni House, as other members of the staff were located in the Administration Building. The decision by Derrick and Khadijah to move their offices to the Alumni House is already yielding positive results.

At the September Executive Council (our national officers and chapter presidents) meeting, Derrick recommended we renovate the Alumni House. The Council unanimously approved the recommendation. The Alumni House appliances are old, the structure has termites, and the building is not a good reflection of the proud alums we are and the love we have for our institution. We will be calling on you for help with the renovations, but believe you will be very pleased with the changes.

The Federation is also undergoing an upgrade to its internal infrastructure. The staff recommended, and the Executive Board (our national officers) approved, the acquisition of a new membership database that will greatly improve our ability to stay in touch with you. In addition, we will be upgrading our website in the coming weeks. I am pleased with the progress we are making to make the Federation stronger to better serve you, our alums and supporters.

This week our local chapters resumed their regular activities following the Great Flood of 2016 here in Baton Rouge. New East Baton Rouge Parish Chapter President, Kestee' Weir, held his first Executive Committee meeting Wednesday. After leaving that meeting, I stopped by the Home Chapter general membership meeting. As you know, many of our local officers and alums were impacted by the flood. Our very own Federation Sergeant-at-Arms, Janet St. Cyr Moore, and Home Chapter President, Cortny Jarrell, were among the flood victims. We continue to keep them, and the many others who are on the slow road to recovery, in our prayers.

	
First Missionary Baptist Church welcomed Southern Alums for Sunday church services following Alabama A&M game	Windy City Chapter members and Chapter President DuWarn Porter celebrate after completing the Freemont Virtual 5K

In the meantime, our chapters around the country are continuing to remain very active. DuWarn Porter and the Windy City Chapter participated in the Freemont Virtual 5K race a couple weeks ago. I'm still excited about the huge fundraiser in Huntsville with Coach Avery Johnson. In addition, to Coach Johnson's incredible help raising scholarship money for our students, Huntsville Chapter President Sherley Lawrence and our Huntsville Alums received a $5,000 donation from First Missionary Baptist Church.

To our Florida alums, we wish you well as Hurricane Matthew passes through your state. Stay safe.

Sincerely,

Preston

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