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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 27, 2017

Kinnochiwa Southernites and Friends:

It's been a productive week in Tokyo, but I must admit I look forward to returning to the U.S. Japan is a culturally rich country with a fascinating history. I continue to believe the two countries have much to learn from each other, and there continues to be tremendous opportunities for international collaboration. My trip here reminded me just how much these countries have in common. While I was here, Japan held its national election -- a reminder that it is a democratic country much like ours. The second day that I arrived, a typhoon hit the country. It turned out to be a small storm by the time it hit Tokyo, but it was again a reminder of our many friends and alumni who have been impacted by hurricanes in the U.S. and abroad recently.

In the meantime, I understand that last weekend's festivities and football game at Jackson State were quite exciting. Congrats to our football team on another big win. Thanks also to Jackson Alumni Chapter President, Garry Brown, and Federation General Counsel, Tammye Brown, along with all of the Mississippi Jaguars who hosted the Jaguar Nation this past weekend. It's really great to see the Jackson Chapter up and returning to its former glory. I cannot thank the Jackson Chapter leaders and members enough for their hard work in reigniting the Southern University alumni presence in our neighboring state.

As we turn our attention to UAPB this weekend, please know that we are working to revitalize our Arkansas Chapter. We appreciate the help of our Little Rock alumni and hope to have our Arkansas alums fully engaged with the Federation soon as well. This week, two of our Alumni Federation regions, the Louisiana and the Southern regions, held meetings with chapter presidents and leaders from their respective regions of the country. Special thanks again to Louisiana Regional Directors, Bess Vaughn and Freddie Price, Jr., and Southern Regional Directors, Tammy Clark and Patricia Johnson, for your hard work coordinating events, chapter and membership activities in your regions. We look forward to seeing all of our chapter presidents at our next Executive Council meeting, Friday, November 24, in New Orleans during the Bayou Classic weekend. The Executive Council includes all national officers and chapter presidents.

The 2018 National Alumni Conference Committee, chaired by Dr. Shayla McCoullough, has been hard at work finalizing plans for our conference. Please save the dates of the conference, July 19-22, 2018. I'm looking forward to hearing Roland Martin speak at the Gala to wrap up the 2018 conference in Baton Rouge. It should be an exciting conference.

Finally, I offer condolences to the Grambling State University family on the recent tragedy experienced on its campus. We will continue to keep the fallen students and their family in prayers.

Sayonara, Jags!



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