



Southern University and A&M College
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
to the
Southern University Board of Supervisors

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"We Are Southern"

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Commencement 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue Keynotes Southern's Commencement Exercises

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue served as speaker during the fall Commencement Exercises at Southern University where nearly 430 students participated including 326 undergraduate candidates 91 master degree recipients and 10 Ph.D. students.

Perdue, who has served as Secretary since April 2017, also was awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his commitment to diversity and support of the agricultural and farming community.



Secretary Perdue is acknowledged as a national leader in agriculture, having served as a board member for the National Grain and Feed Association, and as President of both the Georgia Feed and Grain Association and the Southeastern Feed and Grain Association. Secretary Perdue has long-standing, close relationships with the leadership of the American Farm Bureau and has been recognized by the Georgia 4-H and FFA programs, among others, for his leadership in agriculture.

Secretary Perdue also values diversity in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and has appointed many Southern University graduates to high-ranking positions in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There are nearly 60 Southern University College of Agriculture, Family



and Consumer Sciences graduates working in various USDA roles and offices. In addition, Southern University Agricultural Land-Grant Campus receives approximately 50% of its funding annually from the USDA. This agency has supported more than 200 student summer internships at Southern University Agricultural Center since 2009.

Southern's Chief Student Marshall

during the commencement exercise was Shamyra K. Walker, a 22 year old native of Magnolia, Arkansas. She is the daughter of Ciera Walker and Reginald and Teresa James. Walker received a bachelor's degree in accounting from the College of Business and earned a cumulative GPA of 3.979. After graduation, she plans to begin her career as a finance and accounting controller with ExxonMobil Corporation in Houston, Texas.

Lizzo Releases Video Featuring Human Jukebox



The Southern University Marching Band, the Human Jukebox, is featured in Lizzo's music video for her No. 1 single along with the Dancing Dolls.

In the music video, the eight-time Grammy nominee performs the platinum hit song with the full band, and features behind-the-scenes footage of the musicians and dancers preparing for the video.

Lizzo also dons a band uniform and shows off her signature instrument, the flute.

"This is a special moment for me," Lizzo commented on Instagram as she debuted the video, which was shot during homecoming on the first weekend of November. The video was directed by Alan Ferguson

This marks the second music video that Lizzo has made for her No. 1 single. In October, Lizzo shared a new remix of the breakout single featuring Ariana Grande. The single was officially released in 2016 off Lizzo's major label debut EP Coconut Oil.



Tree Lighting Ceremony Highlights Spirit of Christmas

The inaugural tree lighting at the Tony Clayton Plaza included performances by the Southern University Concert Choir, Southern University Lab School Choir, and more. The event was sponsored by Councilwoman Tara Wicker and Attorney Tony Clayton. Cumulus 106.5 FM broadcast the event live.





CAFCS Dean Completes First 60 Days

During his first 60 days, Orlando McMeans, Chancellor of the SU Ag Center and Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) hired Renita Marshall as the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Associate Dean of the CAFCS. Since his hiring, CAFCS has hosted its Inaugural Career and Graduate School Expo. In addition, McMeans is assessing the current degree offerings to ensure that the academic curriculum and degrees offered prepare students for a competitive job market. To boost enrollment, McMeans is also working to launch a new recruitment campaign called #Growjags.

"I can truly say that this has been an exciting inaugural two months," said McMeans. "All-in-all, ... the future for the SU Ag Center and CAFCS is bright."

In terms of research, McMeans plans to expand in the areas of plant science, environmental remediation, socioeconomic research and integrated multidisciplinary research.

Marshall Hired as New Associate Dean for CAFCS

Renita W. Marshall has been appointed the Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Services at the Southern University Ag Center/ Associate Dean of the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.

Marshall was appointed to the position during the Southern University Board of Supervisors' meeting on October 18, 2019.

Since 2017, Marshall has held the positions of director of the Southern University Institute for One Health One Medicine, department chair of Agricultural Sciences and professor of Animal Science. She has also served as the veterinarian for the Southern University Ag Center since 2012.

In her role as a professor of animal science, she performed as the faculty advisor for both the Department of Animal Science's Pre-Veterinary Club and Southern University's Chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS). She was also a co-coordinator of the Southern University College of Sciences and Agriculture's Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (BAYOU) Program.

Prior to teaching at the college, Marshall was employed with the Southern University Ag Center for more than a decade. During that time, she held the titles of interim associate research director and Livestock Programs director.

Marshall has received several certifications which include a pharmacy certification from the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.



She is also a United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency Controlled Substance Certified Veterinarian, and a United States Department of Agriculture Category II Accredited Veterinarian.

She has secured \$7.5 million in grants to expand teaching, research and extension programs at Southern University and has written several scholarly articles on small ruminants, swine, cattle, water resources, animal reproduction, and minority-owned small farm operations.

Marshall is a member of numerous community and professional organizations. She is a member of the Baton Rouge Zoo's Advisory Board, Southern University's representative for the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Animal Disaster/Evacuation and a member of the Next Generation Global Health Security Network.

STEM Day at Southern



Southern University (SU) College of Sciences and Engineering had its annual STEM Day Nov. 15 at P.B.S. Pinchbeck Hall. Students from local high schools attended the event and were introduced to SU STEM majors such as Biology, Chemistry, as well as Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. The guest speaker was Isoken “Ken” Awanbor, a Southern University graduate in mechanical engineering and now a maintenance engineer at Dow Chemical.



Faculty Senate President Addresses Press Club

Albert Samuels, president of the Faculty Senate and professor of political science in the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Southern University, was the guest speaker for the Press Club of Baton Rouge recently. Samuels presented an analysis of Louisiana's general election held on Nov. 16. Topics included the governor's race and the impending landscape of the state legislature. After his presentation, Samuels took questions from reporters from several local and regional outlets. The presentation was part of the Press Club's regular meeting held at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel.



Southern Graduate Receives RN to NP Scholarship

Jimanesha Carmouche made the decision to not only put her nursing degree to use, but her empathetic and caring personality. For the past nine years, the oncology nurse and Southern University nursing graduate student has cared for many patients at the most vulnerable times of their lives. Her work and dedication have not gone unnoticed by her peers, as she recently received scholarships from statewide and national professional organizations.

“The possibilities are endless and opportunity is knocking at the door every waking day,” said Carmouche, a Breaux Bridge, Louisiana native. “The only person who can stop you from being great is you! You have to decide for yourself to be that maverick and keep pressing.”

Carmouche was recently one of only two students in the state to receive a Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners Foundation RN to NP Scholarship. She was also the recipient of scholarships awarded by the Oncology Nursing Foundation and Southern's 20 for 20 Scholarship Foundation.

Carmouche, who received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, said she is grateful

that she was admitted into Southern's nursing program for her graduate studies.

“Southern University has the top graduate nursing program in the state,” she said. “Their MSN students pass boards at 100 percent, so it was only right that I pursue my coursework at the best school in Louisiana. I still have my acceptance letter on the fridge because it means that much to me.”

A recognized leader in her field, Carmouche is an active student member of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners and former president and social media chair of the South-Central Louisiana Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. She is currently employed at University Hospitals and Clinics in Lafayette, Louisiana. Certified as an oncology nurse, she is also chemotherapy/biotherapy certified and a certified breast cancer nurse.

Carmouche is recognized by the faculty and administration in her program. Sandra Brown, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health, nominated her for the Louisiana Association Nurse Practitioners Student Nurse of the Year award.