



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





## Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge Chancellor's Report to the Southern University Board of Supervisors

### *Significant Accomplishment/Achievements*

#### **SUBR Commencement 2018**



Southern University recently celebrated its Spring 2018 Commencement Exercise on Friday, May 11, 2018 in the F.G. Clark Activity Center. More than 650 candidates, including spring and summer graduates, received degrees. The SUBR spring graduating class included 419 undergraduate candidates and 198 graduate candidates. The class consisted of 137 honor graduates. Along with the class, the university commissioned three Army and three Navy officers.

Ms. Angela Rye, political commentator and social activist, who can be seen regularly on several media outlets including BET, CNN, NBC, HBO, ABC, MSNBC, and TV One, was the keynote speaker. She stated, “My responsibility to you today is truth. My responsibility to you today is ensuring you are adequately equipped to survive in a 2018 America and in the America we create together for the future.”

The political strategist went on to convey that she had a message for the graduates. Her message was to “wake them up” before they become bogged down by society’s obstacles. “We cannot keep talking about the problems, and not playing our respective parts to change them. Be the change. Be courageous. Be bold, like your lives, our lives, depend on it because they do. Create the community you know we can be. Create the country you deserve to see. Create the world in which you want to live.”

The ceremony was presided by Dr. Ray L. Belton, president-chancellor of the Southern University System, and Dr. James Ammons, executive vice president/executive vice chancellor.



The spring 2018 chief student marshal was Chicago native, Kayla Clancy. She graduated with a degree in psychology and a 3.862 cumulative grade point average.

The Golden Class of 1968 was celebrated and donned gold robes. Over 30 members represented the class and were ecstatic to be included in this momentous occasion.

The University also awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters to Attorney Johnnie A. Jones, Sr.

## Ms. Kayla Clancy Named Chief Student Marshal

“Hard-working” and “high-achieving” are adjectives that are not new to Ms. Kayla Clancy. Ms. Clancy was the top graduate for the 2018 Spring Commencement and she was chosen chief student marshal. The psychology major from Chicago, Illinois led the processional of the graduating class.

According to Ms. Clancy, “Honestly, I don’t know where I’d be without my support system. My mother has been my backbone through it all. Since losing my father at the age of nine, my mother was all that I had and she has truly been everything to me and more.”

Ms. Clancy’s support team not only included her family, but mentors that made sure that she was headed for greatness. When choosing her next steps, Grambling State University was top on her list until a mentor, Frances Thibodeaux-Fox, told her to keep her options open and continue to research



Southern University. Through constant communications with SU admissions representatives and being awarded a scholarship through the SU Alumni Federation Chicago Chapter, she chose to continue her next steps at Southern University in the fall of 2014.

After coming to Baton Rouge, Ms. Clancy made herself at home and found support from friends and professors, such as Reginald Rackley, a Southern University psychology professor, and Mark Gaines, a personal friend. They pushed her “outside of [her] comfort zones showing [her] that being uncomfortable promotes true growth.”

This advice proved true for the top grad as she devoted herself to her studies and involving herself in extracurricular activities. She held various offices within Psi Chi: International Honor Society in Psychology, Collegiate 100 Black Women of Southern University, and the Beta Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. To prepare her for her future career, she participated as a research assistant in a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded research internship at University of Chicago during the summer of 2017.

Looking back on her college journey, she is proud of the woman she has become. Being chosen as the chief student marshal was an accomplishment that was unexpected. “More than anything, I am truly honored. I didn’t think that I would be granted this opportunity, but I’m blessed to say that I am here. I owe this to God because without him I am nothing and would not be here. I tell my little sisters all the time that everything I do is for them because I want them to see that the sky is the limit. So, for me, this large achievement is, also, for my little sisters,” Ms. Clancy stated.

As she prepares for her final exit, she feels her future is full of bright possibilities. In the fall, Clancy will be attending Louisiana State University to work towards a master of education in clinical mental health counseling. Also, to honor her father’s memory and assist students with having higher education resources, she has decided to start a scholarship in his name at his alma mater in Chicago.

## Southern University wins \$40,000 Campus Improvement Grant from Home Depot

Home Depot's Retool Your School program recently announced that Southern University Baton Rouge has been awarded a \$40,000 campus improvement grant. The anticipated project will be renovating the John B. Cade Library's reference room and study areas. This past January, the library was flooded due to pipes bursting during icy weather.



"My staff and I are thrilled that we have received this grant to aid in bringing functionality back to the library," said Emma Perry, dean of libraries. "We pride ourselves in ensuring that students have a pleasing and educational experience at the library."

Since the flood, the library has been opened with limited access to certain floors, books and classrooms. This grant will provide students an additional place to gather, study and complete assignments.

“I am so proud of our Jaguars and supporters who voted to make sure that we were in the running for this award,” expressed Ray L. Belton, president-chancellor of the Southern University System. “With this grant, we can greatly enhance an existing gem of the university.”

Southern University at Baton Rouge received more than 200,000 votes by voting online and using the hashtag #SouthernU\_RYS18.

## Southern Partners with Governor Edwards in Public Policy Fellows Program

Southern University students will now have the opportunity to gain first-hand policy experience through the Governor's Fellows Program in Louisiana Government, which provides an opportunity for Louisiana's college and university students to experience policy making in action through participation in the state's governing process. Applications are now being accepted.

Fellows will be assigned to cabinet-level agencies, and they will have the opportunity to observe first-hand how the governor leads and how policies are developed and advanced. Fellows will also participate in a weekly speaker series and field trips designed to enhance the overall experience and understanding of Louisiana government and current affairs.

“Through the fellowship program, we will cultivate a new generation of leaders in Louisiana,” Governor Edwards said. “I encourage all college-aged students with an interest in Louisiana and a desire to make a positive change in our state to apply. The fellows will bring insight and fresh perspectives to the work that will mold the future of our great state.”

The fellowships are open to all students attending a Louisiana public higher education institution and Louisiana residents enrolled in out-of-state public higher education institutions. Fellows will be chosen based on the students' commitment to leadership, public service and good government.



“Southern University has a longstanding tradition of contributions to the politics and governmental affairs of Louisiana,” said Southern University President Ray Belton. “This collaboration with the Governor's Office, LSU and others will ensure that students continue this legacy throughout our great state and beyond.”

The Governor’s Fellows Program in Louisiana Government is a partnership with LSU, the Governor’s Office, Southern University and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation will manage the program, which will be funded entirely through philanthropic contributions.

## SUBR Students Engage in Study Abroad Opportunities



Fifteen Southern University students traveled to Belize, Brazil or Senegal as part of the University’s study abroad programs on May 13, 2018 and will return on June 3, 2018. The programs are coordinated through the University’s Center for International Affairs and University Outreach.

“International education is an essential component of the holistic development of future leaders,” said Dr. Diola Bagayoko, Southern University distinguished professor of physics and dean of the Dolores Spikes Honors College.

Students who traveled to Belize are Arabella Hall (biology); Aria Vaughn (criminal justice); Mekhi Singleton (finance); Diamond Mungroo (therapeutic recreation); Darylon Walters (psychology); Ryan Andrews (law) Deja Lodree (mass communication); Henri Wesley (pre-nursing); and Arabella Hall (biology).

Students who traveled to Brazil are Symphony Foster (agricultural sciences); Keandrys Dalton (agricultural sciences) and Cassidi Williams (political science). Students who will be traveling to Senegal are Joseph Delpit (civil engineering); LaShall Hamlin (nursing); Tracie Smith (social work); and Jovanie Smith (computer science). Eric Pugh, Honors College program associate and recruiter, and Christal Carroll, coordinator and principle designated student official, accompanied the students.

Through study abroad programs, college students are able to earn three credit hours of French, Spanish or Portuguese, and three credit hours of service learning. They will also be able to serve as ambassadors of the program when they return from their global experience.

This year’s sponsors include the Center for International Affairs and University Outreach; Dolores Spikes Honors College; Office of Student Organizations and Campus Involvement; College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences; Office of Career Services; and Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.

## **SUBR Students and Faculty Attend 75<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting of the National Institute of Science and Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honors Society**

Recently, more 30 undergraduate and graduate students and faculty represented Southern University in the 75<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting of the National Institute of Science and Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honors Society held in Washington, D.C.

This scientific conference, hosted by the University of the District of Columbia, was created to allow young scientists the opportunity to disseminate their scientific knowledge and network with students and peers of like minds.



“Southern University breeds leaders and thinkers,” said Dr. Diola Bagayoko, dean of the D.M.R. Spikes Honors College. “Our students worked hard to assemble and present sound research to their peers at this conference.”

In the oral presentations competition, Irene Lewis (agricultural sciences) won first place, Kirstin Brooks (psychology) won second place, and Gagandeep Kaur (environmental toxicology) won first place in the graduate student's division. In the graduate division of the poster presentations, Prathusha Bagam (environmental toxicology) and Demario Vallier (biology) won second place.

Students and faculty were elected to national offices as well. Deadra James Mackie, academic advisor, was elected as national executive secretary. Student officer, Joenique Woods, was chosen as southcentral regional vice president for Beta Kappa Chi and secretary for the National Institute of Science. Southern University student, Ikea McKay, was elected president of the National Institute of Science. Darrell Harry was chosen as student secretary for Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society and treasure for the National Institute of Sciences.

The Timbuktu Academy, College of Sciences and Engineering, and the Southern University Foundation provided funding for this venture. Academic advisors, Eric Pugh, Deidra Atkins-Ball, Phyllis Okwan, and Deadra James Mackie played an essential role in ensuring that the students were well prepared and had a positive experience while presenting their research and successfully representing the University.

## SUBR Presents ‘Porgy and Bess’

Opera lovers in Baton Rouge and surrounding areas were in for a springtime treat. The Southern University Music Program presented George Gershwin’s great American opera, “Porgy and Bess,” on May 19 and May 20 at the Manship Theatre.

The cast represented an array of local talent and experience, including faculty and students from Southern, Louisiana State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Southern alumni. Students from Scotlandville Magnet High School were also included in the cast. Among professionals, the



cast will feature Kearstin Piper Brown and Elvira Green, who have performed “Porgy and Bess” with the Metropolitan Opera and New York City Opera in Australia, Europe, South America. Maestro Pacien Mazzagatti, presently conducting “L’Amore Dei Tre Re” by Montemezzi with the New York City Opera, lead members of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra in playing such classics as “Summertime” and “I Loves You, Porgy.”

Performance times were Saturday, May 19 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 20 at 3 p.m.

To support the Southern University Music Program, contact the Southern University System Foundation at 225-771-3911 or go to [foundation.sus.edu](http://foundation.sus.edu).

## **SUBR and FAMU to Renew Rivalry 2019, 2020**

One of the longest standing non-conference rivalries in Black College Football history will be renewed in September of 2019, as the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Rattlers will take to the field against the Southern University Jaguars of Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the first time since 2012.

FAMU and Southern jointly announced the initial home-and-home agreement on Wednesday, which begins with a date in venerable Bragg Memorial Stadium in Tallahassee, Florida, on Saturday, September 21, 2019, followed by the return date at A.W. “Ace” Mumford Stadium in Baton Rouge on September 12, 2020.

FAMU and Southern have met four times on the gridiron since the yearly series was suspended in 2001, once in the MEAC-SWAC Challenge in 2007 and twice in the Atlanta Football Classic in 2011 and 2012. The last meeting between the Jaguars and the Rattlers on the schools’ respective campuses occurred in 2008, when FAMU edged Southern 52-49 in a high scoring road win in Baton Rouge, La.

“The two-year, home-and-home agreement with Southern University is a “win-win” for both schools,” FAMU Athletic Director John Eason, Ph.D. said. “We are excited about the opportunity of playing one of the most recognized football programs among HBCUs. It represents our efforts to ignite our fan base with games they want to see.”

“The renewal of this rivalry represents the best of both schools and will spark high interest among our respective fans,” Southern Athletic Director Roman Banks said. “This one is a ‘no-brainer.’ Southern and FAMU should play each other and we’re extremely excited about this development.”

In the previous meeting between the two schools, Dawson Odums led the Jaguars to a 21-14 win over the Rattlers in the Atlanta Football Classic in the Georgia Dome in his second game as interim head coach in 2012.

The two universities began their football rivalry in 1941, and while FAMU enjoys a slight edge in the meetings at 33-26-1, the record is just one part of the rich legacy that these two programs share.

The pair combined have won 22 Black College National Football championships, FAMU 12 and Southern 10 and both rank in the Top 20 all-time among NCAA Division I FCS programs in winning percentage, with both having won more than 64 percent of their games since the 1920s.

Both schools have also produced their share of star athletes and coaches who occupy the Pro Football, College Football and Black College Football Halls of Fame.

Of course this long-standing Black college rivalry would not be complete without the musical complement of two of the greatest marching bands in America – FAMU's world famous Marching "100" and Southern University's "Human Jukebox."

The fans bases of both schools have longed for this rivalry to be renewed, and they will get their wish come September 21, 2019.