

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
presents



18TH ANNUAL
GALA
ON THE BLUFF

2020

OUR SIGNATURE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
BENEFITING COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDENTS

NOVEMBER 27, 2020 | 8PM

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

www.galaonthebluff.com



GREETINGS

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR



Welcome to the 18th Annual Gala on the Bluff, the principal fundraiser and support arm of the College of Business at Southern University and A & M College. Your presence this evening is indicative of your commitment to Southern University and our College of Business. Each year, this gathering serves as a forum where old acquaintances and friendships can be renewed, new ones formed, and our dedication and loyalty to the University can be reinforced. It is my fervent hope that you will continue to be an integral supporter of this event for many years to come.

Your generous support greatly enhances the programs and services we offer our business students and scholars who study, teach, and conduct research on the Bluffs of the mighty Mississippi River. By investing in them, you empower a new cadre of Southern University graduates who can competently conduct business from Wall Street to Main Street all across the globe. Your assistance helps the College of Business bring into our nation's economy men and women equipped with the necessary business acumen to succeed at any level. We do so while remaining responsive to the unique and historic mission of our great institution--Southern University.

Your presence at tonight's festivities adds immensely to the camaraderie that is shared between the members of the Jaguar Nation. I invite you to let your passion for Dear ole Southern unite with your passion for good food, quality friendships and great music to make this evening special! Southern University and A & M College is the aggregate of its component parts – students, scholars, staff, alumni, supporters, and friends! As President/Chancellor, I thank each of you in your various roles for the contributions you make to the success of this great institution of higher learning.

Wishing you peace and blessings.

Yours,
Ray L. Belton, Ph.D.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Welcome to the 18th Annual Gala on the Bluff. On behalf of the College of Business Advisory Council, I would like to thank you for your continued support and patronage of the Gala on the Bluff, which provides funding to benefit the College of Business at Southern University and A&M College. Your continued support demonstrates a profound commitment to education and a willingness to support tomorrow's global leaders. The Advisory Council is appreciative of our steering committee, host committee, and volunteers who work endless hours to ensure the success of the Gala, each year. My sincere gratitude is extended to sponsors of the 2020 Gala on the Bluff, who are prominently acknowledged in this Gala Program Booklet, during the sponsor recognition portion of tonight's festivities and with live sponsor interviews with our longtime supporter- Brian Hertzock of Hertzock Entertainment Films.

Over the past seventeen years, the Gala has generated more than \$1,000,000 in funds to support the awarding of scholarships to our students along with enabling our students and faculty to participate in a number of developmental opportunities, both domestic and abroad. As envisioned by the Advisory Council, Gala on the Bluff is one of the most anticipated gatherings of the year. The Gala is a social magnet that eclipses racial and economic barriers to draw a diverse group of people together to celebrate great music and enjoy wonderful food as they support scholarships for students and educational programming needs.

Your support truly makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our students, faculty, staff and most importantly the community we serve. Thank you for supporting the 18th Annual Gala on the Bluff and I look forward to your participation next year.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hill
Chair
Southern University College of Business Advisory Council



GREETINGS

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

On behalf of the College of Business at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, we would like to thank you for supporting this wonderful program. I especially thank our 2020 sponsors both major and in-kind whose support was tremendous and indispensable in establishing this activity as a signature fundraiser for the College. The Gala on the Bluff Host Committee has been and continues to be a great asset in making the "Gala" the premier activity that it has become during our homecoming. Thank you for all that you do. In addition, let me send a huge thank you to the Advisory Council for investing in extraordinary ways to provide support to the College of Business, our students, and support for educational programming needs. This year's Gala has special relevance, as scholarship support to our students is critical to the success in developing great academic and professional outcomes for our stakeholders.

As you enjoy the sights and sounds of the nationally and internationally known entertainers and personalities, you can be justifiably proud that you are investing in tomorrow's business and community leaders. Recipients of the Gala Scholarships are evidence of the success that we can achieve when the community, businesses and academia work in partnership to achieve a common goal. The new realities in business call for greater cooperation between colleges, business and government in order to achieve high levels of economic performance. We need your help in preparing our students, faculty and administration for the global economy so that we can help propel this city, state and nation to new and unexplored heights.

We shall always be grateful for your generosity and we know that you will have a wonderful time at the 2020 Virtual Gala on the Bluff Scholarship Fundraiser. Enjoy the evening.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Andrews

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS *History*

Established in 1937 under the direction of Samuella V. Totty, Ph.D., the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in business, the College of Business humbly began as the Department of Commercial Education offering five courses, employing one teacher, and nine students. Now, eighty-two years later, the College of Business at Southern University boasts over 1,200 students and offers five bachelor degree programs in two departments, The Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics and the Department of Management & Marketing. The mission of the College of Business is "to provide a quality business program that prepares students with diverse backgrounds for global career challenges and makes a positive contribution to the public and private sectors." The College emphasizes student preparation for career Opportunities in the competitive global economy. Quality instruction, faculty research and community outreach in the form of small business development and incubation are all integral parts of the learning experiences provided for our stakeholders. The College of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB-International), which is recognized as the premier accrediting body for business schools in the world.

Among the objectives of the baccalaureate degree programs are: to facilitate lifelong learning opportunities; to prepare students to compete favorably in the global job market; to provide enhanced awareness of entrepreneurial challenges and rewards; and to prepare students for advanced studies in graduate and professional schools.

Since its inception, the College of Business has graduated over 8000 students; many of whom work at major corporations such as Texas Instruments, General Motors, Allstate Insurance Company, International Paper, ExxonMobil, Shell Oil, IBM, Goldman Sachs, Walmart, Sam's Club, Boeing, NASA, Ernst and Young, 3M, FDIC, Johnson and Johnson, Procter and Gamble, and many others.





2019-2020 *Scholarship Recipients*

Thank you to everyone who played a part in helping the College of Business provide scholarships to our future business leaders!

Amarra Nakima Oliver
Amber LaShay Georgetown
Artisha Renee Davis
Asia Alexander
Asia Smith
Aubron James
Britney Tognelle Sanders
Carlace A Thomas
Christian Thomas Dixon
Christion Little
Christopher Howard Jr.
Cierra M Campfield
Collandra Lanette Dunford
Courtney Wright
D'Aquil Khalim Kirt Allen
Danaisha Shanta Twillie
Danielle Goodlow
Daria Joy Carter
Deshanna Bradford
Elise Faith Turner
Jada Joseph
Jada Patrice Delpit
James Darin Eaglin
Jarvis Roberson
Jasmyn Linzy
Jaylin Mason

Jeremiah LeVante White
Jorydan Aaliyah DuBose
Kaitlan L. Bergeron
Kaiya Joi Fisher
Kanisha Allen
Kanton Jones
Kennedy Henderson
Keon Radell Jenkins
Kevin Taylor-Jarrell II
Ku'Drianna La'Shay Profit
Lajohn Harris
Maliya Shanice Johnson
Marciano A Taylor
Martell Fontenot
Mekhi Robert Singleton
Melvin Emery, III
Michael Elijah Wilson
Nathaniel Joseph Freeman
Remy Michel
Rhayna Medera Pown
Ronald Christopher Williams
Tamiko Stroud
Tatyana Michelle Davis
Treasure Alyse Tate
Tyriel Nicole Hayes
Whitney Moore
Zariya Nicole Jones

MESSAGE FROM THE GALA

Sponsorship Chair

What a success!

On behalf of the Gala on the Bluff committee, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your commitment to making this event so successful. Your support in the educational pursuits of Southern University students will result in long lasting benefits by helping to ensure valuable experience and a quality education. Your generous contributions helped make our vision reality.

As we continue to grow please know that partnerships with our sponsors are vital to the success of this Gala. You are truly appreciated. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Agnes Andrews
Chair

Agnes Andrews Allstate Insurance Agency
COB Advisory Council Member



HONOREES

CAROL D. POWELL LEXING

When Carol Powell Lexing began her career as an attorney, she knew she wanted to help people. But she had no way of knowing that the journey she was embarking on would lead her to become one of the leading civil rights attorneys in the country. She received her J.D. from Southern University Law Center and soon became a voice for the voiceless, earning the American Bar Association National Pro Bono Coordinator of the Year Award in 1995. As Carol developed her civil rights career, she was soon thrust into the national spotlight because of her involvement in the infamous Jena Six case. Once Carol saw how racially corrupt the system in Jena was, she knew she needed to get involved. After her experience with the Jena Six case, Carol believes that God elevated her to a higher standard.

She took case after case of civil rights issues, including the 2008 Baron "Scooter" Pikes case and the 2014 shooting of 14 year-old Cameron Tillman. Carol has been named by the Congressional Black Caucus as one of the leading Civil Rights Attorneys for the 21st Century. She's been featured in news sources from CNN, The New York Times and Aljazeera to Dr. Phil, Newsweek, and Essence. A woman of great faith, Carol believes her faith is the anchor that allows her to be successful in the important work that she has dedicated her life to. She knows that the system can railroad people if they don't have someone to stand up for them. That's why she has dedicated her career to making sure that all people are treated fairly. She puts her heart and soul into each of her cases, ensuring that her clients receive the most favorable outcome possible and that they always know they have someone in their corner.

DORIS BROWN

Doris Gray Brown has been a registered nurse for 45 years and has experience in public health, nursing, education and health care administration. Currently, she is serving as the Public Health Executive Director for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Public Health's Bureau for Community Preparedness. During the past fourteen (14) years, she has been instrumental in meeting the planning and training needs of the more than six thousand employees for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals emergency preparedness efforts. She also serves as the Principal Investigator for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement and the Hurricane and Opioid Crisis Grants.

Mrs. Brown was elected to the DREF Board of Directors in 2019. She is the President of the Nonpareil Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., and serves as the Area Chair of the President's Council and Chair of Health, Wellness, and Safety on the national level. She is currently the Vice President of the Psi Phi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Professional Nursing Sorority, Inc. She is also a founding member of Louisiana Action Coalition. Doris was one of twenty nurses in executive leadership roles nationwide selected as 2006 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship program.

Mrs. Brown is a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and has served in several leadership roles in her chapter, Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae, as well as on the state and regional levels. She currently serves as the Southwest Regional Social Action Co-Coordinator. Doris is married to Adell Brown and they have three daughters, Brandy, Ashley, Adele and one grandson, Taylor.

JESSE B. BILBERRY, JR.

The Rev. Dr. Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr. was the first of 10 children born to the Rev. Jesse B. Bilberry, Sr. and Mrs. Joe B. Bilberry in Marion, Louisiana. He was educated in the public schools of Union Parish and attended college at Southern University in Baton Rouge where he finished with a B.A. in Social Studies and English. Pastor Bilberry went on to complete his Master of Education degree at Louisiana State University and finished with a Doctorate of Theology from Christian Bible College. Pastor Bilberry began his working career in the classrooms in Farmerville and Spearsville, Louisiana. The highlight of his educational career was a 13-year tenure as Principal of Tensas Rosenwald High School in St. Joseph, Louisiana. Positions on the Executive Council of the Louisiana Education Association and the Tensas Education Association finally brought him back to the Southern University campus. At Southern, Pastor Bilberry served as the Director of the Freshman Complex, the High School Relations Office, and the Admissions Office.

Pastor Bilberry was baptized at the Blooming Grove Baptist Church in Farmerville, Louisiana, when he was 14 years old. He was a faithful and active member until 1975, when he moved his membership to Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church. He served in many capacities prior to his pastorate, including being ordained as a deacon and acting as head of the Finance Committee. In 1981, Pastor Bilberry accepted God's call to the ministry. He then served as an associate minister until being called as the Pastor of Mount Pilgrim. Rev. Jesse B. Bilberry, Jr., was elected by the congregation on January 16, 1984 to become its eighth pastor. He was both ordained to preach and installed by the Fourth District Missionary Baptist Association on February 19, 1984. Pastor Bilberry has been married to Mrs. Verta Lee (Hamilton) Bilberry of Monroe, Louisiana for more than 50 years. He and his wife have one daughter, Cassandra Gail Bilberry. Pastor Bilberry has been married to Mrs. Verta Lee (Hamilton) Bilberry of Monroe, Louisiana for more than 50 years. He and his wife have one daughter, Cassandra Gail Bilberry.



HONOREES

EDWARD C. "TED" JAMES, JR.

State Representative Edward "Ted" James' passion for leadership is driven by a deeply held desire to impact the lives of others while transforming the community he simply calls "home." The Baton Rouge native was taught at an early age the value of service, the strength of community, the importance of a quality education, and the principles of social justice. Upon being admitted to the Louisiana Bar, Ted began his career working in the Office of Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco where he was actively engaged in policy reform efforts targeted at establishing affordable housing solutions across the state of Louisiana. As the Governor's policy advisor on housing and community development Ted assisted in securing a \$25 million investment into the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund. Ted later served on the Louisiana Commission on Housing and Community Development, where he continued his dedication to establish affordable housing solutions for the people of Louisiana. Under the leadership of Governor Blanco, he dedicated himself to the revitalization and rebuilding of Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

Upon completing his service in the Blanco administration, Ted worked as a staff attorney with the Louisiana House of Representatives. His tenure as a staff attorney helped to provide him with the unique perspective and insight he uses today in his service as an elected member of the body. In 2009, Ted was appointed to serve as Special Counsel to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Revenue where he was charged with developing the Department's legislative strategy. His leadership led to an appointment by Governor Bobby Jindal to serve on the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations where he effectively managed relationships with other governmental agencies to further the well-being of the people of Louisiana. In November of 2011, Ted James was elected to serve as Louisiana State Representative for District 101. Through his hard work and dedication, Ted immediately emerged as a leader in the Louisiana Legislature. In 2016, he committed himself to recovery efforts following the historic Baton Rouge flood. He currently serves as Chairman of the Administration of Criminal Justice Committee. Representative James is an avid supporter of public education and healthcare for all citizens. He prides himself on being a voice for the working people of Louisiana.

In addition to his legislative duties, Ted's professional work extends to his role as an attorney, adjunct law professor, and Director of the Baton Rouge office of the Urban League of Louisiana. He enjoys partnering with various not-for-profit organizations where he is dedicated to giving back to the community by committing countless hours to mentoring students in Baton Rouge schools and sharing his acquired wisdom and knowledge by way of public speaking throughout the state of Louisiana. Ted has received a number of honors and awards for his work and service. Most notably, he is the recipient of the Baton Rouge Business Report's "Forty Under 40" award and the National Chapter of the NAACP's "Top 40 Power Players under 40" award. He was also named to the National Bar Association's 2013 Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40. State Representative James earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Southern University A & M College and went on to obtain his Juris Doctorate with honors from the Southern University Law Center where he also served as the President of the Student Bar Association. He is an active member of Beacon Light Baptist Church and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He is the proud father of his daughter, Harper Ryan James.

SADIE ROBERTS-JOSEPH (POSTHUMOUS HONOREE)

Sadie 'Armstrong' Roberts-Joseph (affectionately called Ms. Sadie), the 6th child of 12 siblings (6 girls/6 boys, the Delightful Dozen), was a native of Woodville, MS. Graduate of Sevier High School, Ferriday, LA and Our Lady of the Lake (LOL) School of Professional Respiratory Therapists. She was a great friend and neighbor. Some of Sadie's most outstanding and noticeable qualities were her speech, love for the African culture, caring spirit and persistent mannerism. She spoke very eloquently at all times, even when disgruntled. Rarely was she seen without being adorned in breathtaking apparel of African accent. Oh, but she was so much more. She was a Respiratory Therapist by profession. She was such a caring person and had a passion for sick people. When someone became ill, especially a family member, Sadie would definitely come to your rescue and do whatever necessary to restore you back to mint condition. She was considered the "caregiver" of the family. She always asked questions and demanded a sensible answer; then would formulate a workable solution to help either solve or improve the problem. She was an advocate of education and believed that all should learn their history. She was the drum major for educating our children, both academically and socially. She loved the neighborhood school, Banks Elementary and fought very hard to keep it operating.

Sadie's community involvement included: Organized CADAV, Inc. (Community Against Drugs and Violence). Instrumental in the existence of the Kelly Community Center, Instrumental in the recognition of Juneteenth as a National Holiday in Louisiana, and becoming the Founder and Curator of Odell S. Williams Now and Then African American Museum Goal for the Museum: To educate the people of the history of African Americans because knowledge is understanding. Motto: "You have to know from whence you came in order to know where you are going. Take a Step Back in Time and Leap Into Your Future!" What she tried to accomplish in Life, has come to fruition in Death. Her Purpose has been FULFILLED! To continue her legacy, please visit: www.braamuseum.org and make a donation. **"Know Who You Are and Whose You Are!"**



Special Thanks to **Mr. Theaodis Gary** **2020 \$100,000.00 Contribution**

Mr. Gary is the President of AMG Engineering & Machining, Inc. and a graduate of the Southern University Baton Rouge College of Business. He established the company in 1989 on the premise of assisting others to achieve their goals and objectives, which is reflected in his gift to Southern University. The funds are to be shared equally by the College of Business and the Engineering Program. AMG Engineering is a manufacturing company specializing in precision machined components and building complex assemblies that includes flow control devices. From their Indianapolis, Indiana location the company serves customers in Asia, Europe, North America, and South America.



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President and CEO of Baranco Automotive Group consisting of Baranco Buick Pontiac GMC in Lilburn, Georgia; Mercedes Benz of Buckhead in Atlanta, Georgia and smart Center Buckhead in Atlanta, Georgia. A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mr. Baranco graduated from Southern University in 1970, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. In 1999, he also received an Honorary Doctorate degree in Business from Southern University. In 1978, he founded Baranco Pontiac, Inc. Since then, he has received numerous awards sponsored by General Motors (Pontiac GMC), Ford (Lincoln-Mercury) and American Honda (Acura). Since 1990, his automotive group has remained one of Black Enterprise Magazine's top 100 businesses and has appeared on the magazine's cover. He has received the finalist status for the coveted Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award. Gregory Baranco is a member of the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association (GADA) and the Metro Atlanta Automobile Dealers Association (MAADA).

He served as President (1985) of the Metropolitan Atlanta Automobile Dealers Association (during which time he was part of a board that successfully reinstated the annual automotive show and instituted a scholarship program for vocationally talented students seeking careers in the automotive field). Mr. Baranco is actively involved in his community. As Chairman of the Board of First Southern Bank in Lithonia, Georgia, he negotiated a merger with Citizens Trust Bank of Atlanta, Georgia. This merger made the new Citizens Trust Bank the third largest minority bank in the U.S. He serves on the following boards; Southern University College of Business, Board of Visitors, and Trustee for Morehouse School of Medicine and Berry College. He also serves on the Carter Center Board of Councilors and Kaiser Permanente Foundation Health Plan of Georgia.

Mr. Baranco has served as business mentor to students from Howard University, Spelman College and Southern University. He is a member of One Hundred Black Men of DeKalb County, the United Way and the DeKalb County Task Force on Efficiency in Government. He has received recognition for his contributions to the Metropolitan Atlanta Red Cross, the DeKalb Council for the Arts, the United Negro College Fund, St. Joseph's Hospital and the DeKalb County Education Program. Mr. Baranco is married to attorney Juanita Powell Baranco and they have four children.



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A black silhouette of a city skyline with several buildings of varying heights and widths. Some buildings have yellow rectangular windows.

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College of Business Advisory Council

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to serve as a liaison between the College of Business at Southern University and the business community. In addition to providing advice to the Dean and faculty, the AC works to advance the financial capacity of the College of Business through active engagement of alumni and business partners. Along with Dr. Donald Andrews, Dean of the College of Business, the Executive Committee members of the Advisory Council and some of the Committee's current initiatives are listed and discussed below.

Sharon K. Hill
Chair

Alton Smith
Vice Chair

Lester Pourciau
Treasurer

Nannette Kelly
Secretary

George Rogers, Jr.
Ex-Officio Officer

COMMITTEE OF 150 – A dedicated group of 150 alumni, business partners, and friends who use their time and resources to support the mission of the College of Business. Our goal is for each committee member to donate a minimum of \$1,000 per year, to provide a reliable funding source to ensure the College of Business (in conjunction with Pell Grants and other financial assistance) has the ability to offer competitive “Full Ride” scholarships to high performing Top Jag students. Our annual goal is \$150,000. \$120,000 will provide scholarships for 60 students and \$30,000 for faculty and staff development. This initiative is led by **George Rogers, Jr., David Anderson, Lester Pourciau, Authur Signater, and Alton Smith**. If you are interested in supporting this endeavor, please join this elite group of members as listed below, by visiting the Committee of 150 donation page. <https://foundation.sus.edu/committee-of-150-donation-page>

David Anderson
Agnes Andrews
James Brown
John Butler
Mildred Carrethers
Harrison Cornish
Kem Fleming
Louis Henry
Sharon K. Hill

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HOW TO SIGN UP!

1. Visit the App Store or Google Play and download the SpareChangeApp
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TONI JACKSON | Event Coordinator

AGNES ANDREWS | Chair, Sponsorship Committee

MARILYN DOHERTY | Volunteer Services Coordinator

DR. BAOZHU LIU | IT Specialist

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the generous support shown towards this year's virtual gala. The pandemic forced us to reimagine our annual fundraiser and together we were able to celebrate the impact of rising together and witness a culture and community of caring that continues to break down barriers for our students to receive a world class education.

We not only met our goal, we exceeded it!

Your involvement in the event was crucial, it went a long way to assist us in raising funds for our students, and without your generosity; the scholarships would not be available. We are so grateful for the time, talent, resources, commitment and support contributed by the Gala Chairs, Host Committee Members, and the team of supporters.

Your generosity can never be repaid, but will long be remembered.

We hope you will join us again next year!



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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Dr. Donald R. Andrews, Dean

(O) 225.771.5640 | (F) 225.771.5262

(E) donald_andrews@subr.edu