



## Flint's Weaver speaks at Tougaloo Convocation

**By Ayesha K. Mustafaa**  
*Contributing Writer*

Tougaloo College celebrated its Founders' Convocation Oct. 16, in the historic Woodworth Chapel.

Culminating the week of activities, Tougaloo welcomed alumna (class of 1981) and mayor of Flint, Mich., Karen Weaver, Ph.D., as the 2016 Founders' Convocation guest speaker. She is also the city's first female mayor.



**Karen Weaver, mayor of Flint, Mich., and Tougaloo alumna, was the guest speaker for the college's Founders' Convocation Oct. 16. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON**

Weaver was born in Flint where she was elected as its mayor in November 2015, during the heat of the city's water scandal that revealed its drinking water was poisoned with high levels of lead and other toxins.

Being asked to speak at Tougaloo's Founders' Convocation, Weaver said "ranks at the top of my experiences; I'm honored and thankful to be back at Tougaloo."

She focused on the crisis in Flint and how the city got to the point of first being under emergency rule and then the revelations of poisoned drinking water, when the city trustees decided to shift the water source away from Lake Michigan to the Flint River.

"First," she said, "power was taken away from the mayor, city council of the 'majority-minority' city. The governor of Michigan put the city in receivership and began to sell off its assets, including its golf courses, water pipe-

lines and lawn mowers."

Weaver said, "We lived under a third world dictatorship with no input about where our taxes went. All city workers were fired and then some rehired at double pay."

Weaver said she "put some skin in the game" when she decided to run for mayor. "Every day there was a protest. Children had rashes, and their hair was alling out. The smell of the water was awful. And at the same time those city council members were telling the people, 'the water is fine.'"

Then she found out the same people had stopped drinking the water a year earlier, opting to bring in bottle water for themselves and their families.

**Convocation**  
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## Fight to change state flag continues

Community forum planned Nov. 3 on several issues



**Duvalier Malone begins a press conference asking for Gov. Phil Bryant to apologize for not removing the Confederate emblem from the state flag. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY**

**By Shanderia K. Posey**  
*Editor*

Mississippi native and community activist Duvalier Malone is not backing down efforts to change and/or remove the state flag, which bears the Confederate emblem.

On Oct. 13, Malone and several state and local leaders gathered on the state Capitol steps asking for an apology from Gov. Phil Bry-

ant for all the decisions made at the Capitol that continue to cause racial division and negatively impact the state.

Malone noted how earlier this month Bryant declared October Racial Reconciliation Month in Mississippi in an effort to break down barriers between races and encourage helpful dialogue to promote stronger relationships. But during February – Black History Month – Bryant proclaimed

April as Confederate Heritage Month. By Malone's assessment, the October declaration doesn't mean much on the governor's part.

"How long are we going to continue with the cliché of calling traditional months without action," Malone said. "An apology comes with action."

Admittedly, Malone and supporters did not anticipate actually receiving an apology from Bry-

ant; however, the request sheds light on the ongoing debate.

Malone asked the audience to consider the lives of Emmett Till and Medgar Evers.

"It's not good enough for us to put an Emmett Till Interpretive Center in the Mississippi Delta with us not creating action; action meaning remove the Confederate

**Flag**  
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## 3 credit agencies will end deceptive marketing in Mississippi

**The Mississippi Link Newswire**

Attorney General Jim Hood announced Oct. 19, that the nation's three major credit reporting agencies will overhaul their business practices and offer Mississippians unlimited access to free credit reports over the next three years in order to resolve Hood's investigation into the agencies' mistakes on credit reports and deceptive marketing activities.

The agencies were accused of putting their own interests ahead of those of Mississippi consumers by failing to properly verify debts and failing to delete paid or expired debts from credit reports.

The credit reporting agencies, Experian, TransUnion and Equifax will pay the state a total of \$7.175 million. Starting in November, Mississippi residents will be eligible to receive unlimited free credit reports for three years, one free FICO credit score every year for three years, in addition to other benefits provided by the credit bureaus under terms of settlements with Hood.

The three credit reporting agencies compile and sell credit reports on almost every Mississippi adult. The reports are the basis for determining whether and on what terms consumers are offered credit cards, student loans, auto

**Credit**  
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## JSU candlelight vigil set to honor Devon Mannery

**From staff reports**

Family and friends as well as the Jackson State University community continue to mourn the passing of Devon Mannery, who was killed in a car accident along I-55 in Madison the morning of Oct. 17.

Mannery, 20, of Jackson was a part of JSU's Sonic Boom of the South Marching Band and on the drumline.

A candlelight vigil will take place at 7 p.m. Oct. 20, at Amphitheater B in front of Jacob L. Reddix Hall on campus.

In addressing band members about Mannery's passing, JSU Band Director Roderick Little said, "Mr. Mannery played in the percussion section in which he was a major asset and a young man with a very promising future. Although he did not participate in band this year, he is still, very much so, a part of our Sonic Boom family. I can imagine that the percussion section will feel this the most, so support them even more.

"If I had all of the answers of the way of the world I'd share, but I do not. Some things are not meant for us to understand



**Mannery PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK**

to maintain the natural order of things. I am planning to pay tribute to him, and also those we've lost along the way, in the future."

A public visitation is set for 1-6 p.m. Oct. 21, at Jackson Memorial Funeral Service, 1000 W. Woodrow Wilson

Ave. in Jackson. Family hour is from 6-7 p.m.

The funeral is set for 11 a.m. Oct. 22 at Word & Worship Church, 77 Jeff Stallworth Way, I-220 in Jackson. Interment will take place at Garden Memorial Park, 8001 U.S. Hwy 49 in Jackson.

## Alcorn State releases NCAA infractions report

**The Mississippi Link Newswire**

The National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Committee notified Alcorn State University on infractions that the university failed to monitor its progress-toward-degree certification process when it improperly certified several ineligible student athletes for competition.

The NCAA discovered the incorrect certifications during an NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program audit. It was discovered that the panel found the university did not provide adequate rules education to its academic advisors, which resulted in the school failing to monitor its certification process.

The NCAA imposed a two-year probation period, a vacation of records for games in which ineligible student athletes competed and a \$5,000 fine.

The case involved unintentional violations of the NCAA's progress-toward-degree certification legislation that resulted in 26 ineligible student athletes being allowed to compete in athletic contests from 2011-12 through 2014-15 academic years.

The violations occurred in 11 sports: men's basketball, men's and women's tennis, baseball, men's and women's cross country, football, women's soccer, softball, men's and women's track and field and women's volleyball.



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