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For immediate release

NROTC Southern University Achieves Record Time in Annual Bayou Classic Run

(BATON ROUGE, LA.) – In support of the annual Thanksgiving weekend Bayou Classic Football game between Southern University and Grambling State University, Southern University's Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Midshipmen carried the Bayou Classic game ball on November 28th, 2014 through seven parishes and over a dozen towns before reaching the Mercedes Benz Super Dome in New Orleans - a distance of more than 95 miles.

What is now known as the “Bayou Classic Motivational Run,” was the brainchild of a few motivated Marines, who in 1992 took it upon themselves to ensure the game ball was ceremoniously delivered to game officials before the beginning of this important Southwestern Athletic Conference contest. The Motivational run has grown to involve the entire Naval ROTC unit, which includes students from Southern University, Louisiana State University, Southeastern Louisiana University and Baton Rouge Community College. This year, Southern University Army ROTC partnered up with Naval ROTC to join in on the run.

Each year, the Bayou Classic Motivational Run demonstrates the Naval ROTC's support for the fighting Jaguars, as they prepare to face Grambling State University Tigers. Prior to the run, university faculty, staff, students and coaches came together at A.W Mumford Stadium at 5:30am to support of the Southern University Football team and cheer on Midshipmen as they begin their journey. This was a grueling endurance challenge for the Midshipmen, but it is an example of the mental strength and character required of future Navy and Marine Corps Officers.

This particular group of Midshipmen and Cadets showed incredible drive and as they completed the run in record time – a blistering 8 hours and 23 minutes. “They showed a good effort, but we are looking forward to breaking the record again next year”, said the unit Drill Instructor, Staff Sergeant Mike Del Angel, USMC. The following day, the NROTC Midshipmen, joined by Southern University Army Cadets, ceremoniously presented the game ball to the Bayou Classic Game officials for the 23rd time. The Bayou Classic Motivational run is a time honored tradition at the Southern University NROTC unit, and will continue to be for years to come.