



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr.  
Middle District of Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011  
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## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR INDICTED

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr. announced that a Federal Grand Jury returned an indictment on February 24, 2011, charging PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI, 59, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with mail fraud, money laundering and theft from an organization receiving federal program funds. SCOTT D. WOODALL, 40, also of Baton Rouge, was indicted for mail fraud. SHARIFRAZI faces a maximum sentence of 300 years in prison and WOODALL faces a maximum term of 240 years in prison.

The indictment alleges that from April 2008 to December 2009, SHARIFRAZI and WOODALL devised a scheme to defraud Southern University of \$157,366 by using their positions at Southern University to bill the institution by using fraudulent invoices. SHARIFRAZI was employed at Southern University as an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and WOODALL was the Information Technologies Director.

Louisiana Inspector General Stephen Street said, “It is shocking that an Engineering Professor and an Information Technology Director -- whose job it is to help educate our young people – carefully devised this scheme to steal taxpayer money. Against the backdrop of the funding crisis facing our colleges and universities, it is particularly outrageous. We will continue to work with our state and federal law enforcement partners to root out this sort of corruption wherever it may exist.”

James C. Lee, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation stated, “We all suffer when federal programs are undermined by fraud. Today’s indictment should send a clear message that we intend to stop these types of fraudulent practices. It is the goal of IRS Criminal Investigation to work with Department of Justice and other Federal and State agencies to ensure that those engaged in illegal activities are brought to justice.”

U.S. Attorney Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr., stated, “We will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute individuals who defraud public institutions. Diverting monies meant for the public institutions to corrupt individuals will not be tolerated. This investigation is another great example of federal and state agencies cooperating to combat such illegal activity in our community.”

The investigation of SHARIFRAZI and WOODALL was conducted by the Louisiana State Inspector General's Office, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and United States Department of Education Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Walt Green and Alan Stevens.

NOTE: An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that probable cause exists to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty at trial.

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**INDICTMENT FOR MAIL FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING AND  
THEFT FROM AN ORGANIZATION RECEIVING FEDERAL  
PROGRAM FUNDS AND FORFEITURE ALLEGATION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
	:	CRIMINAL NO. 11-
<i>versus</i>	:	
	:	18 U.S.C. § 1341
PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and	:	18 U.S.C. § 1957
SCOTT D. WOODALL	:	18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A)
	:	18 U.S.C. § 2

**THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:**

**AT ALL TIMES RELEVANT TO THIS INDICTMENT:**

1. **PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI**, defendant herein, was employed as an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Southern University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (“Southern University”).
2. **SCOTT D. WOODALL**, defendant herein, was employed as the Information Technologies (IT) Director at the College of Engineering at Southern University.
3. Southern University, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was an educational institution which participated in federal student aid programs administered by the United States Department of Education (USDOE). Southern University was an organization and agency of the State of Louisiana that received benefits in excess of \$10,000 annually, including each of calendar years 2008 and 2009, from the USDOE under federal programs involving grants, subsidies, loans, guarantees, and other forms of federal assistance.

**COUNTS ONE THROUGH TWELVE**

(Mail Fraud)

4. Paragraphs One and Two of this Indictment are incorporated herein.

5. Beginning on a date unknown, but at least by April 2008 and continuing to in or about December 2009, in the Middle District of Louisiana and elsewhere, **PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI** and **SCOTT D. WOODALL** devised and intended to devise a scheme to defraud Southern University and to obtain money from Southern University by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises.

**THE SCHEME**

6. From in or about April 2008 to in or about December 2009, **SHARIFRAZI** and **WOODALL**, using their positions at Southern University, fraudulently caused Southern University to issue seven (7) checks to Exterra Technologies and five (5) checks to Nova Systems for a total of approximately \$157,366, for the benefit of **SHARIFRAZI** and **WOODALL**.

7. **SHARIFRAZI** caused two shell companies, Exterra Technologies and Nova Systems, to be formed. These companies had no legitimate purpose and did not operate as normal businesses. Both companies were under the control of **SHARIFRAZI** and **WOODALL**.

8. **WOODALL**, as IT Director, would represent to Southern University that certain computer equipment was needed to support Southern University.

9. **WOODALL** would initiate the purchase of equipment and specify equipment criteria in purchase requisitions. **WOODALL** would attach fraudulent quotes from Exterra Technologies and subsequently Nova Systems, which quotes were always lower than quotes received from legitimate companies. The quotes from the two companies were fraudulent because the two companies were shell companies, had no legitimate purpose and did not sell any items to the public at large.

10. **WOODALL** would attach the fraudulent quotes to the requisitions along with quotes from legitimate companies which submitted higher quotes for the specific equipment. The purchase requisition would then be sent through the Southern University purchasing channels.

11. As a result of **WOODALL** presenting Exterra Technologies and Nova Systems as having submitted the low quotes, Southern University would approve the fraudulent purchase requisitions and issue a purchase order to Exterra Technologies and Nova Systems.

12. Once Southern University would issue a purchase order to either Exterra Technologies and Nova Systems, **WOODALL** would order and receive computer equipment which was different from the equipment listed on the purchase orders.

13. Once the computer equipment which was different from the equipment listed on the purchase orders was delivered to Southern University, **WOODALL** would generate invoices from the shell companies, Exterra Technologies and Nova Systems, and submit the invoice to Southern University for payment.

14. **SHARIFRAZI** used a mail forwarding agency in Las Vegas, Nevada, for Exterra Technologies and in Beaverton, Oregon, for Nova Systems to disguise **SHARIFRAZI**'s and **WOODALL**'s ownership and control of Exterra Technologies and Nova Systems. On behalf of **SHARIFRAZI**, these mail forwarding agencies received the purchase orders, correspondence and checks from Southern University and forwarded the items received to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

15. **SHARIFRAZI** caused a mailbox at "The Mailbag" in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to be used to accept delivery of the computer equipment which was different from the equipment listed on the purchase orders, and to receive mail from the mail forwarding agencies in Las Vegas, Nevada and in Beaverton, Oregon. In most cases, after the equipment was received from the legitimate companies, a new label was affixed to the boxes containing the computer equipment and it was re-shipped the same day to Southern University.

16. On or about the following dates, in the Middle District of Louisiana and elsewhere, **SHARIFRAZI** and **WOODALL**, having devised a scheme to defraud and to obtain money from Southern University by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, for the purpose of executing the scheme, and attempting to do so, knowingly caused to be delivered by the United States mail and by a commercial interstate carrier, checks sent by Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to an out-of-state location:

<b>COUNT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	April 28, 2008	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 046153 in the amount of \$9,180 to Las Vegas, Nevada
2	June 5, 2008	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0463738 in the amount of \$15,299.99 to Las Vegas, Nevada
3	June 17, 2008	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0465191 in the amount of \$22,621.38 to Las Vegas, Nevada
4	June 19, 2008	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0465473 in the amount of \$881.06 to Las Vegas, Nevada
5	June 30, 2008	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0466830 in the amount of \$7,500 to Las Vegas, Nevada
6	August 27, 2008	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0472895 in the amount of \$9,959 to Las Vegas, Nevada
7	December 5, 2008	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0485704 in the amount of \$17,024.65 to Las Vegas, Nevada
8	December 16, 2008	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0486623 in the amount of \$22,096 to Beaverton, Oregon
9	April 28, 2009	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0500145 in the amount of \$12,989 to Beaverton, Oregon
10	October 21, 2009	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI and SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0519783 in the amount of \$14,952.84 to Beaverton, Oregon

11	December 10, 2009	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI</b> and <b>SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0523000 in the amount of \$189 to Beaverton, Oregon
12	December 10, 2009	<b>PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI</b> and <b>SCOTT D. WOODALL</b> caused Southern University to mail Check No. 0523001 in the amount of \$24,672.90 to Beaverton, Oregon

Each of the above is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 2.

**COUNTS THIRTEEN THROUGH SEVENTEEN**  
(Money Laundering)

17. Paragraphs One, Two and Five through Sixteen of this Indictment are incorporated herein.

18. On or about the following dates, **PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI**, defendant herein, knowingly engaged in and attempted to engage in monetary transactions, in criminally derived property, affecting interstate commerce, having a value greater than \$10,000, representing the proceeds of the fraudulent payments by Southern University, which property was derived from a specified unlawful activity, namely mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341:

COUNT	DATE	DESCRIPTION
13	June 27, 2008	Check No. 4502, in the amount of \$20,000, drawn on an Exterra Technologies account at Regions Bank in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and deposited into another account at Regions Bank
14	June 2, 2009	Wire 0602F2QCZ00C00080, in the amount of \$19,112, drawn on a Nova Systems account at Regions Bank in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and deposited into an account at Royal Bank of Canada
15	July 21, 2009	Wire 0721F2QCZ00C002529, in the amount of \$15,270, drawn on an Exterra Technologies account at Regions Bank in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and deposited into an account at Royal Bank of Canada

16	July 25, 2009	Wire 0725F2QCZ00C003235, in the amount of \$20,702, drawn on an Exterra Technologies account at Regions Bank in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and deposited into an account at Royal Bank of Canada
17	December 24, 2009	Counter check, in the amount of \$24,090.84, drawn on an Nova Systems account at Regions Bank in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and deposited into another account at Regions Bank

Each of the above is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957.

**COUNT EIGHTEEN**

(Theft from an Organization Receiving Federal Program Funds)

19. Paragraphs One through Sixteen of this Indictment are incorporated herein.

20. On or about December 10, 2009, in the Middle District of Louisiana, **PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI** and **SCOTT D. WOODALL**, defendants herein, knowingly did obtain by fraud Check No. 0523001, in the amount of \$24,672, which was under the care, custody and control of Southern University.

The above is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A).

**FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS**

21. Upon conviction of one or more of the mail fraud offenses in Counts One through Twelve of this Indictment, **PARVIZ SHARIFRAZI** and **SCOTT D. WOODALL**, defendants herein, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property constituting or derived from proceeds of the said violations, including but not limited to the following:

- a. A sum of money equal to the amount derived from the offense, specifically mail fraud.
- b. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omissions of the defendants;
  - 1. Cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
  - 2. Has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
  - 3. Has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
  - 4. Has been substantially diminished in value; or
  - 5. Has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the forfeitable property described above.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, by

**A TRUE BILL**

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DONALD J. CAZAYOUX, JR.  
 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
 MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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GRAND JURY FOREPERSON

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J. WALTER GREEN  
 FIRST ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY

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DATE

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ALAN A. STEVENS  
 ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY