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# A Journey Through Time

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*The Soul of New Orleans*

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to shooting unarmed  
during Katrina

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# A Journey Through Time

## The History of the American Civil Rights Movement

By Cheryl Mainor

As February draws to a close, with all of the celebration that has taken place in our city, it is not forgotten that February is Black History Month. As it has been said many times over, "You have to know where you've been to know where you are going", Data News Weekly takes a look at our collective past and our journey for Civil Rights in this country, as we move into a new decade, in a new millennium. "Facing the rising sun, of our new day begun, let us march on, 'til victory is won." – James Weldon Johnson



First Slaves Arrive at Jamestown Settlement



Phillis Wheatley



The Capture of Nat Turner

### 1619 – First African Slaves Arrive at Jamestown

The first Africans as slave labor are introduced in America. A Dutch trader exchanges his cargo of 20 Africans for food in Jamestown Virginia, in August of 1619. It is believed that these Africans were sold into conditions similar to indentured servitude - a common practice in England and colonial America. The American slavery system became more developed and codified in its inhumane treatment around 1680.

### 1773 – Phillis Wheatley's Poetry Published

Phillis Wheatley's (1753? - 1784) poetry is published in "Poems on Various Subjects Religion and Moral" in London and various magazines. It was the first book to be published that was authored by an African-American. Wheatley was subjected to an oral examination to test her knowledge and literacy because it was not believed that a Negro could write poetry. Among the group of examiners was John Hancock, a future signer of The Declaration of Independence.

### 1787 – The Three-Fifths Compromise

At the 1787 Constitutional Convention, the Southern states wanted Blacks to be counted as equal to Whites, but it was the Northern states that argued that slaves were considered as property and therefore should not be counted at all - a tactic likely used to deny the Southern states the political representation that their large population of blacks would bring them. A Compromise was made whereas each slave would count as three-fifths of a person.

### 1808 - Slave Importation Banned in US

The US bans the import of slaves, but not the sale and practice of slavery.

Ohio's original constitution outlawed slavery in 1802. Ohio also aggressively barred black immigration.

**1831 - Nat Turner (1800-1831)**, a slave and a preacher, leads a short and bloody slave revolt in Southampton County, Virginia. Turner is later hanged and Virginia consequently institutes stricter slave laws.

Photos by Julie Plonk, City of New Orleans

*Continued next page.*

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### Also This Year:

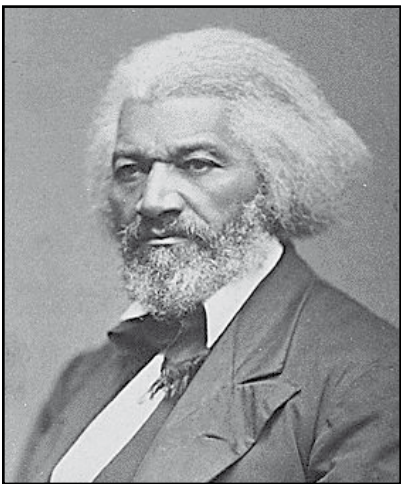
William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) begins publishing the *Liberator*, a weekly paper that advocates the abolition of slavery.

### 1839



African captives revolt on the slave ship *The Amistad*

Joseph Cinque (born Sengbe Pieh) (1815? -?) leads 37 African slaves in a revolt aboard the *Amistad* slave ship, killing the captain and taking control of the ship. The ship is later recaptured by the U.S. The matter is tried in the Supreme Court, where it is ordered that the slaves be returned to Africa and freed.



Frederick Douglass first published *The North Star*

### 1846

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) launches an abolitionist newspaper *The North Star*. Douglass escaped from slavery in 1838 by posing as a free black seaman on a train ride to the north and became an infamous speaker on the abolitionist lecture circuit and an important political figure. He served as president of the Freedman's Savings Bank during Reconstruction and penned his autobiography "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" in 1845.

### 1849

Harriet Tubman (1820 - 1913), born Araminta Ross escapes from slavery and becomes one of the most celebrated and effective leaders of the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman will guide hundreds of slaves to freedom before and during the war. She was never captured while rescuing slaves and as she was quoted she "never lost a passenger".



Harriet Tubman, slave, abolitionist and conductor on the Underground Railroad, led hundreds of slaves to freedom.

### 1851 - The Underground Railroad

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 was strengthened in 1850 as a law that enforced the capture of run-away slaves in both free and slave states by fining and holding anyone, including federal officials, responsible for aiding run-away slaves.

The Underground Railroad is started by William Still. It is a network of secret routes, way-stations, safe havens and meeting points in which thousands of African-Americans will escape from slavery in the south. Some routes on the Underground Railroad traveled as far north as Canada and as far south as Mexico.



Sojourner Truth wrote *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave*

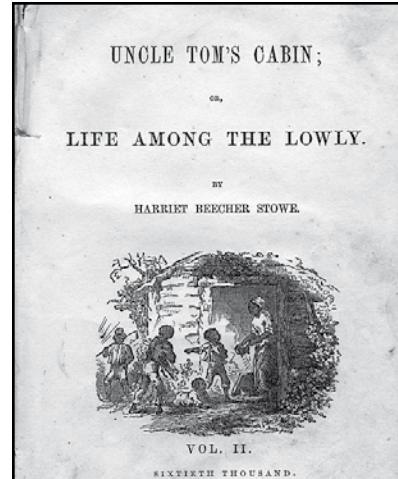
### Also This Year

William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) a white abolitionist and editor of the abolitionist newspaper, *The Liberator*, privately publishes the memoirs of Sojourner Truth (1797-1883), a former slave, abolitionist, conductor on the Underground Railroad, and a preacher and advocate of women's rights. It is entitled *The "Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave"*.

### 1852 - Uncle Tom's Cabin

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" is published by Harriet Beecher Stowe, a white abolitionist. It is the first major American

novel to feature an African-American hero and becomes one of the most influential works to stir anti-slavery sentiments by shedding light on the horrors

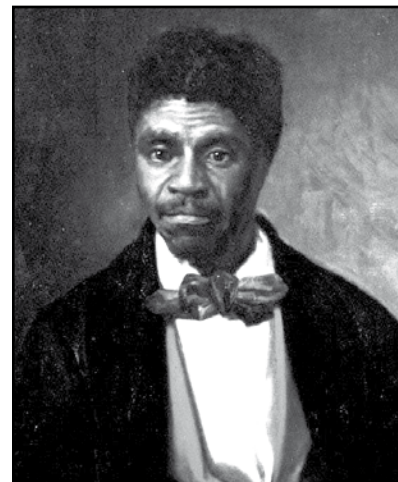


Uncle Tom's Cabin was first published

of slavery. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is the best-selling novel of the 19th century and the second best-selling novel of the century, with the bible holding steady at number one. William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) a white abolitionist and editor of the abolitionist newspaper, *The Liberator*, privately publishes the memoirs of Sojourner Truth (1797-1883), a former slave, abolitionist, conductor on the Underground Railroad, and a preacher and advocate of women's rights. It is entitled *The "Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave"*.

### 1857 - Dred Scott Decision

Dred Scott (1795-1858) appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court for his freedom, arguing that during his travels with his master he had been living in free states in the *Dred Scott vs. Sanford* case. Scott was unsuccessful and as a result the Court ordered that slaves



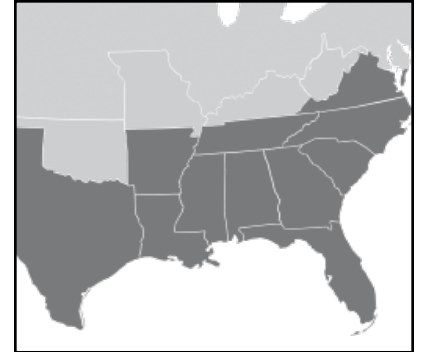
Dred Scott pictured appealed unsuccessfully to the US Supreme court for his freedom.

could not be citizens and therefore did not have the right to bring a case to court. The case is also known as the "Dred Scott Decision."

### 1861 The Civil War Begins

The Civil War begins when South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas

secede from the Union and form the Confederate States of America with Jefferson Davis as their president. Later in the year Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia join them. Virginia was divided up - with the eastern portion seceding to the Confederacy and West Virginia remaining with the



Secessionist southern states shown comprised the Confederate States of America (darker shaded)

Union. It is the bloodiest war in American history, being fought entirely on American soil and resulting in the death of about 600,000.

### 1863

Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, a presidential order declaring the freedom of the slaves and makes the end of slavery a major goal of the Civil War. It was issued in



Portrait depicts the end of the Civil War

two parts -the preliminary document on September 22, 1862 and the second on January 1st 1863.

### 1865

The Civil War Ends & Lincoln is Assassinated

In 1865 the Civil War ends and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishes slavery.

Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, an actor and Confederate spy, during a play at Ford's Theatre.

### Also In That Year

The Reconstruction Era begins, a 12 year span where important laws and gains were made to improve the lives of newly freed slaves.

Congress establishes The Freedmen's Bureau to protect the rights of newly emancipated black slaves.

In 1865, southern states passed Black Codes, laws to restrict the civil rights and liberties of newly freed African-Americans.



# Brandon Spann

## *Life and Basketball*

by: Edwin Buggage



have the capacity to resolve it without doing something that could be detrimental to their lives." "Our fourth component is homework assistance, where we have tutors from college to high school students, and people from the community, The New Orleans Sports School is where everybody can come together to help our children be better citizens tomorrow," says Spann.

Spann's life has been one in which education, travel and growth opportunities have been stressed. "My parents set a firm founda-

tion for my two brothers and me by always talking about the value of education and exposing yourself to new things," says Spann. In his own life Spann has been able to through basketball see the world through a broader lens, playing professional basketball internationally after his standout college career at Tulane University. He spent five years playing basketball in France, Belgium, Qatar and Poland. "It was something that opened me up to a whole new world," says Brandon. "Over there athletes were involved in the community work and part of the lives of young people and I wanted to replicate that in New Orleans.

His global experience also led him to intend on eventually adding a foreign language component to the program. As he realizes that global competency is the currency of the 21st century. "I feel there

is a need for our children to be able to speak several languages and just have a broader view of the world than we sometimes have in the U.S." says Spann. "I feel through NOSS I want to be able to expose kids to the new world that has emerged where a global outlook is essential moving ahead.

Brandon Spann is a family man whose wife and two children are an important part of his life and his mission. "I see that I have a blessed to be raised in a loving nurturing family and to have my wife and my kids that give my life a greater purpose," says Spann. His life is a story of Luke 12:48, 'To whom much is given, much is required' "I have been in situations where I have seen that through my experiences the positive impact it has had on my kids, and I wanted to give that to other kids as well." He has given his time and is dedicated to his community and challenges others to selflessly give their time to invest in the future, "I think what we are doing at NOSS is very important, we are planting seeds of

positivity, we wanted to reach young people between the ages of 5-14, says Brandon." Continuing he says, "At that time they are still able to be molded; they haven't been hardened by to become menaces to society."

NOSS is about giving young people an opportunity to be successful ac-

cording to Spann. "We have enough things that are negative influences on our young people, and we are using sports to give our children the confidence to compete and succeed in life." With the Super Bowl victory of the Saints, it is interesting how sports can bring people together and build understanding between people of different groups. "I feel sports have been something that has given me a chance to see the world through different eyes, says Brandon." "It has given me the vision to want to be part of my city and its rebuilding to help it grow and become a better city and that starts with preparing and investing in our young people to lead us to a brighter future."

Brandon is a young man who is an inspiration and whose life experiences have spanned the globe, in which he has watered his life and nurtured it and has grown into something truly incredible. In an age where there are those who have been in the public eye flaunt fame and riches, Spann's life goal is to enrich people's lives. He is a young man on a mission spanning the globe, blazing a trail sinking one basket at a time helping young people score points in the game of life. And today we honor him as Data News Weekly Trailblazer for February 2010.

**He** is a young man who has used sports as a bridge to connect with kids and encourage them to reach their full potential.

Brandon Spann is the Executive Director of The New Orleans Sports School. Its mission is to provide mentors and guidance for youths aged 5-14, involving them in sports and supplemental educational activities that give them a roadmap to success. "We have a program that has four components, one is we use sports training as an entry point to engage students and teach them life lessons through basketball, then there is a science and technology component that teaches young people not just about science, but to expose them to new things that can broaden their horizons," says Spann.

He continues explaining the program saying, "We also provide life skills, character building and conflict resolution training." "Because I feel it is important that our young people learn how to conduct themselves in situations when they are at odds with something or someone; they now

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# Plea Coming in Katrina Shooting Probe

*Witnesses Say Officers Fired at Unarmed People Who Were Crossing Bridge after Hurricane*

**Mary Foster and MIKE Kunzelman**

AP - In Hurricane Katrina's chaotic aftermath, police shot six people – killing two – as they crossed a bridge in search of food. For years the case was a shocking symbol of the confusion and violence that swept through the flooded city. On Wednesday it became a mark of shame for the police department.

As victims' relatives watched from the courtroom gallery, a retired lieutenant who supervised the department's probe of the shootings pleaded guilty to orchestrating a cover-up to conceal that police gunned down unarmed civilians.

Michael Lohman, a 21-year veteran of the force, pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to obstruct justice. Prosecutors said Lohman and other unidentified officers conspired to fabricate witness

statements, falsify reports of the incident and plant a gun in an attempt to make it appear the killings were justified.

U.S. Attorney Jim Letten said the investigation is continuing and would not say whether higher-ranking officials of the police department might be involved.

Lohman's plea brought at least some closure to families of victims in the best-known of several violent incidents that raised questions about police conduct immediately after Katrina. The shootings happened on Sept. 4, 2005, six days after the storm smashed levees and flooded 80 percent of the city.

Survivors have said the officers fired at unarmed people who were crossing to get food at a grocery store. The officers claimed they opened fire only after being shot at. Ronald Madison, 40 and mentally disabled, and James

Brissette, 19, were killed and four others were wounded.

"We are very, very happy about the progress that the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department have made," said Romell Madison, Ronald's brother. "The people of New Orleans should be relieved that there is still justice for everybody here."

Lohman's plea marked the first conviction in the case. Seven officers were charged with murder or attempted murder but a state judge threw out all the charges. Federal authorities then stepped in to investigate.

The federal prosecutor said Lohman is cooperating with investigators who want to know more about the police department's actions.

Dylan Utley, Lohman's lawyer, said his client "did what's right for him and what's right for his situation" and hopes to "make

amends."

During Wednesday's hearing, Lohman, 42, answered U.S. District Judge Ivan Lemelle's questions in a soft voice but didn't interact with the victims' relatives. He is free on \$50,000 bond and the maximum sentence he faces is five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. His sentencing is scheduled May 26.

Described by fellow officers as a straight-shooter and hardworking, by-the-book cop, Lohman's cooperation is expected to be helpful as authorities examine a wide range of problems in the police department after Katrina.

The department's reputation – never sterling in a city where violent crime is a daily fact of life – was hammered after Katrina with charges that officers were involved with shootings, deserted their posts, looted shops and made off with cars from a Cadillac

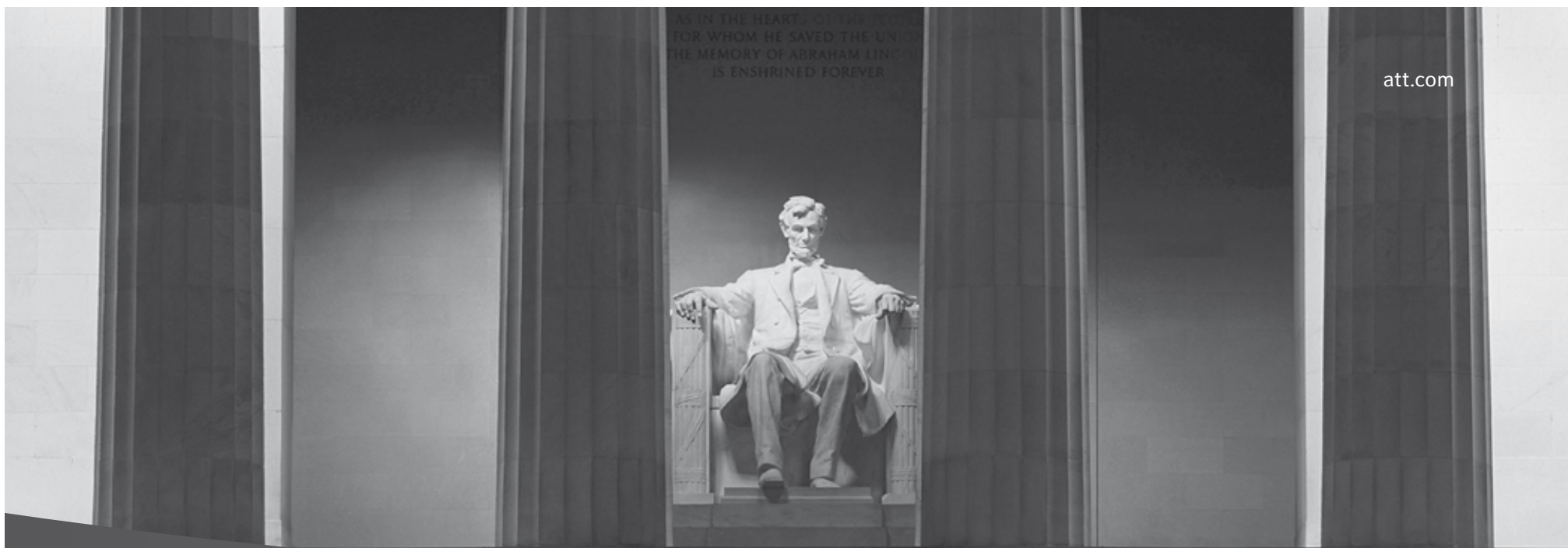
dealership.

"It looks like the blue code has been broken," former U.S. Attorney Harry Rosenberg said. "Remember, those officers stood shoulder to shoulder when it was in state court. Nobody said anything."

The "blue code" is likely to face further tests with Lohman's cooperation as federal prosecutors probe the fatal shooting by police of Danny Brumfield Sr. outside the New Orleans convention center; the death of Henry Glover, whom witnesses claim died in police custody; and the fatal police shooting of a Connecticut man, Matthew McDonald.

Police have pointed to the extreme conditions they were operating under after Katrina. Communications failed, hundreds of police vehicles were destroyed, 80 percent of the force lost their homes to the storm and there

*Newsmaker, continued next page.*



## bringing us all a little closer.

When Dr. Martin Luther King described his powerful dream in August 1963, it inspired generations of Americans and brought a new understanding to our world.

We're proud to embrace Dr. King's profound vision as we celebrate Black History Month.





*Newsmaker, continued from previous page.*



Ronald Madison, 40, seen in this undated family photo, was shot dead on the Danziger Bridge in New Orleans East Sept. 4, 2005.

were several reports of rescuers being fired upon. Most of those reports were later discounted.

"The constitution applies 365 days a year," said Thomas Perez, head of the Justice Department's civil rights division. "There are no grace periods from the constitution. The rule of law does not get suspended."

In unsealing the case against Lohman, prosecutors drew a picture of how the shootings at the Danziger bridge immediately spawned a cover-up.

Lohman went to the scene and saw no weapons near or with the victims of the shooting, federal officials said, and concluded the shootings were not justified.

The documents allege Lohman and an unidentified investigator he supervised drafted different versions of false reports. Among the claims was a fabricated statement by one of the victims that she had seen her nephew and others firing guns on the bridge.

Federal officials say Lohman drafted his own 17-page false report after becoming dissatisfied that another investigator's false account was not logical.

As the investigation continues with Lohman's cooperation, officers for at least two other officers have identified their clients as targets.

"Now the government has a cooperating witness and it causes those officers to wonder if they should be running to the U.S. Attorney to look for a deal," Rosenberg said.

Both Letten and Perez refused to say how widespread or high-up the investigation could reach in the department, but both reiterated that the investigation would not be bound.

"The investigation is going to attempt to bring all perpetrators to justice," Perez said.

Associated Press writer Kevin McGill in New Orleans contributed to this story.



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A message from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.



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for sharing her  
Super Bowl  
photos with  
our readers**

**Thank You  
Ne'taki!**





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## Eric Pete, Author CRUSHED ICE



Dionne Character, Author  
Entertainment Editor & Columnist

Eric Pete is one of contemporary fiction's rising stars in the literary world. We met during the Essence Music Festival at an author signing in 2003. I was signing my first book and he was signing his second bestselling novel, *Someone's in the Kitchen*.

Having an intense love of reading from an early age, Eric was unknowingly building the foundation for what was to come. Eric had considered writing a novel for several years, but it wasn't until recently that he gave in to the stories in his head and decided to share them with the world.

Eric has written so many bestselling novels, no one can stop his rain. He is nationally known for his works which include: *Reality Check*, *Sticks and Stones*, *Blow Your Mind*, *Lady Sings The Cruels*, *Don't Get It Twisted*, *Gets No Love*, *Someone's in the Kitchen*, *Real for Me*, along with short stories featured in anthologies *After Hours* from Plume Books, *Twilight Moods* from Flowers In Bloom Publishing and the upcoming *On The Line*.

Meet the man who Can't Stop, Won't Stop, signing his new novel, "Crushed Ice" on February 27, 2010, The Afro-American Book Stop, 7056 Read Blvd., New Orleans from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.; Borders Book Store, 3131 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Eric will also be featured on WVUE Fox 8 News Morning Show on February 27th at 8:00 a.m., in New Orleans. To find out more visit his website at [www.ericpete.com](http://www.ericpete.com).

The Afro-American Book Stop will also be featuring Brian W. Smith, Author of "Beater" on Saturday, February 20th, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and L.A. Lewis, Author of "Dirty Little Secrets" on Saturday, February 27th, 12 noon – 2:00 p.m. For more information call (504) 243-2436.



## Zulu 2010 - A Memorable Mardi Gras

### By Dionne Character

Despite the very cool temperatures, and the Zulu Parade being fashionably late, folks followed the tradition of celebrating under the bridge at Orleans and Claiborne Avenue.

Almost everyone sported black and gold, as a calm was still over the "Who Dat Nation." The Spirit of New Orleans was that of proud people, who came to Zulu to catch beads and coconuts, see Saints football players on floats, party, and enjoy hot barbeque on the parade route.

Once again, I had the pleasure of hosting the Zulu parade "live" on NOLA.com, along side Alfred Richard of Channel 4, through DJStudios.tv. As we walked through the crowds, interviewed folks, and stood on stage with radio personalities of Power 102.9, this Mardi Gras was by far, one of the largest.

Captain Charles, Big Herc, Leslie Brown, and a host of other radio personalities, along with various artists including rapper, Mystical, graced the stage for those who wanted to party after the parade.

As the "fat lady" finally finished her song, the curtains have been closed, and the City of New Orleans still stands, this has been one of the most memorable Mardi Gras in the history of New Orleans.

Seemingly, we will continue walking around in our glory, singing our own praises, because at the end of the day, we are 2010 NFL Super Bowl Champions, and nothing else matters because "We Dat."





# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Mayor's Ball



Photos by Glenn Summers

## Zulu Ball



Photos by Glenn Summers



# Disclosure Etiquette, Part 1: Do I Have to Kiss and Tell?

by: Vanessa Johnson, J.D.

This is the first in a series of articles exploring the etiquette associated with telling other people that you have HIV/AIDS.

Over the past 20 years, I have watched people living with HIV/AIDS suffer and struggle with disclosing their status. The fear of rejection keeps many of us quiet but causes others to reveal intimate information at inappropriate times and places—such as on a first date in a cozy restaurant, with the people at the next table dipping into the conversation, as an HIV-negative friend once experienced when her dinner companion told her he was HIV-positive.

Deciding to share your serostatus is one of the most difficult things a person living with HIV has to do. Unlike on television, where reality-show participants sometimes disclose their HIV status in such a way that allows editors to script the conclusions, real-life disclosures occur in real time; the outcomes are uncertain.

We wonder: What will this person think of me? Will they reject me? Try to hurt me? Wonder what “horrible” thing I did to deserve my fate? And after sharing my most intimate business, will I lose the relationship?

When and whether we decide to tell often depends on how we believe the person will react. If we think the person will be cool about our status, we’re more likely to tell, or to tell sooner. If we think we’ll be rejected or get some other negative reaction, we may either consider not telling or actually not tell at all. Our approach also hinges on how vulnerable we are willing to feel and how much we are willing to risk in the relationship. That said, I do not believe that it is ever acceptable to trick or harm anyone.

Recently a colleague shared findings from a small research study suggesting that people who tell others about their HIV status may not always experience as much stigma from their loved

ones as they feel within themselves. This makes me wonder whether part of what we dread is having someone reinforce feelings we’ve already internalized about living with HIV/AIDS. I know that after two decades of absorbing messages that I am “not good enough” and/or just not “normal,” I have internalized feelings of shame, guilt and helplessness. Is this part of what makes disclosure so difficult—that I dread learning that other people will think the same negative things about me that I sometimes secretly think about myself?

I came of age as a person with HIV/AIDS in an era where I was indoctrinated that it was my responsibility to disclose early and often, whether or not it was my intention ever to have sex with the person I was telling. Intellectually I understand this approach, but emotionally it puts me in a straitjacket. What if I don’t want to disclose to you? What if I want to become friends first? And if I’m

not interested in sleeping with you, why do I have to tell you my personal business?

I had—and still have—nothing to lose and everything to gain by disclosing my HIV status; I am willing to risk much to regain my personhood and shed my lingering sense of internalized oppression. But I have to admit that had I gotten infected today, I might have approached my life much differently. An HIV diagnosis is no longer the end of the world. Many people now know that if you are diagnosed early and do what the doctor tells you, you can live a pretty normal life—and life span. You do have to learn how to protect yourself and your partners, but maybe you don’t have to tell everything to everybody.

Given this new reality, I am reconsidering my options. I want the choice of telling my friends and colleagues—or not; maybe it’s none of your business. And for once, it would be nice if my prospective partners took respon-

sibility for their own health and asked me if I had HIV so that I wouldn’t have to carry the burden of telling them first.

Unlike what we see on reality television, life cannot be edited or played back to change the result or make us into someone we are not. People living with HIV/AIDS should have the option of deciding when and where we will reveal our HIV status. We should never do it because we’re following some rigid rule from a bygone era. But when and under what circumstances should it happen? The answer isn’t always clear. Check back on the fourth Tuesday of each month as I share my thoughts about the etiquette of when and why we should tell.

Vanessa Johnson, J.D., who has volunteered and worked in the HIV/AIDS field for approximately 14 years, is executive vice president of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA).



**Saluting the pioneers of yesterday,  
the leaders of today,  
and the trailblazers of tomorrow.**

**Black History Month**  
**Mayor C. Ray Nagin**

**ONE**  
NEW ORLEANS  
*Rethink • Renew • Revive*



*Cover Story, Continued from page 3.*

### 1866 – 1875 – Civil Rights Act Established

In 1866 the Civil Rights Act sought to protect freedmen and grant full citizenship to those born on U.S. soil, except Indians.

Other Notable Events: In 1867 Howard University is founded by Union General, Oliver O. Howard as an institute for preachers and teachers.

In 1868 the 14th Amendment to the Constitution grants citizenship to former slaves.

1881 Tuskegee Institute is Founded

The Tuskegee institute is founded by former slaves Lewis Adams and George W. Campbell under the leadership of Booker T. Washington (1856 -1915) as a teachers training school.

### 1896 – Segregation Legalized Jim Crow Era Begins

The Supreme Court decides in the Plessy Vs. Ferguson case that “separate but equal” satisfies the 14th amendment which gives legal sanction to “Jim Crow” segregation laws.

Also This Year:

George Washington Carver is appointed director of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute. His innovations with peanuts, soybeans and sweet potatoes, helped to revolutionize agriculture in the South. He received the NAACP Spingarn Medal in 1923.



Segregation and the Jim Crow Era Begin

### 1909 NAACP Founded

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, is founded by W.E.B. DuBois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling as an interracial organization “to promote equality of rights and to eradicate caste or race prejudice among the citizens of the United States; to advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and to increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for the children, employment according to their ability and complete equality before law.”

### 1919 Harlem Renaissance Begins

A period of almost fifteen years when some of the most important and prolific writers, artists and musicians such as Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, and Eugene O'Neill, to name a few, emerged

in the African-American community and took up residence in New York's Harlem district.

Also That Year – Black Star Line Established

Marcus Garvey (1887 - 1940) an entrepreneur, journalist and proponent of Black nationalism, encourages Black Americans to return to their African homeland and establishes the Black Star Line, a fleet of Black owned steamships that serviced the Caribbean Islands, America, and Africa.



Marcus Garvey establishes the Black Star Line steamship company and the Back to Africa Movement.

### 1932 – Tuskegee Experiment Begins

The Tuskegee Experiment, a forty year-long experiment in which 399 African-American men infected with Syphilis, near Tuskegee, Alabama are denied treatment in order to study the effects of the disease begins. The experiment is leaked to the press by Peter Buxton, a Public Health Service investigator and is subsequently ended in 1972.

### 1954 – Brown Vs. Board of Education

The Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka case in which thirteen parents in Topeka, Kansas file a class action law suit against the Board of Education results in the Supreme Court decision to outlaw segregation in public schools. First African-American Supreme Court appointee Thurgood Marshall was one of the lawyers who successfully argued the case in Brown vs. Board of Education.

### 1955 Rosa Parks Arrested / Emmett Till Murdered

Rosa Parks, a seamstress and NAACP secretary, refuses to give up her seat to a white patron on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She is arrested and tried sparking a much publicized and highly organized year-long boycott of the Montgomery buses.

14 yr. old Emmett Till is kidnapped, brutally beaten shot and dumped in the Tallahatchie river in Mississippi for allegedly whistling at a white woman.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a 26 year old Baptist minister, leads the boycott and gains national attention.

### 1960 – SNCC & Freedom Riders

The SNCC The Student Nonviolent Co-

ordinating Committee is founded at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. with a grant of \$800 from the SLCC, The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, with a purpose of organizing non-violent actions to combat racism and segregation.

CORE - The Congress of Racial Equality, begins sending student volunteers on bus trips to test the implementation of new laws prohibiting segregation in interstate travel facilities. They are known as “Freedom Riders.”

### 1963 – Freedom March on Washington

Over 200,000 people March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, convening at the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. makes a famous speech about racial harmony that begins with “I have a dream/à”

Other Notable Events:

The 24th Amendment abolishes the poll tax, which was originally instituted in 11 southern states to make it difficult for poor African-Americans to vote.

Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Addie Mae Collins, ranging in age from 11 to 15 years old, are all killed in a terrorist bomb explosion at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama (a popular civil rights meeting place), sparking riots.



Hundreds of thousands gather on the National Mall to hear Dr. King address the nation with his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.

### 1965 Malcolm X Is Assassinated, Bloody Sunday & Voting Rights Act

Malcolm X is assassinated on Feb. 21st 1965 at the Audobon ballroom in Harlem, New York.

Other Notable Events:

On March 7, 1965 Martin Luther King Jr. along with the SCLC leads protestors in support of voting rights, across a bridge in Selma Al. and are attacked -police use tear gas, whips and clubs - it is remembered as Bloody Sunday.

Congress passes the Voting Rights Act of 1965 - making literacy tests, poll taxes and other requirements used to restrict blacks from voting, illegal.

Rioting breaks out in a predominantly African-American neighborhood in L.A. due to unfair police treatment. Thirty-five people are killed and 883 injured in the Watts Riot.

President Johnson -issues Executive Or-

der 11246 in 1965, which enforces Affirmative Action for the first time, asserting that civil rights laws alone are not enough to remedy discrimination.



Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

### 1966 – 1967 - Thurgood Marshall appointed to Supreme Court

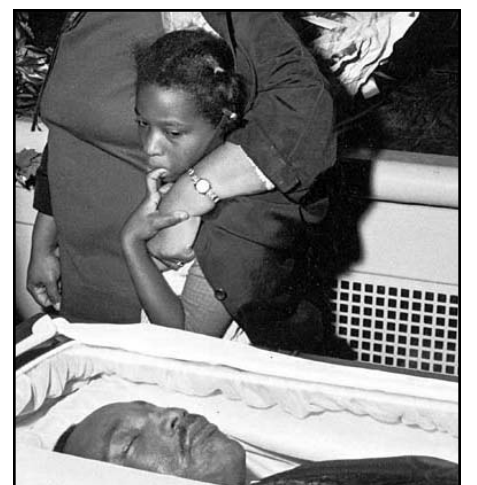
In 1967 Thurgood Marshall, formerly an NAACP attorney, is appointed to the Supreme Court becoming the first black justice.

Other Notable Events:

In 1966 the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense is founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland Ca. based upon a socialist doctrine.

Kwanzaa, a week-long holiday honoring African heritage, started by Dr. Maulana Karenga is first celebrated by a small number of African-American families in Los Angeles, CA.

Stokely Carmichael of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) coins the phrase “black power” in a speech in Seattle on April 19th.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated

### 1968 – Dr. King is Assassinated

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis TN. marking the end of the Civil Rights era. President Johnson signs the Civil rights Act of 1968, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing.

Also This Year:

Shirley Chisholm becomes the first African-American woman elected to Congress.



## Letter to the Editor

# The Blind Side of the Southern University Ag Center

The blockbuster movie, *The Blind Side*, gives an intimate, telling account of what really are human compassion and community. It is the story of how the Touhy family takes in Michael Oher, a boy who is practically homeless, nurtures him and brings him to a point where he is successful academically, athletically, and socially. The story truly captures how the desire to make a difference can supersede barriers of race, illiteracy, and class difference. The directors marketed *The Blind Side* as an "extraordinary" true story.

And, extraordinary is a great way to describe this story, which epitomizes the everyday, ongoing work of the Southern University Ag Center in 33 parishes across the state.

We are in parishes where the poverty rate exceeds 15%, illiteracy rate trumps 28%, and homeless-

ness, unemployment, and health disparities are prevalent. We are in parishes where an average of 35 children are abused daily, 45% of teenagers drop out of school, where 29% of adults are obese or chronically ill, and where globalization and aging workforce are dismantling our small farms and businesses.

Like the Touhy family, the Southern University Ag Center's cooperative extension agents go straight to the need of the community and work with them to bring residents multiple opportunities to succeed.

For example, our annual livestock show—now in its 67th year—doesn't begin and end with this one weekend event. It is the culminating show for the Ag Center's livestock programs where young herdsmen who have raised an animal for at least one year can exhibit animal husbandry and

begin or continue on the path to farming. The result? Diverse, young, active farm population for Louisiana.

Southern University Ag Center's "Blind Side" spans the gamut with similar programs and everyday tasks of educating parents, training and certifying day care centers, conducting business development and first time homebuyers consultations, teaching farm management and diversification to small, disadvantaged farmers, and researching new strategies and solutions to alleviate poverty, obesity farm loss and illiteracy.

The result again is not a \$105 million blockbuster. The results are:

- Community gardens and greening neighborhoods
- Technology centers for business development
- Improved literacy, parental in-

volvement, and school attendance

- Competitive edge for small farmers
- Farmer mediation for *Pigford v. Glickman* (Black farmer lawsuit)
- Improved training for prisoners re-entering communities
- Expanded education on emergency preparedness
- Parents reconnected with children through mandated parent training
- Volunteer alliances with in-school and after school reading and math programs like Everybody Reads and Everybody Counts

When walking away from *The Blind Side*, moviegoers have said they feel compelled to find someone to help and "pay it forward". Well, we are "paying it forward". We are planting the seeds of success, educating, nurturing, and

providing for the social, technological, intellectual, and physical needs of Louisiana citizens.

We are pushing our communities farther away from the poverty line and illiteracy towards opportunities for success. What's the return on this land-grant university's investment? Self-sufficient, productive citizens, businesses and farms. This isn't unique to the Southern University System or its Ag Center and it's not unique to many other educational systems (especially HBCUs). What is unique is that Southern has not lost sight nor connection to the underserved people of the state, and through its outreach arm—the Ag Center—Southern continues to serve well the state of Louisiana.

Candace J. Semien  
Communications Coordinator  
Southern University Ag Center

### In honor of Martin Luther King and Black History Month

*"An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law." Martin Luther King, Jr.*



**HON. DALE N. ATKINS**  
Clerk, Civil District Court

## Introducing King Felder



Pictured are King Zulu Jimmy Felder, members of the Zulu's 2010 Royal Family and Nichole Shepherd.



# Highlights of the New Credit Card Rules: What They Do and Don't Do

A few provisions of the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act that President Obama signed into law May 2009 took effect immediately and a few won't take effect until August. But most of the provisions take effect Monday, February 22, 2010.

While these new rules are a significant improvement from the abusive status quo that's pervaded credit card policies for years, they are not enough. In the months leading up to the changes that will take effect February 22, credit card issuers have adopted tricks and traps intended to evade the law. The Federal Reserve Board, which writes the rules implementing the Act passed

by Congress, has banned two of these evasions—pick-a-rate and variable-rate floors, as mentioned below. But clearly the industry is intent on finding ways to by-pass the law.

Credit card tricks and traps, coupled with abusive bank overdraft charges and unfair mortgage products, show the need for an independent financial regulator whose mission is to set and enforce strong rules that ensure borrowers receive fair and affordable financial products. Congress can't pass a law each time abusive lenders come up with new bad practices and products. It needs to take consumer protection authority that now is scattered among several federal agencies and con-

solidate it under one roof.

Starting Feb. 22, 2010, issuers:

- Can no longer increase the interest rate charged on an existing balance unless a cardholder is 60 days or more behind in payments or he or she has agreed to a variable rate. If a customer's rate is raised because of a delinquency, but he or she then pays on time for the immediately following six consecutive months, the lender must revert to charging the previous, lower rate.
- Must apply all payments above the monthly minimum to the balance carrying the highest interest rate.
- Must use only the current month's balance to calculate interest charges. This means issuers can no longer calculate interest using the average of a customer's current and previous monthly balance, a method known as double-cycle billing.
- Must stop charging over-limit fees unless a customer has been

explicitly asked and has affirmatively said he or she wants to be allowed to exceed the credit limit and understands a fee will be incurred for doing so.

- Must notify a customer 45 days before making a major change to the terms of a credit card contract.
- Must give 21 days between the time they mail a bill and when they will impose a late fee.
- Must limit fees charged during the first year a credit card account is opened to no more than 25% of the initial credit limit. But this does not include late charges or over-the-limit fees.
- Can no longer use two common methods to manipulate variable rates. One is to set an initial interest rate as a floor, so that rates can vary upwards but never go down from where they start. The second is to peg an interest rate to the highest prime rate over many months, rather than to peg it to the cur-

rent prime rate.

But issuers still can:

- Impose many other, often hard-to-understand charges, such as fees on purchases abroad or for having a zero balance.
- Close accounts or reduce lines of credit without notice for any reason, although they must wait 45 days before they can impose an over-the-limit fee or a penalty rate on a newly lowered credit limit.
- Arbitrarily change any or all terms for credit cards issued to small businesses.
- Raise your interest rate without limit on future purchases as long as they give 45 days notice. If consumers don't want to accept the higher rate, they have the right to close the account and pay it off over five years.
- Require card holders to address grievances through mandatory arbitration rather than the courts.

## Erroll Williams Elected Citywide Assessor

*Lone opponent after Feb. 6 primary withdraws*

Erroll G. Williams, New Orleans' Third Municipal Assessor since 1985 and one of the first African Americans elected to that position, will become the city's first single Assessor thanks to the withdrawal of his lone opponent after the Feb. 6 primary.



Citywide Assessor Elect, Erroll G. Williams

Assessor Williams said fairness, equity and accessibility to property assessment records will continue to be his priorities in running a modern, friendly and cost-efficient office.

"Voters chose the person for this job they trusted the most, the person they knew

Assessor Williams, who led his nearest opponent by a two-to-one margin, has honorably served the citizens New Orleans for 31 years as Assessor, Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of City Finance.

"I would like to thank the voters of New Orleans for this opportunity to modernize this office," said Assessor Williams. "Moreover, we have a new leadership team in our city, with a new mandate for unity and progress. I am honored to be part of that team."

Mr. Williams said he will be rolling out a transition team and plan over the next few days, but all employees of the current seven Assessors' offices, including his two primary opponents Deputy Assessor Janis Lemle and Assessor Claude Mauberret, will keep their posts until Dec. 31, 2010.

had an unblemished record of public service and fiscal accountability," said Assessor Williams. "I will continue to live up to these high standards in public service."

A graduate of the New Orleans public schools, Dillard and Tulane Universities, with degrees in Accounting and a Masters of Business Administration, Assessor Williams is married to the former Cynthia Rich for 37 years and the father of two children.

"Your home is one of the most important investments that you will ever make. I will ensure that your interests as a property owner are always protected, and I will work with the business property owners to maintain their presence and bring new businesses to Orleans Parish," said the Assessor.

"FOR TOO LONG OUR CULTURE HAS SAID, 'IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT.' NOW, WE WANT TO BE A NATION THAT SERVES GOALS LARGER THAN SELF. WE'VE BEEN OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY, AND WE MUST NOT LET THIS MOMENT PASS. MY CALL IS FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO COMMIT TO THE SERVICE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR NATION. BY DOING THIS, WE SUSTAIN AND EXTEND THE BEST THAT HAS EMERGED IN AMERICA."

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# First Green Building Class Graduates 20

## Next Training Session Start March 1, 2010

The Environmental and Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program (formerly the Worker Training Carpenter's Pre-Apprenticeship Program) graduated 20 new environmental and construction pre-apprentices in January. This is the first class to receive the program's new Introduction to Green Building Awareness and Hands-on Whole House Weatherization training over and above the programs core construction, environmental remediation, and life skills curriculum. The new green curriculum was added to training in order to prepare unemployed, underemployed, and displaced New Orleanians for an-

ticipated increases in green building jobs being created through President Obama's economic stimulus package. Graduates are also prepared to work in general construction and environmental remediation. Graduates received certifications in Hazardous Waste Worker (OSHA-40), General Construction Safety (OSHA-30),

Scaffold Erection, Adult First-Aid and CPR. Additionally graduates received on-the-job, trade show carpentry training and shop training in basic carpentry.

Applications for the program are available now for 25 slots in the class that begins March 1, 2010. Applicants must be at least

18 years of age, unemployed or underemployed, and have a 10th grade education. Upon completion, graduates will receive job placement assistance and the opportunity to continue upgrading their trade skills training in order to advance their careers in the construction industry. For more information, please visit the website: [www.ecpapro.com](http://www.ecpapro.com) or call (504) 208-9561.

Attending the Environmental & Construction Pre-Apprenticeship program including the green building and hands-on weatherization is provided free to the trainee due to funding provided by the National Institute of Environ-

mental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to CPWR - the Center for Construction Research and Training, (CPWR) Minority Worker Training Consortium.

The Environmental and Construction Pre-Apprenticeship trained and placed approximately 400 New Orleans residents in the construction and environmental industries since 1996. After hurricane Katrina, CPWR utilized supplementary funding to train and additional 300 workers to work safely in environmental cleanup jobs created as a consequence of the hurricane's devastating environmental impact in New Orleans.

Last year 25 pre-apprenticeships completed general construction training and were certified in hazardous waste worker and asbestos abatement. Eighty percent of graduates were placed in jobs with the majority accepting in entry-level positions through the local carpenter's union. Graduates are on a career path and continue to upgrade their skills through the carpenter's apprenticeship program. Apprenticeship allows them to work and concurrently continue training through the journeyman level. Salaries increase every six months as they accrue work hours and upgrade their construction skills set.



**JON JOHNSON**  
Council District E



**United for Jon Johnson.  
United for District E.**

**Jerrela Drummer-Sanders, Cyndi Nguyen,  
Leonard Lucas, Jr., and Alicia Plummer all  
agree there's no one better to get the job  
done for District E than Jon Johnson.**

**Vote Jon Johnson #54 on March 6th**

**[www.votejonjohnson.com](http://www.votejonjohnson.com)**

## Dillard, Lsu And National Cancer Institute Partner To Offer Clinical Research Associate Training To Health Care Professionals

Minority Participation in Clinical Trial Settings Should Increase

NEW ORLEANS AGENDA, News Report, Staff - Dillard's School of Nursing, in collaboration with the LSU-Health Science Center and the National Cancer Institute, will soon offer Clinical Research Associate (CRA) certification for area health care professionals. The training and certification, initially offered to Dillard Nursing Students, will eventually be offered to a variety of health care practitioners.

According to Dr. Betty Dennis, Dillard's Dean of Nursing, the goal of the project is to provide in-depth training to prepare nurses to work in clinical trial settings as certified research associates. "Minority citizens are vastly underrepresented in clinical trials and medical studies," said Dennis. "By improving diversity among clinicians helping to administer medical studies and trials, we will improve minority representation among participants. As a result, the depth of findings and their implications for minorities can

be examined more closely," she said.

There are only a handful of institutions offering this level of training across the nation. Dillard's program will train 20 individuals each of the first two years through NCI funding. The CRA initiative is a part of a recent \$500,000 National Cancer Institute Stimulus Research Grant shared by LSU-HSC and Dillard.

Dr. John Estrada, who serves as LSU-HSC's principal investigator on this project, says the other component of this grant project is to further ongoing cancer research and clinical trials being conducted by LSU-HSC researchers. "The partnership with Dillard's School of Nursing will prove to be very strategic for both institutions," Estrada said.

Training begins later this spring and will certify Clinical Research Associates over the next two years.

For additional information, or for an interview with Dr. Betty Dennis, contact Maria Mercedes Tio at (504) 816-4620.





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