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New Orleans

# Data

## News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

### Elliot Luv Musical Powerhouse

### Data Zone Page 5

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# Mr. Richmond Goes to Washington

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# Mr. Richmond Goes to Washington



Congressman Cedric Richmond gives his acceptance speech as the newly elected member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 2nd Congressional District.

By Edwin Buggage  
Photos by Glenn Summers and Larry Panna

## Big Victory for Richmond

On a night where many Democrats were defeated in congressional races, the race for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District told another story. State Representative Cedric Richmond, a Democrat, handily defeated Republican incumbent Joseph Cao by a 63 to 35 percent margin due to a heavy Black turnout. During an election that at times became heated and personal Richmond came out the victor.

Surrounded by throngs of family, friends and supporters Richmond said, "The journey to rebuilding we have had progress but there are miles to go before I sleep and promises to keep." He also talked about a host of other problems such as education and the economy and vowed to go to Washington and fight for the people of the Second District. During his speech he gave a special thanks to President Barack Obama, who made his one and only campaign commercial in support of Richmond.

*Cover Story, Continued on next page.*

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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L to R Data News Weekly Publisher, Congressman Richmond and Campaign Communications Director Tanzie Jones



Senator Mary Landrieu and Rev. & Mrs. Tom Watson congratulate Congressman Cedric Richmond



Congressman Richmond greets supporters at his victory celebration



Congressman Richmond and his mother Mrs. Maple Richmond

## The Morning After: Shop Talk

The one place you can always get a pulse on what happens in the Black community is the barber and beauty shops. On this morning it is no exception. Inside of Mr. Chill's Barbershop there is a lively discussion going on about the race and what Richmond's Agenda should be moving forward. "I don't think this victory is so much about Richmond, it is more about continuing a legacy of Black leadership, and it's important that we stay visible in the electoral process and be in positions to have our voices heard," says Wilbert "Chill" Wilson. "Further I think it is important that we support Cedric because he is the best person to support the Obama agenda and the needs of the district."

Micah Boyd, his young assistant sits behind the glass counter. A recent graduate of Jesuit High School and new voter with wisdom beyond his years chimes in, "I think that Black leadership is important today, but it is as important that the leadership reflects the needs of their constituents so I hope he goes there with the needs of the voters in mind." The issues that young people face is paramount, a fact not lost on Boyd, "If I had to say what are the most important things facing the district for young people they would be education and jobs." He further remarks, "We need to diversify the economy and grow it or you will continue to have young educated people having to leave

the city for opportunities elsewhere."

Also engaged shop talk is Craig Stewart, a local business owner, who does education and motivational workshops and is the Community Outreach Coordinator for Walk-A-Mile for A Child, an organization founded by Wilson to assist the community in efforts centered on education. Known inside the barbershop as a "realist cynic" "There's not a lot that's going to change because much of the problems are systematic in government, but with all the things we have going on after Katrina we have to hold our leaders to a higher standard," says Stewart. "We have to remind him that it is about our agenda and the things the district needs which is more economic opportunities that can grow and diversify the economy with decent paying jobs and take the things we have and utilize them more effectively." "And that his voice must be heard as an advocate for getting us some of the things we need to rebuild the district and for it to prosper."

While he understands that race has played a vital part and become a wedge issue post-Katrina and in the age of Obama he recognizes that it is important to have Black representation. "As one of his contemporaries I believe that it is still importantly for young Black men to be able to see someone like Cedric or any young Black man doing positive things that gives them something to aspire to," says Stewart.

## A Voice from the Community Speaks Out

Part of Richmond's platform and campaign strategy was to appeal to women voters, by talking about the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and wearing a Breast Cancer Awareness month lapel pin. Gwen Richardson, a woman who has spent over three decades working as an advocate on the part of women and children says of Richmond. "I don't know if he has or not, but I think he should take the time out to sit and listen to women's groups about issues of women and children and bring some of those things to the forefront of his agenda."

She cites as an example the growing abuse of woman and children after Hurricane Katrina and the growing problems in the areas of mental health and access to services. "A lot of people are depressed after losing everything, and while they're trying to rebuild their houses there are funds available for these things, but there are not enough services for disenfranchised people that need help for things such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological problems that are a direct result of Hurricane Katrina." "I feel this is an issue that has not been given the attention and the resources that are needed and I hope that Mr. Richmond can look into how to better help with this problem because it is an important part in people rebuilding their lives."

## Louisiana Congressional District 2 Moving Forward

Congressman-Elect Richmond will soon be headed to the Nation's Capitol as only the second African-American of the modern period from the State of Louisiana. Today as the racial landscape changes in the city and the nation sometimes causing miscommunications that are barriers. It is time to build bridges of understanding. It is important that the citizens of District 2 come together in the spirit of the common things all of the citizens want and long for. Better schools, a more robust and diverse economy, first-class levee protection, hospitals, lack of crime and a better quality of life for all of its citizens.

Today with the election of Cedric Richmond it is not the end but the beginning of a new era in politics. These next two years will be a test of President Obama and his administration; and on November 2nd he received an ally in Richmond to push his agenda. While this is a victory for Richmond and his campaign team, it must be noted that public servants are elected by the people, and in this victory it is symbolic of a city that decided to vote for change. Hopefully, it is change for the better, but only time and history will be the judge of Mr. Richmond and his tenure on Capitol Hill.

# Advocacy Groups File Federal Lawsuit in New Orleans Against Louisiana Department of Education

The Louisiana Department of Education recently acknowledged the well-documented barriers facing students with disabilities in New Orleans.

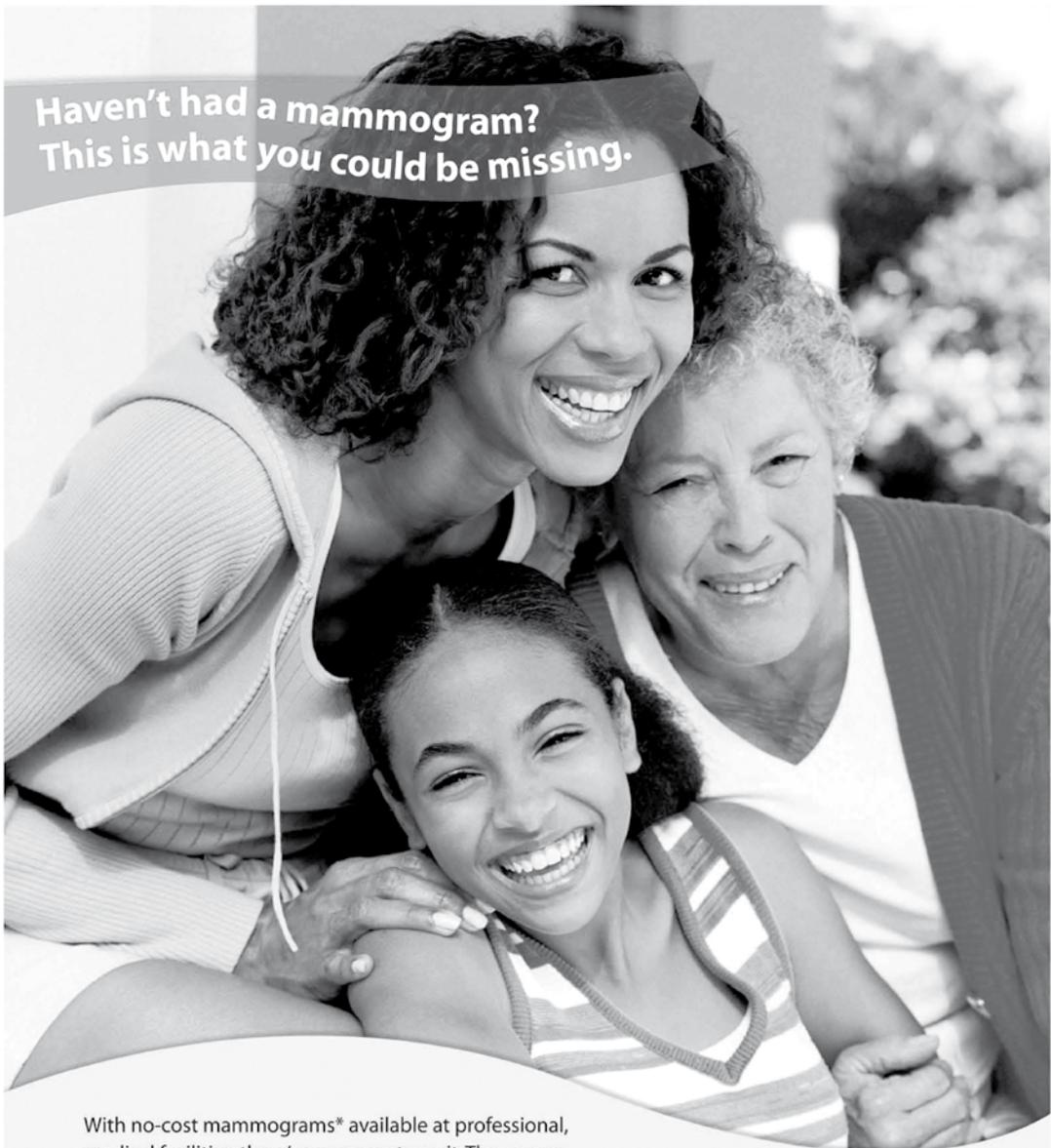
The Southern Poverty Law Center, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Community Justice section of the Loyola Law Clinic in New Orleans, and the Southern Disability Law Center filed a federal civil rights lawsuit today against the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) on behalf of all New Orleans students with special needs.

The lawsuit details LDE's systemic failures to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to educational services and are protected from discrimi-

nation.

"The Louisiana Department of Education recently acknowledged the well-documented barriers facing students with disabilities in New Orleans. This acknowledgment is heartening and gives us hope that we can collaborate to immediately address the urgent crisis facing New Orleans students with disabilities," said Eden Heilman, Lead Attorney on the case for the SPLC.

In late July, lawyers for the students filed a complaint with the LDE on behalf of students who have either been completely denied enrollment as a result of their disability or forced to attend schools ill-equipped to accommodate their disabilities in violation



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of federal law. The complaint was an effort to work collaboratively with the state to craft a solution that would ensure all students have equal access to educational services.

The collaborative process stalled while students with disabilities continued their struggle to enroll in school and access the services to which they are entitled. As a result, it was necessary to file today's lawsuit.

"Equal access to quality education is a civil right of all children, including those with disabilities," said Brenda Shum, Senior Counsel, Educational Opportunities Project, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "For too long, the Louisiana Department of Education has abdicated its legal and moral obligation to educate these students. This class-action lawsuit highlights the critical need for ongoing federal and state enforcement of special education and anti-discrimination laws. It represents a step in the right direction by demanding the state

respond to the wholesale failure of special education in New Orleans, which has denied educational opportunity to our most vulnerable children."

Lekisher Luckett, the mother of a plaintiff in this case, noted that these struggles take a toll on children. She said, "After being treated like a lost cause for years, Darren has come to believe that about himself. My 9-year old son is too young to give up on his education."

"The children of New Orleans have been through so much over the past five years. Unfortunately, while many have rebounded as their schools and communities have been rebuilt, the most vulnerable have too often been left to languish," said Davida Finger, Assistant Clinical Professor at Loyola University Law Clinic in New Orleans. "We hope the Louisiana Department of Education will demonstrate their commitment to these children by working with us to address and solve these issues."

CAN YOU SPOT THE ENERGY-SAVING BULB?



WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

# The Power In His Music Singer, Elliot Luv



Dionne Character, Author  
Entertainment Editor & Columnist

Singers are born every day, but when Elliot "Luv" Rousell came into the world, a musical sensation was created. He is his own evolution.

Elliot's CD entitled BLAQUE is full of love, sensual interludes, taking you on escapades of truth, knowledge, pas-

sion, the industry, and the love for what he does, as he pimps the music game with lyrics and piano riffs traced with Gospel cords of heartfelt rhythms, you can certainly feel when you hear Track 3, Only U.

His talent stems from a family of artists. His father, L.S. Tolbert and uncle, Lionel Tolbert, are prominent singers with roots in New Orleans. His grandfather, Cannon Jones was also a gospel singer, which explains the natural creative juices flowing through Elliot's veins.

Elliot Luv, has been on the scene over twelve years, reaching a variety of demographics. He is co-owner of an independent record label, R.E. Music Group. In February, 2006, he showcased his talent at the Apollo Theatre in New York with rapper Jack Spratt to salute New Orleans with a Hurricane "Katrina" anthem. He won the Mor-



Singer Elliot Luv will be releasing his new project, Soucial Engineering, which will be available in stores and online

Data News Weekly

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ris Brown College talent show in Atlanta, GA, performing an original song, Love Kisses. He has produced an assortment of mix tapes, including R&B City, Vol. I and the popular, "Song in Da Trash Can". He has performed at The House of Blues, Howling Wolf, Lava Lounge, Ray's Boom Boom Room, Hookah Café, and a host of places throughout the City of New Orleans and abroad.

I had the chance to check out Elliot Luv perform at The Republic on South Peters and witnessed for myself, a young, Marvin Gaye with a John Legend twist of Hip-Hop and R&B. He is clearly ahead of his time, when it comes to his generation of

singers. Elliot's soulful sound takes you back to the days of CANAL STREET, the title of his debuted single. The good old days when things were simple in a City where the world would not exist without the music we create. The days we once stepped off the street car, falling in love.

Come January 4, 2011, Elliot Luv will be releasing his new project, Soucial Engineering, which will be available in stores and online. The power of Elliot's music is "Truth." Check out [www.remusicgroup.com/elcs](http://www.remusicgroup.com/elcs) for more information.

Dionne Character can be reached at [dasolediva@yahoo.com](mailto:dasolediva@yahoo.com)

# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Data Around Town

Halloween came to the Crescent City and all the usual suspects were out for Trick or Treating, great costumes and great fun, and Data was there!



## Candice Bates Anderson Sworn In

Newly elected Juvenile Court Judge Candice Bates Anderson took her oath of office and celebrated her victorious campaign among friends, family and community members and Data was there!





*"My family's been fishing for eight generations. It's just a way of life. That's why we've got to get this cleaned up."*

*Pete Floyd  
Commercial Fisherman,  
Pascagoula, Mississippi*

## Making This Right

Beaches

Claims

Cleanup

**Economic Investment**

**Environmental  
Restoration**

Health and Safety

Wildlife

When the spill hit, a lot of people said it would be the end. BP said they would try to make this right. But how was an energy company going to help a fisherman?

### **Putting People to Work**

The first thing they did was rent my boat and hire me to help with the cleanup. They made up my losses so I could pay my bills. And they worked with all kinds of people here from fishermen and shrimpers to restaurant owners. It helped us keep our businesses open. And it helped us make ends meet so we could support our families.

### **Staying for the Long Haul**

When they capped the well in July and finally killed it, we were all relieved. But would BP stick around? Well, they did. The beaches are clean and we're back on the water fishing so things are getting a whole lot better. They are still here and have said they will keep working for as long as it takes.

### **Getting Back to Normal**

BP asked me to share my story with you to keep you informed. If you still need help, please call 1-866-448-5816 or go to bp.com. If you're wondering what you can do, well – the next time you're shopping, buy a little Gulf seafood. There is none finer.

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[louisianagulfresponse.com](http://louisianagulfresponse.com)



# Clean Haiti's Water



**Judge Greg Mathis**  
NNPA Columnist

## Mathis' Mind

Shortly after the New Year began, Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people and left more than one million homeless. The promise of help came from around the world: individuals donated what they could and richer nations, including our own, pledged millions of dollars in support.

Unfortunately, a significant number of those commitments have not been met. As the anniversary of the earthquake approaches, Haiti is still a broken country. To make matters worse, the tiny nation is battling a disease outbreak that, under better conditions, would be simple to treat.

Cases of cholera began popping up in rural Haiti in early October. Cholera is a disease that causes intestinal distress in its

victims: vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pain. These symptoms can lead to dehydration; if not treated, an infected person could die. And, that's just what's been happening in Haiti. To date, there have been more than 3,000 cases of the disease and more than 250 deaths.

Cholera is primarily spread through contaminated drinking water. In wealthier countries, water is treated and the bacteria that cause the disease are killed. Haiti hasn't had a cholera outbreak in more than 100 years; medical professionals are unsure of what brought this on. One thing is for certain: the nation's medical system was weakened by the quake and health officials are having a hard time battling the disease.

With experts worried that the disease may soon spread to nearby Dominican Republic, it's critical that the international pledged community makes good on its promises of support to Haiti. Current funding for Haiti should be redirected and used to build filtration centers, so that individuals there are guaranteed clean drinking water. Additionally, money should be spent on cholera vaccines and medical outreach so that those who have not been infected don't get infected.

While it's important any nation in a position to do so help Haiti get back on its feet – and put the country in a position to prosper – the immediate focus should not be on rebuilding infrastructure, but on preserving life.



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Rethink Possible



## DOTD announces Judge Seeber (Claiborne) Bridge closures for Spring 2011 to avoid Holiday Season

In an effort to lessen the impact during the holiday season, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) announced that it will begin repairs to the Judge Seeber Bridge, also known as the Claiborne Bridge, starting in Spring 2011.

The newly revised work schedule was a collaborative effort between the DOTD, the United States Coast Guard (USCG), local officials, the community and contractor, Boh Bros. It will require

a seven week closure and will begin in early April. The work is projected to be completed prior to the beginning of hurricane season, which is June 1, 2011.

"I am pleased that the State DOTD has worked diligently with our citizens, the Coast Guard and others to develop a new construction schedule that will lessen the impact to the daily routine of area residents during the holiday season," said Rep. Nita Hutter (Chalmette), who chairs the House Transportation, Highways and

Public Works Committee.

Work performed will involve replacing the steel grid deck, replacing the steel beams that support the grid deck and other items that can be done at the same time. Prior to Spring, closures of the bridge to both navigational and vehicular traffic will be necessary for 2-3 day periods to allow for the adjustment and re-tensioning of the bridge lifting cables that were installed under the previous phase of the project. Final dates for these closures have not been

determined; however, the desired timeframe is the first part of the new year. Public meetings will be held to update the community prior to announcing any closures. Currently, the DOTD is working out details with the USCG to accommodate and minimize impacts to the navigation industry.

"The overall objective was to come up with a schedule that was in the best interest of the citizens that utilize the Claiborne Bridge the most - those in the Lower Ninth Ward and portions of St.

Bernard Parish," said Michael Stack, DOTD District 02 Administrator. "The revised plan allows us to deliver the best project with the least amount of impact." Rep. Charmaine Marchand-Stiaes believes that the much-needed repairs to the bridge, which is a primary thoroughfare for the majority of her constituents, will help improve the quality of life for area commuters and stated, "This is the right thing to do for the community."

## Republican Health Care Reform Repeal Impact on Blacks

### NNPA Newswire

Promises by House Republicans to overturn health care reform measures passed earlier this year would disproportionately affect the Black community, according to one prominent health care expert.

One central proposal of the current Republican agenda, called the "Pledge to America," would repeal the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act, the comprehensive health care reform bill passed by Congress and signed into law earlier this year. Republicans seek to replace the law with less sweeping measures.

A successful attempt to overturn health care reform would end the African-American community's chances of addressing long-running health care disparities, said Dr. Lesley Russell, a visiting fellow specializing in health care for the left-leaning public policy think tank Center for American Progress.

Russell believes that, if implemented, the pledge would fail to improve access to health insurance coverage for African-Americans and would ensure that

Blacks continue to receive poorer care and live in poorer health than the rest of the nation.

"The people who stand to gain the most from health care reform would lose the most," Russell told the AFRO. "We've learned that the African-American community has less access to health care services, although they've been helped by government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. But, people who don't qualify for those programs struggle to buy health care for themselves and their families because their average incomes are considerably less than the average American family."

The "Pledge to America" would repeal most of the president's health care reforms and replace them with other general measures that would lower costs for families and small businesses and strengthen the doctor-patient relationship. But, the Pledge fails to provide specifics about what Republicans would do to control health care spending, improve its quality, or pay for reforms, according to Russell.



**Tyler, age 16.**  
Needs help with math.  
Needs help with science.

**Needs help with Jordan, age 2.**

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## Local Principal Receives Grant to Champion Creativity in Schools

Jacqueline Daniilidis is one of 20 elementary and middle school principals from across the nation who has been selected by Crayola and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) to receive a "Champion Creatively Alive Children" school grant. Daniilidis is Principal of Estelle Elementary in Marrero, Louisiana. Crayola and NAESP together selected 20 schools to receive the grants, which will fund innovative programs aimed at fostering children's critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills.

The Champion Creatively Alive Children grants are intended to help principals explore new ways to nurture children's creativity and inspire other principals to do the same. Each school received a \$2,500 monetary grant and \$500 worth of Crayola products. Recipients will share outcomes from their programs via NAESP's website in order to help other principals develop promising practices related to arts education.

Daniilidis plans to implement a program at Estelle Elementary that will require students to study the Louisiana eco-system and the impact of the oil spill and Katrina

on our homes, habitats, and livelihoods. Students will create a mural that reflects key learnings of the impact human error and nature have had on wildlife and generate an advocacy campaign that integrates art, science and civics education. "The oil spill and the significant loss of the Louisiana coastline has a profound effect on our way of life. As an adult I understand feeling powerless over forces beyond my control, but our students feel helpless and we want to help empower our students to address these very serious issues" says Daniilidis.

## N.O. Charter Science & Mathematics High School Accepting Applications

Beginning January 17th through April 1st 2011 applications will be accepted for grades 9th-12th at The New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School for the 2011-2012 school year. Sci High is hosting an Open House for prospective students which will be held on November 17, 2010 from 6 - 7:30 PM. at 5625 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA

ALL eligible applicants who wish to apply to The New Orleans

Charter Science and Mathematics High School must submit a completed enrollment application along with copies of requested documentations. The applicant must be an Orleans Parish resident.

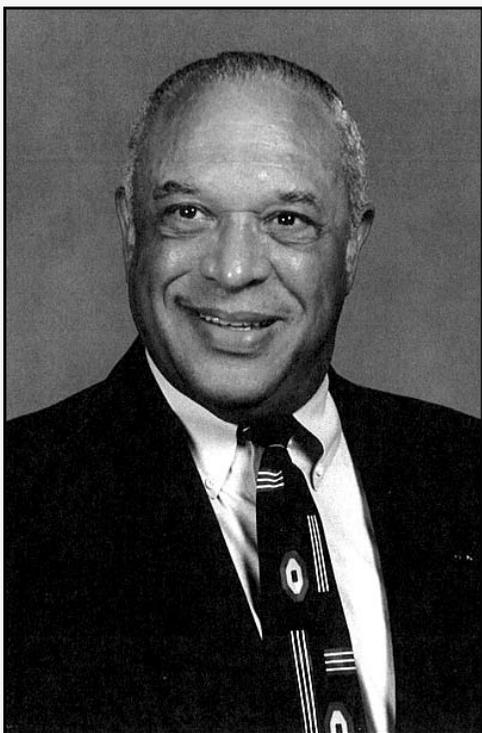
To schedule an appointment, visit the school, or any other admissions questions, please contact the front office at (504) 324-7061.

SciHigh is an open admissions, academically rigorous, free charter high school.

## Dr. Everett J. Williams Named 2010 Pope John Paul II Award Recipient

Research on Reforms Board Member, Dr. Everett J. Williams, will receive the 2010 Pope John Paul II Award at the Annual Dinner of the Catholic Foundation.

The Award, established in 1996, recognizes the stewardship exhibited by a Catholic layperson of high moral character and exemplary values, who has rendered unselfish community and volunteer faith-based service.



Dr. Williams was the first African-American Superintendent of New Orleans Parish Public Schools, where he served with distinction and success. He has since been involved in several community activities, and serves on numerous boards, including, Catholic Charities, Catholic Foundation, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Xavier University, Notre Dame Seminary, Holy Rosary Academy and St. Joseph Seminary College

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# Youth Can Change the World

Young People Inspired Audience with Exemplary Leadership in Six Areas at the 3rd Annual Dinner

There is only one word to describe the 3rd Annual Youth Change Awards Dinner that took place on Saturday, October 16th, at Tulane University. That word is inspiring. At the fundraiser, youth between the ages of 7 and 25, were recognized for awe inspiring leadership in the areas of environmental activism, communications and media arts, entrepreneurship and community service initiatives in the Gulf South region. All 25 finalists received a gold medallion on a red, white & blue ribbon. The six Change Maker recipients were presented with a beautiful 8x10 Mahogany Finish Plaque with the Gulf South Youth Action Fund (GYAF) logo set in a medallion holder. Also, \$500 will be donated to a charity or non-profit organization of the recipient's choice.

The youth-focused celebratory event was well attended with guests representing almost every age category, racial group and socio-economic make up. Members of the GYAF Advisory Board, middle and high school students, served as the Masters of Ceremony and Host of the dinner.

Award-winning youth-led initiatives included 11-year old Tanner Brown who, after experiencing the loss of his grandmother to cancer, raised nearly \$6,000 for the American Cancer Society. Brown received the Rising Change Maker Award which recognizes a young person in second through fifth grade for outstanding community leadership. Brown is from Citronelle, Ala.

New Orleanian, Briana O'Neal, 20, received the Youth Ally/Advisor Change Maker Award. O'Neal became disgruntled with the poor education she was receiving and dropped out of school. Soon her dissatisfaction turned to activism. O'Neal started YASS (Young Adults Striving for Success) where she fights to improve a broken educational system, and she went on to receive her GED. She travels to human rights conferences and social justice organizations around the world. The Youth Ally/Advisor Change Maker Award recognizes a young adult leading the way in his/her community.

The Going Green Change Maker Award recipient was Robreyon Bowman, 19, a college sophomore from Shreveport, La. Bowman became so determined to fight the petrochemical plant in his hometown that he switched colleges to be closer to his home. He worked with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency to compile toxic release reports and went back into his community to train his neighbors and family members on how to conduct grassroots air sampling. The Going Green Change Maker Award recognizes a young person who is leading the way in environmental activism.

New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts student Doyle Cooper, 17, received the Creative Arts/Communications Change Maker Award for donating his time and talent to teach other young people the trumpet. Cooper also has been widely recognized for his love and perpetuation of early jazz and the traditions that accompany this music form. The Creative Arts/Communications Change Maker Award honors a young person leading the way in the field of media, the arts or communications.

The oil spill in the Gulf last spring propelled Baton Rouge native Rory McCracken, 12, into action. McCracken, who won the Service Leader Change Maker Award, took a personal interest in the animals that were affected. He set up a website where he sold T-shirts that he had designed. He used the site as an educational tool, teaching visitors about the Gulf of Mexico and the incredible animals that call it home. All proceeds McCracken raised were donated to the Audubon Institute. The Service Leader Change Maker Award recognizes a young person who is advancing social causes through entrepreneurial innovations.

The Collaborative Change Maker Award honors a group or organization comprised entirely of youth 18 years old and younger for outstanding work in their community. Grace, Sharon and Erik Li Huang, siblings from Houston, Texas, received the award. The siblings founded the "We Care Act" which sent items to victims of devastating earthquakes in



Dr. Keyshun Webster congratulates 11-year old Tanner Brown who received the Rising Change Maker Award for outstanding community leadership

the United States and around the globe.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu began the program by offering encouraging words to the 25 honorees. Keynote speaker Julia Sewell, 22,

from Detroit, Mich., performed two spoken word pieces about youth voice, the achievement gap, and service-learning. Sewell is the CEO and Founding President of the organization, Empowering

the Multitude through Promoting Inspiring, Real Educators (E.M.P.I.R.E.), an organization that provides an opportunity for young leaders of the social change movement to serve their communities through the art of speaking and performing.

The Youth Change Awards Dinner is a part of the Youth Change Campaign designed to raise funds to support youth-led and youth-driven initiatives that demonstrate the power of youth motivated to create change in the Greater New Orleans community. The money raised will go back into the GYAF, a year-round program in which a select group of middle and high school students develop leadership skills through philanthropy. Since its inception, members of the GYAF's Youth Advisory Board have made more than \$30,000 in grants to support youth-led, youth-driven projects across the region.

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## Position Available

### Office Manager

Data News Weekly is looking for an experienced office manager to handle operations at our publication. Duties include, correspondence, answering phones and assisting customers, appointment scheduling, and assisting publisher. Experienced in Microsoft Office Applications, customer service and good office skills are a must.

Please email your resume and salary history to: [datanewsad@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewsad@bellsouth.net). Deadline for submission is Friday, November 12, 2010. Please no phone calls.

## New Faithful.

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