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Forward Together:
The Making of “Herstory”

*New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell
Speaks to Data News Weekly*



“We have the ability to think of our people, thinking holistically and meeting them where they are and focusing on youth and families as a whole. Not leading with an ego, but leading with empathy and compassion,” says Mayor Cantrell. (photo by Anne Flanagan, for WAPO.com)

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

**Making “Herstory” the Story
of Mayor LaToya Cantrell**

Throughout her years in this city, LaToya Cantrell has shown great courage, resilience and selflessness. She’s risen to the occasion, helping to save her community post-Katrina as a leader in

her Broadmoor Community which was slated to become green space. Later, she won against better funded candidates to become the Representative of City Council District B. And with her latest triumph, she emerged victorious in a crowded field of nearly 20 candidates. And today, she is making history by becoming the first woman to serve as Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell has come a long way from being a young girl arriving in New Orleans from Los

Angeles, California, riding the St. Charles streetcar then transferring to the Louisiana bus to attend Xavier University. During those daily rides she saw the multitude of inequities within the city and developed a passion for helping the underdog and fighting the righteous fight; further nurturing the seed that was planted in her by her maternal grandmother. This has become her life’s purpose and she has taken this spirit into City Hall.

Now, her goal as Mayor, is to attempt to build

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those bridges of understanding and reconciliation, in addition to empowering the powerless. On this hot day in July we enter City Hall to interview Madam Mayor on day 72 of her administration. It is Data News Weekly's Publisher Terry Jones, our photographer Kichea Burt and myself who enter the office and are greeted by The Mayor who is sitting at her desk, staring into a laptop computer. She is dressed summer chic in a seersucker suit and pink blouse. We have interviewed her many times throughout her career, so there is a familiarity as she gets up to greet us and to speak about her vision for the city and initiatives they are working on.

A New Approach to Leadership

In the nearly three decades she's lived in the New Orleans, she's become a true New Orleansian in every way. She exudes a spirit that is warm, welcoming and engaging in her interactions with people. She seems to truly enjoy people and care about their welfare and in a larger sense, that all people matter regardless of their zip codes.

Speaking of her time in office, Mayor Cantrell says she has a larger vision, her approach is to look at the big picture and take a holistic approach to solving problems the city faces. "It is going well; it is day 72 we have spent a lot of time working on things we inherited and looking for solutions," says Cantrell engaging myself and Publisher Terry Jones.

"We are prioritizing spending on our infrastructure, so within 3 weeks of our administration, we were able to allocate \$11.9 million in the Pontilly area in Gentilly as well as Mid-City that are damaged due to flooding from rain water," she says indicating the importance of this issue as we are in the middle of Hurricane season.

Since Hurricane Katrina and even more recently, there are still problems at the Sewage and Water Board, flooding as well as the city's infrastructure. Cantrell feels that these problems must be dealt with in new and innovative ways, "We have been assessing the situation as it relates to the Sewage and Water Board. Also, we are really embracing infrastructure as not being one dimensional but multi-dimensional."

Continuing she remarks, "Of course we must address the issues with sewers and drainage, but it is also the streets. We must begin to think about them and then we will implement creative solutions to collect rain water on both public and private property. We have to



Mayor LaToya Cantrell discusses her vision for the City of New Orleans with Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones (seated left) and Editor Edwin Buggage. (seated right) (photo by Kichea S. Burt for Data News Weekly)



LaToya Cantrell is making history as the first woman Mayor of the City of New Orleans. Mayor Cantrell believes that inclusion is essential to creating solutions to inequality in the city. (File Photo)

slow it up and it can prevent flooding in areas because rainwater if not captured properly becomes someone else's flood water." Her voice suddenly lowers in tone and pitch, filling with compassion and care she says, "One of the lessons we know, is that we live in a city that floods, so we need to think in multidimensional ways so that we can protect our people and property."

The Essence of Leadership: Building Partnerships and Leading with Empathy and Compassion

The Essence Music Festival recently came to the Crescent City bringing in 510,000 people to the city and 250 million dollars in economic impact. This year was the first year with Cantrell captaining the ship, and the fest seemed to have a renewed vigor and a level

of engagement between the city and the festival like never before.

The Mayor was part of a panel with other women mayors from across the country and was interviewed by NBC's Lester Holt. Reflecting on these historic times for women she says, "It was a great opportunity having been at all 24 of them and being an African-American woman," she says pausing for a moment measuring her statement for impact. "I tell you being mayor of the city at the time of Essence was really empowering. I had the opportunity to invite over 10 of my sister mayors throughout the country. We hosted them right here in the City of New Orleans and we were able to have a panel where we just acknowledged what our leadership means to be a Black women over urban cities."

Mayor Cantrell notes that there

is a need for cities to partner with other municipalities using their synergy to build greater capacity and grow the collective economic pie. "The reality is there are challenges with getting federal funds to address all the issues in a city, so I believe the solution lies in building partnerships with our neighboring cities and that has to be a priority. And that is something we were focused on in our panel Also, how this surge of women and Black women at the stage our country is in and of itself empowering." Shifting gears, she goes into what she calls her win-win approach to shaping public policy, "We have the ability to think of our people, thinking holistically and meeting them where they are and focusing on youth and families as a whole. Not leading with an ego but leading with empathy and compassion and it

seems the common denominator on the stage and in the room with my sister mayors."

Making Black Dollars Make Sense

Black women are making strides in unprecedented ways. In the "State of Woman-Owned Business Report" published in 2015, it stated that Black Women were the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs; leading the way in numbers and growth. Hence, Essence being a brand dedicated to women have been able to bring opportunities for African-Americans business owners to benefit. Additionally, under new ownership Essence owner Richelieu Dennis has launched New Voices Fund, which is a 100-million-dollar investment fund aimed to pump capital into businesses owned by minorities.

This is an important development as the City of New Orleans is in the beginning stages of renegotiating its contract with Essence that expires in 2019. For this is not only an opportunity to continue to be aligned with a festival that fuels a quarter of a billion dollars into the local economy, but also provide additional opportunities to local entrepreneurs.

A point not missed by Mayor Cantrell, who is on the frontline engaging in keeping the festival in New Orleans. "We are hitting the ground running to keep the partnership going to benefit the city, our citizens and our local Black owned businesses. It was started here, it grew here, and it's been developed and reached its highest heights right here in New Orleans. The 25th Anniversary is next year, and we are so excited about planning it. There is no reason I believe they will not want to continue this relationship. They have indicated there is no better place in the world to host this event. It has become the largest music festival for African-Americans in this country. We saw some of our businesses see a large boom because it was a deliberate effort and being intentional in directing visitors to these establishments. It was a step in the right direction and we will continue that path."

All People Matter: Inclusion and Equity Essential to New Orleans Having a Successful Future

New Orleans has been a tale of two cities both pre and post Katrina. 13 years after the storm, it remains 60% African-American with 44% of working age Black

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Emmett Till Murder to Be Reopened and Investigated by the Justice Department

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The U.S. Department of Justice has once again reopened the infamous Emmett Till case. The 1955 murder case was a major turning point in the Civil Rights Movement and one of the most notorious murders in United States history.

In August 28, 1955, Emmett Till, who was 14, was murdered in the town of Money, Mississippi by Roy Bryant and his half-brother J.W. Milam after Bryant's wife Carolyn alleged that Till whistled at her and groped her. Bryant and Milam abducted Emmett Till from the home of his great-uncle, beat him, shot him in the head and dumped his body in the Tallahatchie River. Till's body was weighted down by a cast iron cotton gin pulley. Three days later



PHOTO CAPTION: The Justice Department recently reopened the 1955 Emmett Till case. (Wikimedia Commons)

CNN.com reported that, "Several interested parties' asked the Justice Department in 2004 whether any surviving suspects could be prosecuted."

At the time the Justice Department determined that the statute of limitations prevented any federal prosecution, according to CNN.com.

"Three years later, a Mississippi grand jury declined to issue new charges," CNN.com reported.

Many have speculated that the reopening of Emmett Till's death by the Justice Department is related to last year's publication of the book "The Blood of Emmett Till," by author Tim Tyson. Tyson's book revealed that Bryant's ex-wife, Carolyn Bryant Donham admitted in 2008 that she lied when she claimed Till whistled at her, a tale she would later tell her husband that set off a chain of events leading to Till's murder.

In 1955 Carolyn Bryant Donham was 21 year-old former beauty queen; now, she's more than 80 year-old and living in North Carolina.

The original casket of Emmett Till was donated to the Smithsonian Institution and is now displayed at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"The story of Emmett Till is one of the most important of the last half of the 20th century. And an important element was the casket," said Lonnie Bunch, the director of NMAAHC, in a 2009 interview with The Washington Post. "It is an object that allows us to tell the story, to feel the pain and understand loss."

Bunch continued: "I want people to feel like I did. I want people to feel the complexity of emotions."

This article was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist, political analyst and contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. You can reach Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.


his corpse was recovered from the river.

Till's body was sent to his mother, Mamie Carthan Till, in Chicago. She demanded that her son would have an open casket funeral. The decision would lead to worldwide press attention after hundreds of attendees were given full view of Till's mutilated corpse. The Black Press, led by Jet magazine, widely covered Till's murder, featuring several jarring photos.

In a Justice Department statement on July 13, the reason given for reopening the Till investigation was related to, "receiving new information." However, the Justice Department did not detail exactly what the new information was. According to USA Today, the decision was revealed to Congress in a February report, but it is unclear what the Justice Department is prepared to act on.

In September 1955, Bryant and Milam were acquitted by an all-White jury after less than 90 minutes of deliberation. Till's murderers later admitted to the crime in a 1956 interview for LOOK magazine.

Bryant died in 1994 and Milam died in 1980.



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The Opioid Crisis

By William Hill
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Opioid Addiction has become one of the greatest problems facing our nation, claiming as many as 120 lives each day. As part of a new "Justice & Mercy Initiatives" Program at Central St. Matthew UCC in New Orleans, on Saturday, May 12, 2018, the church held a forum on opioid addiction where members of the congregation and the community-at-large were invited to a breakfast presentation led by Special Agent Brian Singleton of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

A forty-minute DEA video entitled "Chasing the Dragon" explored the tragic lives of several opioid victims and revealed the real horrors of addiction. At the close of the video, Special Agent Singleton was joined by Trooper Troy Pichon of the Louisiana State Police Narcotics Bureau, United States Attorney's Office, Community Outreach Officer Quinn Smith, New Orleans FBI Community Outreach Officer Lory Chauvin and Odyssey House Outreach Coordinator Emily Loska. Each offered insight into the insidious nature of opioid addiction abuse and how law enforcement and recovery agencies are learning to work together to fight this



Pictured from left to right: Emily Loka, Odyssey House Outreach Officer, Bryan Singleton, DEA Special Agent, Trooper Troy Pichon, Louisiana State Police Narcotics Bureau, Lory Chauvin, FBI Outreach Officer, Quinn Smith - United States Attorney's Office Outreach Officer, Willard Hill, Jr. - Church Member, Rev. Philip K. Brockett, Pastor

growing epidemic.

Originally administered to relieve the pain suffered by patients afflicted with terminal diseases, opioids are now frequently prescribed by doctors for relief of chronic pain. The group learned that these are now recognized as incredibly addictive drugs which can destroy victims both physically and psychologically. That downward spiral often results in a long nightmare for the victim's family, friends, and commu-

nity, a nightmare which often ends in incarceration and death. The presenters explained that while society tends to criminalize addiction, our first response should be providing better access to treatment and rehabilitation.

HOW TO HELP

- You can save a life. Go to any pharmacy. Fill out the paperwork to obtain a dose of the overdose drug Naloxone to have on hand

if someone you know or someone in your community is at risk. See <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/4497>.

- You can report suspicious activity in your area to law enforcement. Ask specifically for the agency's Narcotics Division. Provide as many details as possible. See: <http://lsp.org/cid.html>
- Write to your local, state and federal representatives to demand better funding for treat-

ment of behavioral and addictive diseases.

- When in pain, ask medical professionals for treatment options OTHER than addictive opioid medications. If prescribed to you or a family member, make sure all the medication is accounted for, kept in a safe location and taken only as instructed by that physician.
- Support those who are in rehab or recovering.
- Call the national helpline 1-800-662-4357 or find a local NA meeting to attend if you need help.
- Visit <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/> to learn more.

Contact Special Agent Bryan Singleton of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to arrange for a showing of the video for your organization. Cell: 655-4662 or email him at nofd.recruiter@usdoj.gov.

The Justice & Mercy Initiatives at Central St. Matthew UCC will continue to identify and explore social topics to provide our citizens opportunities for education and action within our community and beyond. YOU are welcome to join us in this endeavor to help make a difference. Join our contact list! Upcoming events will be listed on our website at www.centralstmatthewucc.com, on Facebook and Twitter @CSMUCCnola, or call us at 504-861-8196.

City to Expand Recycling Drop-Off Program *Adds Second Drop-Off Day Each Month*

NEW ORLEANS – Due to increased demand, starting in August, 2018, the City of New Orleans Department of Sanitation will add another day each month to its Recycling Drop-Off Center schedule. The Recycling Drop-Off Center, located at 2829 Elysian Fields Ave., will be open on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

On the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, Orleans Parish residents can drop off paper products (newspapers, junk mail, phone books, catalogs, office paper and

color inserts); plastics #1 through #7 (water, soda, juice, detergent, plastic pots from nurseries, plastic bags, etc.); metals (aluminum, tin and steel cans); cardboard; box-board (cereal boxes); Mardi Gras beads; batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, 6-volt, 9-volt and Lithium); light bulbs (incandescent and fluorescent); electronics (computers, laptops, phones and televisions, limit 4); microwave ovens (limit 4); tires (limit 4); glass (limit 50 pounds.) and organics for composting (frozen fruit/vegetable scraps such as peels, skins, pits and seeds;

tea bags; coffee grounds; paper coffee filters; eggshells; nutshells; seed shells; plain bread; grains and plain pasta (no toppings, meat, bones, dairy or foods with oil).

Fall and Winter 2018 Drop-Off Schedule

AUG. 11, 2018 NOV. 10, 2018
AUG. 25, 2018 NOV. 24, 2018
SEPT. 8, 2018 DEC. 8, 2018 **
SEPT. 22, 2018 DEC. 22, 2018
OCT. 13, 2018 **
OCT. 27, 2018

** SHRED DAY. Limit 50 pounds

Companies that provide services free of charge as a service to the community:

Iron Mountain – paper shredding and recycling

CACRC – e-waste recycling

Republic Services – single-stream recycling

The Composting Network – composting

Since the City initiated a Recycling Drop-Off Center in August 2010, a total of 1,183 tons have been recycled. Since the current curbside recycling program began in May 2011, a total of 48,250 tons have been recycled. Properties that are eligible to receive solid waste collection by the City are also eligible to register to receive free recycling services.

For more information, please call 311 or visit nola.gov/sanitation/recycling

Tuskegee University's Dynamic Pitcher-Catcher Duo Participate in MLB's All-Star Futures Game

By Daja E. Henry and Ila Wilborn
NNPA DTU Journalism Fellows

Over 38,000 people watched from the stands Sunday in Washington D.C.'s Nationals Park as Tuskegee University pitcher Christian Marshall stepped up to the plate to throw the ceremonial first pitch of the 2018 SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game. Elgin Woodside, a catcher for Tuskegee's baseball team, assisted. Although the two were not yet prospects for the "Majors," they both have a stake in the future of baseball.

"Growing up as kids, playing baseball, everyone has that dream of going to the [pros]," Marshall said, as he explained the feeling of pitching in a game with Minor League Baseball's top prospects.

Woodside added: "Even though we never thought that moment would come to us, whenever we got in the moment, it didn't feel like we were out of place. It felt like we were meant to be there, and all our hard work was paying off and God just gave us our blessing."

As a part of the Major League Baseball's All-Star Week, the 2018 SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game is meant to shine a spotlight on budding baseball stars. At the 20-year mark, the exhibition game "features the top Minor League prospects competing in a nine-inning contest as part of All-Star Sunday," according to the league's official website.

Marshall and Woodside are pitcher and catcher of Tuskegee University's SIAC baseball team. The two bonded over baseball, however, long before they entered Tuskegee, in their hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana; both partici-



Elgin Woodside (left) and Christian Marshall (right) play catcher and pitcher for Tuskegee University's SIAC baseball team. The two bonded over baseball, here in their hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana where both participated in the New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy.

pated in the New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy.

"A lot of kids [in New Orleans] don't get the opportunities we got," Marshall said.

From 2005 up until June 2018, Louisiana was deemed the incarceration capital of the world. According to Ed-

Week, the state ranks 46th in K-12 achievement. Orleans Parish itself was named the most murderous county in 2017. Marshall and Woodside were determined not to become a part of those statistics.

The two are beginning their senior year at Tuskegee, both studying me-

chanical engineering. Marshall is interning this summer, testing parts for NASA in Pasadena, Calif. Woodside is assessing aerodynamics at Lockheed Martin in Stamford, Conn.

The two student athletes do not have much idle time.

"In the fall, even though we're not in season, we're still practicing," Marshall said as he described their daily schedules that begin with workouts as early as 5 A.M. The rigorous coursework and hectic baseball schedules keep the two utilizing the creative work ethic they acquired back home at the MLB Youth Academy.

Though they have a lot on their plate, there is a driving force pushing them to reach for further success.

"Whenever you get tired, you've got to have something in the back of your mind that you can tap into," Woodside said. "The things that I'm doing, it's a reflection of me, but it's also a reflection of something bigger." Woodside explained how he is building a future that will make his entire and future family proud.

Marshall and Woodside exist in a rare intersection for young, Black men. As of 2017, the MLB reported 7.7 percent African American or African Canadian players. According to 2010 Census data, African American men made up just 3 percent of scientists and engineers working in the field. Their very existence in this intersection is a statement of triumph over the lack of access to vital resources that often plagues young Blacks.

Data Zone, Continued on page 7.

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Data Zone, Continued from page 6.

While many African Americans get into basketball and football, it's just not as easy to get into baseball. The lack of equipment, facilities and role models make it difficult for young, Black men to expose themselves to the

can get more knowledge and just learn how things operate, then I feel like that'll be the key to overcoming any type of adversity there is at your workplace or in your life," Marshall said.

Their mechanical engineering playbook includes asking a lot of questions, staying engaged

shall, Elgin Woodside would not be the person that he is today," Woodside said. "Christian was always there to pick me up."

"When I'm on the mound and he's on the plate, especially when we catch our groove, it feels like we're unstoppable...

almost," Marshall said as he explained the natural chemistry that is critical in the makings of a great team.

Marshall continued: "We made the most of what we had at Tuskegee and I feel we made a major impact because of the

mentality we brought into the program."

Daja E. Henry (Howard University), Ila Wilborn (Florida A&M University) are 2018 NNPA Discover The Unexpected Journalism Fellows representing #TeamAuthentic. Follow their stories this summer at nnpa.org/dtu.



Christian Marshall (left) and Elgin Woodside are baseball teammates at Tuskegee University. Marshall and Woodside participated in the 2018 SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game. (Christian Marshall)

sport. While in football and basketball, children can just pick up a ball and practice, baseball requires highly, specialized equipment like gloves, bats and balls, which puts children from low-income families at a disadvantage.

Exposure is the main factor that separates Marshall and Woodside from their counterparts. Marshall's mother exposed him to baseball around six years-old. Woodside's father put him into tee-ball at three years-old. While participating in the Urban Youth Academy, they both gained a baseball role model in Eddie Davis, a Black resident of New Orleans, who played minor league baseball in the Los Angeles Dodgers' system.

Both expressed a level of difficulty finding mentors in engineering, as well. At times, they feel as if they are under a microscope. However, they remain humble, consistent and determined to overcome those obstacles.

"Knowledge is power. If you

and setting up lunch meetings to learn from people, who are in the positions they want to be in.

Tuskegee has been instrumental in creating a networking pipeline and served as a beneficial aspect of Woodside's life, since he first began attending the university.

"It just felt like everybody was one big family," Woodside said.

With just under 3,000 students enrolled in 2017, Tuskegee has the opportunity to provide its students with a close-knit atmosphere.

"It [isn't] a big school, so you know you're going to make connections that can last a lifetime," Woodside said.

The teammates rely on their lifetime connection to help win games.

"The closeness that we have is like unspoken communication," Marshall said. "Every game that I've pitched really well, he's been the one catching for me the whole time."

Woodside expressed equal admiration for Marshall.

"If it wasn't for Christian Mar-

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Congress Must Stop Family Separation



Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.)

grants as “animals.”

The Trump Administration has embraced nativist dog whistles from day one.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the shameful “zero tolerance” policy pursued by President Trump, which has separated families, locked kids in facilities, and traumatized innocent children.

Families come to this country seeking asylum. They undertake grueling, dangerous journeys in the hope that America will provide safe harbor from the violence that they are fleeing. Some are escaping domestic abuse, others have come to our shores to save their families from gangs. None expect to have their children ripped from their arms when they finally reach safety.

Two weeks ago, I travelled to McAllen, Brownsville and Los Fresnos, Texas to visit detention centers and see the situation firsthand. I witnessed terrified kids sleeping on cold concrete floors. I saw scared toddlers separated from their families. I heard from mothers unsure if or when they would see their children again. Some parents didn't even have a phone number to reach their children.

This is not the first time in America's history that we have separated young children of color from their

parents. It happened during the Middle Passage.

It chills me to the bone to know our government would repeat this dark history of jailing children and splitting up families.

Before the abolition of slavery, children of Black slaves were sold by owners at will. This was a constant fear for enslaved families—that their beloved children would be sold away, never to be seen again.

Starting in the 19th century, Native Americans were forced to send their children to government or church-run boarding schools, known as “Indian Schools.” There, these children were stripped of their culture, forced to cut their hair and given new names. These schools existed in America until the 1970s.

America also has a long history of jailing entire families, like the Trump Administration now wants to do with asylum seekers. Who can forget the devastating internment camps of the 1940s, where people of Japanese ancestry were forced to live during World War II. This policy was such a source of national shame that in 1988, the U.S. government signed legislation formally apologizing and providing restitution to interned Japanese-Americans.

Instead of learning from our painful history, the Trump Administration is repeating the mistakes of our past and inflicting more trauma on families seeking safe harbor from the violence and abuse they left behind.

And now, rather than proposing real solutions, the Trump Administration wants to lock immigrant families up indefinitely. Let me be clear: jailing children is unacceptable under any circumstances.

Ending the policy of separating families—but forcing kids to live in jail for months on end—is just replacing one form of child abuse with another.

These human rights violations must be addressed immediately.

I have asked UN Secretary-General Anthony Guterres to send observers to report on the conditions at detention facilities and to ensure the thousands of children who have been separated from their parents are reunited.

I'm also asking for the resignation of Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Sessions established the inhumane zero-tolerance policy—knowing the trauma and distress it would cause families seeking asylum—and Secretary Nielsen

implemented it and lied to the American people. The stunning immorality on display from both of these officials should preclude them from ever serving in public office again.

I am proud of Judge Sabraw's decision to bar the separation of migrant children from their parents, ordering them to be reunited within 30 days.

Now, we need Congress to pass the Keeping Families Together Act to stop this from happening again and to mandate U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents' complete child welfare training on an annual basis.

Above all, Congress must get serious about fixing our broken immigration system. Our immigrant brothers and sisters—and most of all, children—must be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.

Congresswoman Lee represents the 13th Congressional District of California. She is a member of the Appropriations and Budget Committees, Vice-Chair of the Democratic Steering & Policy Committee, Co-Chair of the Pro-Choice Caucus, and a Senior Democratic Whip. Rep. Lee is a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, a former co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and serves as chair of the Democratic Whip Task Force on Poverty. Follow Congresswoman Barbara Lee on Twitter @RepBarbaraLee.

This Is Why Migrant Parents Travel with Children



Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Newswire Columnist

These right-wingers claim that it is the parents who are to blame for the separation crisis.

Let's stop and think about this for a moment. The parents of these children are attempting to escape criminal violence or destitution. Why would leave their children behind and who would they leave them with? Perhaps that would be the case if one were discussing migrants from economically, politically and socially stable countries who would first send one relative ahead and then bring the family. But what if a woman is trying to escape domestic violence? What if a family is attempting to escape intimidation carried out by criminal gangs? What if one is seeking freedom from political persecution and/or repres-

sion? Under those conditions how likely would you be to leave your children behind?

I have been thinking about this a great deal in the context of the current, Trump-instigated immigration crisis. But it came to a head for me in reading of Trump's remarks in Europe regarding immigration. He warned Europe that they were being overwhelmed and ruined by immigrants. My guess is that Trump was not talking about Polish immigrants moving to Britain. Rather, as has become clear, for Trump, “immigration” means immigration from the global South to Europe and the United States. I cannot imagine Trump ordering the separation of undocumented Russian

or Irish immigrants from their children, but if one looks at immigrants from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as originating from so-called “shit-hole” countries—as Trump apparently does—none of this should come as a surprise.

To blame migrant parents for the current Trump-instigated crisis and to suggest that the parents are wrong for bringing their children along is another display of the ignorance and a racial blind spot for much of White America; that ideology can only originate in the minds of people who know next to nothing about the conditions that migrants are fleeing and their near total amnesia concerning the experiences of other groups of migrants who arrived

on these shores over the decades.

What I find particularly unsettling is the way that a sizeable minority of the U.S. has become quite comfortable with the idea that migrants from the global South are somehow unworthy of the human rights guarantees that the U.S. is supposed to uphold.

I wonder how many of these same people would have questioned the rights of European immigrants in the aftermath of World War II who were crossing borders en masse to escape the results of that war.

Oh, but I forgot. That was a deserving population.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter @BillFletcherJr, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

NIH and Prostate Cancer Foundation Launch Large Study on Aggressive Prostate Cancer in African-American Men

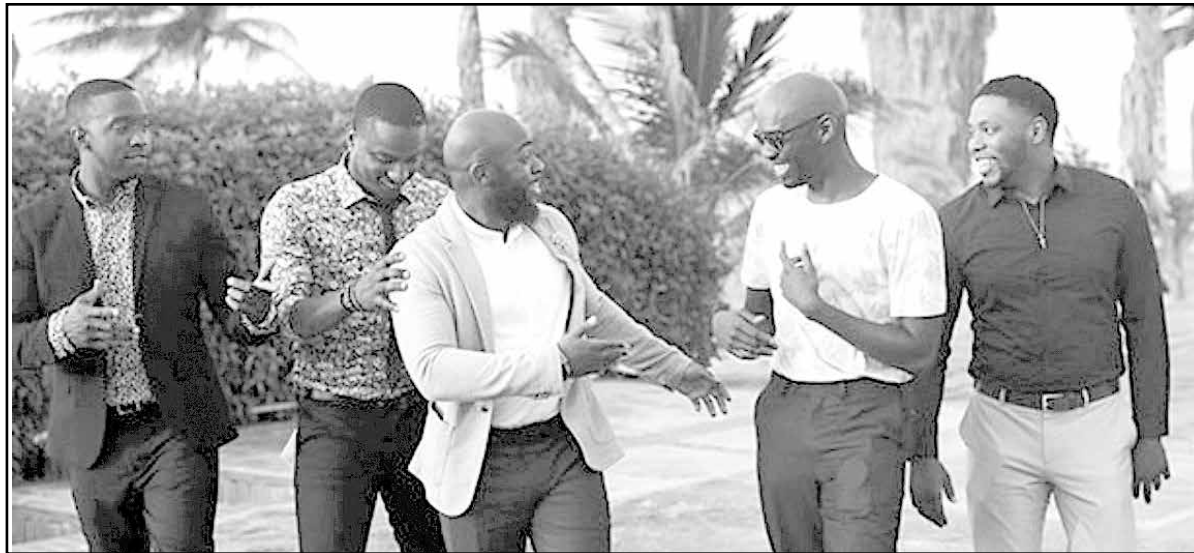
NNPA Newswire

The largest coordinated research effort to study biological and non-biological factors associated with aggressive prostate cancer in African-American men has begun. The \$26.5 million study is called RESPOND, or Research on Prostate Cancer in Men of African Ancestry: Defining the Roles of Genetics, Tumor Markers, and Social Stress. It will investigate environmental and genetic factors related to aggressiveness of prostate cancer in African-American men to better understand why they disproportionately experience aggressive disease—that is, disease that grows and spreads quickly—compared with men of other racial and ethnic groups.

RESPOND is supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), both parts of the National Institutes of Health, as well as by the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF). The NCI funding will be provided from the 21st Century Cures Cancer Moonshot Initiative.

“Understanding why African-American men are more likely to be diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer than men of other racial and ethnic groups is a critical, unanswered question in cancer disparities research,” said NCI Director Ned Sharpless, M.D. “This large, collaborative study can help the cancer research community better understand and address these disparities.”

African-American men have about a 15 percent chance of developing prostate cancer in their



The \$26.5 million study is called RESPOND, or Research on Prostate Cancer in Men of African Ancestry: Defining the Roles of Genetics, Tumor Markers, and Social Stress. The study will examine aggressive prostate cancer in African-American men. (Pexels.com)

lifetimes, compared to about a 10 percent chance for White men, and African-American men are more likely to be diagnosed with aggressive disease. In addition, the risk of dying from prostate cancer for African-American men is about 4 percent compared to about 2 percent for white men. With the RESPOND study, researchers aim to learn more about why these disparities exist.

“This study, which is combining state-of-the-art molecular approaches with social and environmental science, will help unravel the complex interactions of biological, behavioral, and environmental factors that contribute to excess prostate cancer burden and poorer outcomes in African-American men, allowing development of tailored approaches for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in this population,” said NIMHD Director Eliseo Pérez-Stable, M.D.

The investigators aim to enroll 10,000 African-American men with prostate cancer into the RESPOND study. The participants will be identified primarily via NCI’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Program of Cancer Registries. In addition, this study builds on years of research collaboration involving investigators who are part of the African Ancestry Prostate Cancer (AAPC) consortium. These investigators will contribute additional information and samples from 10,000 African-American men with prostate cancer. In accordance with NIH data sharing policies, and with appropriate informed consent, the de-identified data and samples collected as part of this research will be made available as a resource to the scientific community, aiding future research.

Investigators in the study will examine possible associations between aggressive disease and exposures to neighborhood/environmental stressors such as discrimination, early-life adversity, and segregation. They will also study DNA and tumor samples to identify gene variants associated with aggressive prostate cancer. Once researchers have identified genetic changes associated with aggressive prostate cancer, they will investigate how the social environment interacts with those genetic changes.

“Previous research on prostate cancer disparities has investigated social and genetic factors separately, but we know these components interact with each other to contribute to disparities,” said Damali Martin, Ph.D., program director for the study in NCI’s Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program. “The

ability to integrate genetic and environmental factors, including individual, neighborhood, and societal factors, into one large study will enable us to have a better understanding of how all of these factors contribute to the aggressiveness of prostate cancer.”

RESPOND, a cooperative agreement, will be led by Christopher Haiman, Sc.D., of the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles, in collaboration with John Carpten, Ph.D., Ann Hamilton, Ph.D., and David Conti, Ph.D., also of USC; Scarlett Gomez, Ph.D., of the University of California, San Francisco; Tamara Lotan, M.D., of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore; and Franklin Huang, M.D., Ph.D., of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

NCI’s Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics will perform genotyping, and the Center for Inherited Disease Research at Johns Hopkins University will conduct DNA sequencing for the genetic component of the study. NCI’s Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences is administering the study grant.

“No group in the world is hit harder by prostate cancer than men of African descent, and, to date, little is known about the biological reasons for these disparities, or the full impact of environmental factors,” said Jonathan W. Simons, M.D., PCF’s president and CEO. “We celebrate our partnership and applaud NIH for spearheading this study, which we believe will help pave the way for groundbreaking discoveries that will improve health equity for African-American men and their families.”

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

men unemployed according to the U.S. Census. This is a recipe for problems that includes, crime, violence and the disruption of families, neighborhoods and quality of life. It is essential that bridges are built for opportunities, job readiness programs and for African-American owned businesses to be able to access city contracts as well.

According to Cantrell, there are 559 registered DBE’s (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) with the city. Her administration is looking for sectors where there

are a small number of companies but the demand for work is there, and to seek out minority-owned companies and help them build their capacity to be able to compete. “I want to be able to articulate where the gaps are; where the needs are and push more of our businesses in these other areas of concentration, so they can take a real interest in, and benefit from, the opportunities we have in the city.” To illustrate her point she says, “There was an issue that came up a week ago as it relates to software equipment and it got me looking and if we do not have any DBE’s we should really be

highlighting where the needs are and pushing our businesses in the areas of demand.”

Also, as the city finds itself in the midst of a renaissance; growing in some ways, others are unfortunately still being left behind and the income and wealth gap is widening. This is something that the Cantrell Administration wants to do something about. “If we are attempting to grow the economic pie, we have to work on a way for more resources get in the hands of people who need it the most. We have a host of issues, from affordable housing, crime and inequality. We must

do a better job and as I have worked to alleviate these problems as a community leader and as a member of the City Council I plan to do this as Mayor.”

Mayor Cantrell on Creating a Better City: The Win-Win Approach

In politics, it is often a zero-sum game, with clear winners and losers. Today it is worsened, as we find our national politics more polarized than ever. But Cantrell is optimistic about New Orleans and believes there is a rational middle and approaches politics from a win-win perspective.

She believes that success in politics and public policy is measured by the positive impact on people across the board irrespective of background. She believes that the things that connect us are greater than the things that divide us. While she is the Mayor, Cantrell believes that all are stakeholders and effective governing is bigger than one person and that it must be her partnership between she and the citizens. Harkening back to her campaign, she offers the theme that inspired a city and catapulted her to its highest of

Cover Story, Continued on page 11.

You Don't Have to Break the Bank to Give Back

By Dr. Harry L. Williams
President & CEO, Thurgood
Marshall College Fund

Earlier this year, a man named Jack Weldon Patrick passed away in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. A long-time lawyer, Patrick was remembered as a family man, an advocate for social justice, and a respected community leader.

One day a check arrived by mail for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) in memory of Jack Weldon Patrick. A few days later, another one arrived, and a few weeks later, another check. Individual donations kept coming to support the work of TMCf and our publicly-supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in honor of Jack. His obituary read, "in lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial donations in Jack's name to causes he cared deeply about." One of those causes was TMCf.

So many of us outside of TMCf headquarters and Menomonee may have never known Jack as a stalwart of access and opportunity for students attending Black colleges. Many of us aren't even aware that Jack was part of the reason why in 2016, private giving and contracts earned by HBCUs increased for a second straight year, posting a four-year high of \$320 million. But we do know he was a living embodiment of the famous quote by Nelson Henderson: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

While philanthropic anonymity is honorable, philanthropic leader-



Harry L. Williams, the president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, says that anyone believing in the power of education to transform lives should invest in HBCUs. (Photo courtesy of Delaware State University)

ship helps organizations like TMCf reach new supporters, encouraging new donor circles to give. Showcasing the faces and stories of those who give is an important tool in cultivating similar donors, encouraging a culture of giving around our campuses. This is a critical strategy that grows an organization's base of support every year. For non-profit organizations, individual giving is the largest type of charitable gift – four times the amount as the next largest category in 2015, according to Giving USA.

Organizations like TMCf thrive due to the generosity of individuals who believe in our work and

want to expand our impact, through monthly and annual donations, as well as the legacy gift. TMCf combines these individuals' gifts with foundation grants and partnerships with major corporations and government agencies to provide the funds that allow us to transform lives. It takes a philanthropic village to develop young minds, and we are humbled to be good stewards of the resources that our donors and partners entrust to us.

TMCf, its 47 member-schools and the nearly 300,000 students attending them each year, want to play a role in redefining HBCU philanthropy and support. The data on

finances and the number of degrees we produce in areas like STEM, education, social sciences and criminal justice already show just how productive HBCUs continue to be in graduating Black students. Seventy percent of our publicly-supported HBCUs attendees who are first-year, first-time college students are eligible for Pell Grants. In comparison, the national average is only 37 percent for all public schools. By providing this quality education, students transform their lives and prepare to enter economically sustainable careers. Now TMCf wants to illustrate that same culture within our giving networks.

Anyone believing in the power of education to transform lives should invest in HBCUs. This includes alumni who want to have a tangible way to support their schools. All people in our networks at work, at church, in our communities, fraternities and sororities, and other circles of activity are worthy of soliciting for support. Age, earnings and personality are not elements for disqualifying those who might be willing to give, or those who have the capacity to do so.

TMCf member-schools like North Carolina Central University are experiencing record gains in gifts secured from younger donors. Texas Southern University recently raised more than \$1M at its annual Maroon and Gray gala, an event which just in its second year which has cultivated new supporters for the university and has raised nearly \$2M for student scholarships and institutional support.

So today, we honor one man—Jack Weldon Patrick—and his commitment to HBCUs, and we thank his friends and family for their continued investment in the work of TMCf. We hope his example encourages others to consider impacting people's lives by supporting our nation's HBCUs.

Harry L. Williams is the President and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community. Before joining TMCf, he spent eight years as President of Delaware State University. Follow him on Twitter at @DrHLWilliams.

#DadJokesRule

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California Prosecutor Michael Selyem Says He's Surprised "Ghetto" Maxine Waters Hasn't Been Shot

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Michael Selyem, a deputy district attorney in San Bernardino County, California, is in hot water for attacking Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) in a series of unhinged social media posts.

The San Bernardino Sun reported, that Selyem, a top gang prosecutor, "has been placed on paid leave pending the outcome of an administrative investigation."

Media reports indicate that Selyem has a history of controversial social media posts. Now there are calls for him to resign after his focus turned to Rep. Waters. Selyem also used his social media post to disparage former First Lady Michelle Obama.

During an online discussion on Facebook regarding a police shooting, Selyem wrote, "That s—bag got exactly what he deserved. You reap what you sow. And by the way go f— yourself you liberal s—bag."

That was only part of the conversation.

Regarding Waters, Selyem wrote: "Being a loud-mouthed c—t in the ghetto you would think someone would have shot this b—ch by now..." Selyem was commenting on a June video featuring Congresswoman Maxine Waters. The long-time House member has been in the news for challenging President Donald Trump and calling for his



A San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney has been suspended for writing a series of racist posts aimed at Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) (pictured) and former First Lady Michelle Obama. (Official Photo)

impeachment.

As the controversy spurred by Michael Selyem's posts exploded online, many residents called for his resignation.

According to The Sun, Earl Ofari Hutchinson, a civil rights activist and the president of the Los Angeles Urban Policy Roundtable, issued a statement that said, "the public call for violence to a federal official is a serious crime."

Hutchinson's statement continued: "In this volatile climate, such a threat poses a grave danger to Waters. The shooting of an Arizona congresswoman and the recent physical confrontations with government officials in public places underscore that grave threat...



The U.S. Attorney must take action against Selyem."

Several public officials have found themselves in hot water for posting controversial views on social media. Some legal analysts have argued that racist, sexist and other hateful views expressed by employees of governmental agencies place those offices in legal jeopardy, especially if those views meet the definition of hate speech.

Selyem has worked with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's office for 12 years.

"It is disgusting that a public official sworn to protect the public would have these ugly viewpoints," said Zeke Hernandez, the president of the Santa Ana League of United

Latin American Citizens. "The district attorney needs to take any and all appropriate action to let the public know that it does not agree with Selyem's hateful rhetoric."

During a press conference, Ramos said that he was offended by Selyem's comments, not just as the district attorney but as a prosecutor.

"I was really concerned with comments regarding officer-involved shootings," Ramos added. He said such comments affect "the ability for us to ensure the integrity of this office and making sure the public knows that we are doing these cases and investigating these cases in an unbiased fashion."

The Sun reported that Selyem attacked immigrants in a comment left on a Breitbart News story.

"I am all for white males immigrating here legally and starting a business," Selyem wrote. "It is the terrorist a—holes sneaking in here wanting to kill me and my family that I am opposed to..."

An investigation of Selyem's social media posts is underway. Some of the posts have already been deleted.

This story was originally published on BlackPressUSA.com.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist, political analyst and contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

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If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to
hear from you!

Cover Story, Continued from page 9.

fice. "To our people, the way we move forward and how we do it, is together. One of the things I would encourage our citizens to do is to help me and work with

me to help clean up our city. We must get the trash out of people's eyes and know that we deserve better in all areas of our lives. Also, realize that we all matter, and it is best when we all have a seat at the table when decisions

are being made. When we do that, working together coming up with solutions, we can create a win-win. And when we all are doing better, the whole city benefits and we are a better New Orleans." ty benefits and we are a better New Orleans."

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