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# Data

News Weekly

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**2018's Best Movies**

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January 5 - January 11, 2019 53rd Year Volume 36 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# 2018

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# 2018 - The Year in Review

*Data Looks Back at the Top Stories of 2018*

Happy New Year! 2018 was an unprecedented year, filled with turmoil, intrigue, disbelief and disturbing news headlines that dominated conversations across the country. For many, the actions and statements of President Donald Trump and his administration, have caused sleepless nights and anxiety as citizens hold their breath, waiting for the next shoe to drop; and for some sort of resolution to what once seemed unimaginable. As we move into 2019, the chaos has continued, and the nation continues to hold its breath as we continue to experience the saga of the Trump Administration. However, on the brighter side, instead of sitting idly by, the citizens of the

United States, mounted a movement. Not content to sit it out or throw in the towel, millions of voters, across the country, found their voices, and moved in masse to the polls during the 2018 Mid-Term elections. The results were resounding as the nation moved to overturn the unified Republican government that was. And, instead, elected a Democratic majority in the US House of Representatives, poised to return oversight and accountability to the government. 2018 indeed, was a chaotic and head-spinning year, one that will undoubtedly go down in history as an unprecedented one, and here at Data News Weekly, we focused on our local as well as national stories that made a difference. New Orleans, our

home, is a place filled with stories of community, of families and of good and interesting stories. Stories that do not always make the mainstream news headlines. It is our mission, to bring these stories to our readers, to uplift, enlighten and inform our city, and yes, to educate our fellow New Orleanians, on the important work being done in our city, celebrations of our unique and storied culture, and important decisions we all are charged with making in the pursuit of a better and more equatable New Orleans. Election decisions, city business, justice and education. These are the stories that made up the year in Data News Weekly, because these are the things that made up the year, 2018, in New Orleans. - Enjoy.

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report



**Jan 13**  
**Leah Chase**  
Queen of Creole Cuisine Celebrates 95th Birthday  
*Honoring a Great New Orleanian*

The City of New Orleans is a place with a rich and colorful history that's spanned 300 years. One of those who have contrib-

uted to the legacy of this Great Historical City is the Queen of Creole Cuisine, Leah Chase, who recently celebrated her 95th birthday on January 6, 2018 at the Downtown Hyatt Regency New Orleans surrounded by family, friends, leaders from the civic and business community and other well-wishers. The proceeds from the gala supports the Edgar "Dooky" Jr. and Leah Chase Family Foundation.

That's dedicated to cultivate and support historically disenfranchised organizations by making significant contributions to education, cultural arts and social justice. Data News was at this amazing event honoring one of our local treasures that's given the gift of our culture, flavor and the recipe for a great and inspiring life and sharing it with the world.

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Feb 3

## New Orleans

## A House Divided

Affordable Housing Crisis Threatens Future of New Orleans  
*Putting Housing as Top Priority First is Key to Full Recovery for New Orleans*

Andreanecia Morris, President of the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) is one of many who is on the frontlines of the fight for fair housing in New Orleans. Morris is leading the Housing First Campaign that's goal is to secure the commitment of 80,000 registered voters to support GNOHA's advocacy efforts and the implementation of the 10-Year Housing NOLA Plan. That can ensure that city leaders will prioritize safe, affordable, healthy housing for all in New Orleans. They are asking people to sign up and get involved and support candidates and hold elected officials accountable who will help residents stay in our neighborhoods and make them better; help citizens of New Orleans live close to good jobs and use tax dollars collected to make communities strong. Speaking of the Housing First Campaign she says, "We are pushing our Housing First Campaign because every time we vote or make a decision you have to put housing first. That doesn't mean ignoring the other issues; the City Council is working to approve a Masterplan and the one we are going back and forth about is giving people a chance to live in neighborhoods that are closer to where they work that are affordable. We are in the greatest housing crisis post-Katrina as it relates to affordable housing."

Feb 17

### Celebrating 300 Years Inside Black Mardi Gras New Orleans: A Colorful History

As we are in the 300th Anniversary of New Orleans, with its rich and colorful history; it is one where the

African influence is seen in everything from the food, music, dance and culture. It is everywhere you look and is the heartbeat that con-



tinues to pump the blood through the veins of the City keeping it alive.

The Crescent City has just finished the Carnival Season, with its many balls and parades bringing people from across the globe to explore the spectacle and splendor that is the Big Easy.

## Black Mardi Gras

The Black Traditions of Mardi Gras, which for a long time, was unknown to those outside of the African-American Community have come to the forefront are now being discovered by others and given their true place and being recognized.

We at Data News Weekly would like to briefly explore some of these great traditions.

## Zulu Parade

They marched in Mardi Gras as early as 1901 but made their first appearance as the Zulus in 1909. Their original routes were through the Black neighborhoods of New Orleans. Today they have a route that goes through both African-American and the traditional route along St. Charles Ave. where their beads and customized painted coconuts are highly sought after by people of all races.

## Baby Dolls

As part of the Mardi Gras Celebration in New Orleans, the Baby Dolls were formed in 1912. The Baby Dolls were a group started in an area outside the legal red-light district called (Black) Storyville.

Throughout the years, the women expanded their group, collecting dues and possibly becoming the first women's organization in the Mardi Gras Celebration. Their styles then varied, even being dressed as actual babies, or baby dolls, depending on the group.

## Black Masking Tradition (Mardi Gras Indians)

The Black Masking Tradition (Mardi Gras Indian) is as old as the City itself beginning in 1718. As slavery spread slaves began to escape and found refuge with the

indigenous people. They eventually begin to intermarry and form communities. The Africans who were already masking integrated some of the native people's traditions with their own to create what is known as the Black Masking (Mardi Gras Indian) Tradition.



Feb 24

### The Movie Black Panther Inspires a Community to Greatness

#### Black Panther Strike Box Office Gold

Black Panther," Disney/Marvel's African-oriented comic book adaptation, has taken the movie industry by storm breaking box office records for a film with a primarily Black cast. In its first week, the movie has grossed over 200 million dollars at the box-office domestically and an estimated 369 million internationally.

## Community Goes to the Movies to be Inspired

On the heels of the release of the of Disney/Marvel Studios "Black Panther", local Attorney Juan LaFonta, gave back to the community by treating inner-city kids and local families to a red-carpet premiere of the film at the AMC Palace Elmwood Theater. New Orleans native Brandon Okpalobi runs Dibia Dream, Inc., an organization dedicated to giving back to the youth. Dibia Dream, Inc. sponsored a group of kids in New Orleans to see the film as well.

Data News Weekly and its community partner Cumulus Radio, were on hand for the event. 102.9 Radio Personality Downtown Leslie Brown telling Data's Glenn Jones on the red-carpet of the significance of Black Panther the movie in inspiring a community of young people, "As a Black woman with a Black son and Black daughter they need to see more positive role models."

April 21

### And A Child Shall Lead Them

On March 24, fifth-grader Naomi

Wadler was onstage speaking at the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. During her three-minute speech, she spoke decisively about the lack of sustained media atten-



tion that Black women and girls receive when they are impacted by gun violence. "I represent the African-American women who are victims of gun violence, who are simply statistics instead of vibrant, beautiful girls full of potential," she said. "I am here to say never again for those girls too."

Her speech was quickly circulated online, earning her fans like Sen. Kamala Harris, Shonda Rhimes, Tessa Thompson and Ellen DeGeneres. In the weeks following her launch into the national conversation, she says the whole experience has been "weird," but was still ready to use her new platform to give journalists some strong advice.

"The media can pay attention; I feel that a lot of them are very ignorant," she said, stressing that this ignorance is particularly clear when it comes to white journalists perpetuation racial stereotypes about Black and brown people. "It's the racial imbalance in the reporting that starts a chain reaction where then, other people start to believe that."

May 5

### Bill Cosby Found Guilty on All Charges in Sex Assault Trial

A Montgomery County jury last Thursday, found comedian Bill Cosby guilty on all three counts of aggravated indecent assault in the case involving Andrea Constand, a former Temple University employee, who sought career advice and friendship from the entertainer.

The decision came after more than a day of deliberations and after having Cosby's deposition testimony read back to them.

Cosby, 80, faces up to 30 years in prison.

#### Several television analysts questioned the verdict.

Lawyer and famed CNN legal analyst Joey Jackson, who before

the verdict said the case should have been declared a mistrial, said



after the decision that Cosby's team has "many grounds for appeal." He said he was stunned by the verdict as well as the swiftness in which the jury delivered it.

"Certainly, the prosecution put up vigorous case ... but I thought the defense did a significant job of discrediting Andrea Constand giving the jury an indication that there was a number of lies she told over a period of time," Jackson said.



May 12

### LaToya Cantrell Makes History as First Female Mayor of New Orleans Historic Day in New Orleans

On May 7, 2018 history was made as New Orleans inaugurated its First Female Mayor LaToya Cantrell. Data News Weekly had the opportunity to conduct an exclusive interview the new mayor on the eve of her big day about her feelings of being elected mayor and her vision for the City. In addition, Data News Weekly attended Cantrell's swearing in and the Mayor's Ball later than night.

## A New Day for New Orleans

Her Inaugural Address was emotion filled, at times, as she surveyed the to-capacity crowd where former mayors, elected officials, fam-

Cover Story, Continued on page 10.



# Google Partners with HBCUs to Diversify Tech Field

By Chris Anders  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Young professionals of color face many obstacles when trying to enter the tech industry for a career. Statistics show the obvious: minorities are at a severe disadvantage when it comes to being employed by tech companies, as they lack a pipeline into the industry. In recognizing the lack of diversity and opportunity for minorities in gaining career paths to major high tech corporations, one tech giant is working to change this by collaborating with historically black universities across the country.

"The Google in Residence program goals are to give students a different perspective, an industry perspective, as opposed to just an academic perspective," said Aaron Gable, a Google technician who taught courses in computer science at Xavier University of Louisiana in the Fall 2018 semester. Gable joined Google in 2012, and has six years experience teaching. He now swaps his day job of leading a team of eight engineers for office hours and training teams of students for regional hackathons.

The Google-in-Residence pro-



Xavier students who participated in the Google in Residence program gained a different perspective and an industry perspective as opposed to just an academic perspective.

gram, which started in 2013, sends instructors from Google's headquarters to a selected minority-serving institution for an academic year. This prestigious program is only available at select Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities around the country, with both Dillard University and now Xavier,

have been highly marketable due to the boom in technology, but at the same time, minority graduates have not comparatively grown in numbers in the tech workforce.

"I think that many companies don't necessarily see issues that they have with diversity and inclusion," said Kaycee Tate, a freshman computer science major at Xavier.

A 2014 study from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission uncovered that there are nearly five times the amount of white people with jobs in the tech industry than African Americans. For private industries 63.5 percent of employees are white compared to the 14.4 percent of people of color. In high tech industries it is even more lopsided, white employees total 68.53 percent of the company while African Americans only make up 7.4 percent. Tech companies must take action to provide equal opportunity



Xavier students prepare and participate in a 2018 24-hour Atlanta Hackathon technology competition. (Photos courtesy Xavier University)

both in New Orleans, being chosen for the successes in the sciences.

Google in fact, is attempting to equip HBCU students with the tools to succeed in their career. In 2017, one percent of Google's workforce was African American. In 2012 at Howard University, Google first piloted a partnership with an HBCU. Since then, the program has expanded to 16 other institutions across the country including Morgan State University, Florida A&M University, Prairie View A&M University and Spelman College, among other HBCUs across the country. During the fall 2018 semester, there were 11 Google-in-residence programs being taught

at various HBCUs and HSIs. The development of the residency program has been incredible to watch, Gabel pointed out.

Between 1966 and 2008, the total number of science and engineering degrees more than doubled from 184,313 to 494,627 according to the National Science Foundation. Looking at the number of degrees for African Americans, the trend is the same. A study done in 2012 by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that in the past decade, African American enrollment for engineering and science degrees at universities increased by 50 percent. Degrees in engineering and science in recent years

for everyone.

"I really admire the steps they've taken to try to repair this problem. Working with students at HBCUs is a great way to make sure that we're given the tools necessary to succeed in the field. A lot of other PWIs often have more resources and opportunities than we tend to have, so Google giving us some opportunities of our own is definitely much appreciated," Gray said. Resources such as access to internships and participations in hackathons allowed Gray and her classmates to work with other Googlers, gain experience, and broaden their network with other black computer science majors at other HBCUs.

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# HBCU Partnerships Aim to Attract Community College Students

By Chris Anders  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

It's a small twenty-first century reverse migration, but African American students and recent graduates are among the largest group of transplants moving back South, according to recent studies of Census data. Lower costs of living, including the cost of college, figure into the trend. Higher education institutions are tapping into the appeal, by developing relationships with institutions outside of the South.

In March 2015, the largest higher education system in the country: California Community Colleges, that comprises 2.1 million students, with 100,000 seeking to transfer to bachelor degree earning institutions, created the California HBCU Transfer Guarantee Program. Now Xavier University of Louisiana has signed on as a partner of this grant-sponsored initiative by the chancellor of the CCC system in Fall 2018, and hopes to pipeline more students of color from the West Coast to experience an HBCU education in New Orleans.

"We see this as a great opportunity for both California students, who may be unfamiliar with the benefits of attending a HBCU (Historically Black College and University), as their state has none, and for Xavier, as we seek to enroll meritorious students from all across our nation who wish to increase their knowledge and pursue their excellence here at Xavier," said C. Reynold Verret, Xavier's president, in an official announcement on the agreement.

The partnership with California Community Colleges expands the university's efforts to also attract local community college students to complete their bachelor's degrees at HBCUs.

"We are excited to be able to offer Louisiana community college students a stream-lined path to continue their education at Xavier, where they will have access to a unique academically enriching and personally rewarding experience," Verret said.

It's not just pharmacy and natural science programs that are attractive to community college transfer students, but the opportunity to study a wide range of programs in an environment that is predominantly black.

"I Google-searched the best mass communication programs at HBCUs and Xavier was the first one to come up. I was so surprised because I thought Xavier was just a pharmacy school," said Brianna Montgomery, now a mass communication major, who transferred in 2017 from a California community college. "I'm so happy I came to Xavier. I feel as if they really care about the future of their students," Montgomery said.

Coming to Xavier from a community college in California was an easy choice Montgomery said, because she wanted to attend an HBCU and in her home state there is not one to attend. She said she struggled in community college to find students and mentors to relate to. She said in New Orleans, at an HBCU, she feels supported and invested in.

The support often comes in removing the red tape between institutions and making transfers hassle free.

"Xavier was the all-around best choice for me personally because I was in a rush to find a school," said Samir Chikhaoui, a junior business major, who transferred from a California college. "I had trouble with my credits transferring at other universities for some reason and at Xavier I only lost one credit, so I was just happy to have found a place," Chikhaoui said.

Local community college students say they also have many options when considering where to complete a bachelor's degree. However, the process of transferring can often be difficult because many schools reject the courses they have already completed at community colleges in the state. With such agreements, bachelor's degree

granting schools are more willing to accept the coursework they have already completed and allow them to complete their studies within a relatively shorter time frame. In saving time, they can save costs.

"My admissions process went very smoothly, I knew I had met the requirements so I wasn't stressed," said Brandon Brown, a Xavier senior, who transferred from Delgado Community College in 2016. "They accepted me right away and all my credits transferred which was a great feeling," Brown said.

He was relieved he didn't need to go far to complete his bachelor's degree.

"Growing up in New Orleans you hear about how great of a school Xavier is and actually being able to come to Xavier has allowed me to improve many professional skills," Brown said of his experience.



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# BEST FILMS OF 2018

In 2018, the stories told, talent on view, compelling characters, emotions expressed, and genres stretched were just amazing. It was more than enough to make viewers track films from the theaters to streaming services. Or vice versa. Check out the year in movies. Enjoy.

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Newswire Film Critic

## Best Films

**Black Panther** – The late Stan Lee left behind a key to the future. That key was Black Panther, as envisioned by the very intuitive director/writer Ryan Coogler. The African nation of Wakanda became the world's #1 tourist destination (\$1.3B at the box office). It's supermen (Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Daniel Kaluuya) and superwomen (Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Letitia Wright) were artfully displayed (cinematographer Rachel Morrison) as they embodied Black power and pride.



**Ben Is Back** – The plague of drug addiction hits the tony suburbs and writer/director Peter Hedges takes his audience to the front door of a home that is bearing the brunt. Julia Roberts soars as the distraught mom trying to save the life of a duplicitous son, expertly played by Lucas Hedges. Courtney B. Vance co-stars in this compelling and cautionary family/drama.



**Blindspotting** – Of all the films that tackled racism and the PTSD a black man experiences as a result, this very grassroots indie captured that feeling the best. Set in gentrifying Oakland, CA, the ambitious script by lead actors Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal chronicles a time and place when inner city black neighborhoods are disappearing and the inhabitants are stressed—every day. Wonderful direction by Carlos López Estrada.



**BlacKkKlansman** – Leave it to filmmaker Spike Lee to find the most hard to believe but true story about a black cop (John David Washington) who infiltrates the KKK with the aid of a Jewish police officer (Adam Driver). The undercover brother even hoodwinks David Duke! A nifty and very informative look at the dimwits who joined the Klan and the brave policemen who thwarted their moves. Considering the times we live in, the 1970s subject matter has a very contemporary appeal.





**The Favourite** – The stodgy English period genre gets whacked by this demented take on an 18th-century triad of deceitful women: Queen Anne (Olivia Colman), Lady Sarah (Rachel Weisz) and a very ambitious and cunning palace interloper Abigail (Emma Stone). Eccentric director Yorgos Lanthimos finally gets a project that can withstand his very demented style of direction. Evocative cinematography (Robbie Ryan) and production design (Fiona Crombie) paint an astonishing portrait of palace intrigue.



**Crazy Rich Asians** – This jolly film is the first Asian/American movie to get a major release in 25 years! A stellar cast—Constance Wu, Henry Golding, Michelle Yeoh and Awkwafina—turn a rags-to-riches love story into the best romantic comedy of 2018. Director Jon M. Chu with writers Peter Chiarelli and Adele Lim turn a golden opportunity into solid gold entertainment.



**Night Comes On** – Kids separated from their parents and relegated to foster homes and institutions should have their stories told. New actor-turned-director Jordana Spiro uses a script she co-wrote with Angelica Nwandu as a basis for her poignant ode to troubled youth. Dominique Fishback plays the train wreck of an 18-year-old older sibling in the process of leading her 10-year-old sister (Tatum Marilyn Hall) down the wrong path. Vulnerable characters you have to love.



**Green Book** – A very unlikely story, based on true events, features the best acting duo of the year. The brilliant scholarly actor Mahershala Ali plays a concert pianist who is driven around The South, in 1962, by a burly Italian chauffeur/bodyguard played hysterically by Viggo Mortensen. The most unlikely director in the world, Peter Farrelly (Dumb and Dumber), tells the tale with a nod and a wink and peppers it with social and racial themes, real drama and historical facts. An organic crowd pleaser.



**A Quiet Place** – This is the absolute best use of sound effects ever devised for a horror film. A very innovative but scary take on a post-apocalypse world where demons' attacks are instigated by the slightest sound. Ingeniously conceived by actor/writer/director John Krasinski who guides his wife Emily Blunt into the performance of her career as the protective mom.

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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# Attention!

## Are we now all clear about climate change?



**Bill Fletcher, Jr.**  
NNPA Columnist

In the last two months we have had two devastating hurricanes along with two devastating reports regarding climate change. If anyone wants to further deny the reality of climate change they need to go into a corner along with those who continue to believe that the Earth is flat.

Let's start with the hurricanes.

Florence and Michael have brought tremendous and near apocalyptic damage to the regions that they hit. Entire towns have been wiped out. Looking at pictures of the Florida panhandle in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael brought to mind pictures of areas that had been devastated by carpet bombing.

The warnings, in connection with both hurricanes, were very ominous. The strength of the hurricanes before they hit, with Florence initially off the charts and with Michael the strongest on record to hit the panhandle, should have led even the dimmest light in the room to glow brightly. Something is definitely wrong. Scientists explained this in the immediate aftermath of Michael: yes, they said, there is a

direct connection between climate change and the increased intensity and unpredictability of hurricanes. There, it's been stated.

There were also two reports. The first was from the Trump administration itself, and one, from what I can figure, they did not want the public to see. In essence the report indicated that the Administration expects the temperature of planet Earth to jump 6-7 degrees by the 22nd century. Ironically, they also conclude that nothing can be done, therefore, there is no point in increased regulations on the greenhouse gases that promote climate change! Did I hear that right?

The other report was from the United Nations warning us that nations are not keeping to their

agreed targets from the Paris Climate Accords and, as a result, the planet is hurtling towards a point of no return, which could arrive within the next 10-15 years.

The conclusion that we should take from all of this is that the debate is finally over. There is clear and verifiable evidence of climate change underway and the direct relationship of human activity to this phenomenon. For those who raise the point that there has been climate change in the past and that this is natural, guess again. Yes, there has been climate change and it has taken place over hundreds of years. There is no precedent for what we are currently experiencing. This is something new and it is dangerous. And it is something that

may envelope humanity in our current life-times, not to mention the life-times of our children.

Is this the end of the world? Not if strong and direct methods are undertaken to change the way that we live, the way that we work, and the things that we produce. That means that capitalism, as we know it, has proven itself incapable of solving the planet's crisis. It is now up to us to construct an alternative.

Let's get busy and make this a central issue in all local, state and national elections. We must avoid disaster. I don't know about you but my daughter means too much to me to remain silent and inactive.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the former president of TransAfrica Forum. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at [www.billfletcherjr.com](http://www.billfletcherjr.com).

## Living in America While Being Black Under the Trump Regime

**By Roger Caldwell**  
NNPA Newswire Columnist

In 2018, many Black people in America believe that it is not important or relevant to consider them Black. They see their race as human, and they have no faith in the Black or African American culture and race. There is only one race, and that is the human race, and it is time to let go of the race card and stop thinking Black.

Many genetic experts and people around the globe believe there is no scientific basis for race, and it's a made-up label.

"In the wake of fresh deaths at the hands of police officers in the world's greatest nation, we the people of the Black race are once again the object of renewed worldwide attention. Questions of injustices in the United States have been duly raised and protested. And, once again, the Black cultural elites in America are talking about racism, discrimination, racial profiling, and hate, among other issues," says Chigozie Obioma.

It is absurd and ridiculous to think in 2018, under the Trump administration, that race does not exist, and America is a colorless soci-



"The buying power of the African American community is \$1.1 trillion, but it only circulates 6 hours in our community, and the Asians keep a dollar in their community 120 times longer than African Americans. The Jewish keep the dollar in their community for 20 days, and the dollar in the White community circulates 17 days."

ety. When our racist-in-chief makes it no secret that he is a neo-Nazi sympathizer, it is time for Black Americans to open up their eyes, unify, and work together.

It is no accident that Trump is driven by an irrational hatred of everything Obama, and there are very few African Americans in his administration. On the other hand,

President Trump calls neo-Nazis good people as they carry torches and shouting about racist purity.

"Far too many people are surprised by Trump's racism, which is as ignorant as it is blatant. Donald Trump knows a thing or two about 'shitholes' – the label he apparently bestowed on El Salvador, Haiti, and various African nations during an

Oval Office meeting about immigration," says Richard Wolffe of the Guardian.

Black Americans in 2018 and beyond must reclaim their unity and restore the dignity of the Black race in America and around the globe. Racism is not limited to the United States, and today we hear how China, India and other nations are taking over Africa economically. The fate and survival of Black people in America is inextricably linked to Black people in Africa, the Caribbeans and around the world.

"Great men like Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Malcolm X all knew that a people are only respected when it has a nation worthy of respect. They knew that for us to reclaim power we must first reclaim dignity, and that comes through the construction of a solid Black state with a demonstrable level of development and prosperity – and which can stand as a powerful advocate for the global Black," states Obioma.

It is time for Blacks in America to operate with respect, and work with a formative and functional Black Agenda. It is time to speak with one voice and in our community focus on:

Education  
Jobs and employment  
Criminal justice  
Health  
Economics  
Politics and voting  
Housing and environment, and  
Family

The buying power of the African American community is \$1.1 trillion, but it only circulates 6 hours in our community, and the Asians keep a dollar in their community 120 times longer than African Americans. The Jewish keep the dollar in their community for 20 days, and the dollar in the White community circulates 17 days.

In 2019, the challenge for Blacks in America is to work together with a Black united front and depend on each other based on a Black Agenda. We can no longer think our government under Trump is working to save the Black Race, we must save our self.

Our dignity and respect must begin as Black people in our families, and then our community, our country, and then the world. The great W.E.B. DuBois says, "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line," and nothing has changed in the 21st Century.



# GloballyReady

## Advocating for Black Students to Study Abroad

By Kimani Hamilton  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

A standard list at the start of a New Year often include eating healthy, achieving a career goal, and making a trip abroad. Yet for the last item on this list: going overseas, African American students make up only 6.1 percent of all U.S. college students who complete an educational experience in another country, according to a 2016-2017 study by the Association of International Educators with the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors. The main deterrent for African American students is that the rising cost of attending college leaves little funds left over for enhanced educational experiences.

Study abroad advocates and educators hope that a new Congress in 2019 will recognize the importance of having a diverse workforce that has been exposed to international study. They expect to continue the efforts of a bipartisan group of lawmakers in Congress who introduced H.R. 4379, the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act, in November 2017. The legislation, supported by Senators Richard Durbin, D-Ill, and Roger Wicker, R-Miss. in the Senate, and Representatives Cheri Bustos, D-Ill and Illeana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. would support challenge grants that encourage college and universities to enhance opportunities for study abroad.

"If we try to find more funding out there, I think our numbers will increase," said Karen Lee, the associate director for the Center for Intercultural and International Programs at Xavier University of Louisiana.

"A lot of students want to go, but when you look at your funds and have to pay for your airfare, that holds a lot of students back from going," Lee said.

Study abroad programs can range from \$4,000 for two to four week programs to \$18,000 for semester-long programs. Historically black universities like Xavier are working to create more affordable educational experiences abroad, like its Spring Break in Cuba program for faculty, staff, students and their relatives, which costs \$1,400 as a program fee that covers accommodations and transportation, among other expenses.



Mayor LaToya Cantrell recognizes Xavier's Center for Intercultural and International Programs on Nov. 13, 2018 for service to the community in international education. (Photos courtesy Nia Laing and Xavier's Center for Intercultural and International Programs)

Airfare costs are approximately an additional \$500. In November 2018, the Mayor's Office of International Relations recognized Xavier's center for international programs on International Education Appreciation Day for its service in the community for promoting international study experiences for institutions and residents.

Providing cost effective opportunities for African American students is one strategy to change the numbers, but international education advisers also work to help Black students navigate cultural differences abroad.

"Sometimes traveling as a black student, we run into racism or just see things from a different perspective," said Nia Laing, a senior, sociology major, at Xavier. "For example, going to West Africa can have such a deeper meaning for us because we are the descendants of slaves from that region," Laing said.

Organizations like the Diversity Abroad Network now exist to provide both financial and social resources for students of color to successfully navigate study abroad experiences. Such networks share stories, testimonials and travel preparation to help students anticipate all aspects of global travel. This can range from anticipating foreigners who intrusively touch black students' hair to understanding religious and gender norms in other countries.

More importantly they underscore to students the benefits. Students who study abroad are

more likely to finish their degree transfer from a community college to a four-year university. They are also more likely to have a higher grade point average than those who don't study abroad.

Laing, who now serves as a study abroad ambassador for Xavier said it is very difficult to persuade stu-



Nia Laing, a Xavier University senior sociology major, Nia Laing, holds a baby Moroccan tree goat in In Essaouira, Morocco.

dents to join the program because they aren't sure if the travel is worth the cost.

"People think it's expensive, even though there are so many scholarships out there just sitting," Laing said, adding that she often encounters with students a "general disinterest of going to a new place,

and worrying about something bad happening."

Sometimes companies will give students scholarships just because they attend an HBCU, she explained.


"My travel would not be possible without several scholarships," Laing said.




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## Cover Story

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

ily and friends and supports came out to witness and support her on this historic day. Some wept visibly proud and overwhelmed that the City elected its first female mayor. That the City had overcome and torn down another barrier and that they were witnessing the dawning of a new age.

Her voice ringing in a triumphant tone Cantrell said, "We broke every kind of glass ceiling and color line and old outdated rule about who the mayor is supposed to be." And anyone familiar with the history of New Orleans where issues of race, privilege and colorism among Blacks were often determining factors of who should lead the City." She addressed this issue head on as well saying, "What we have done in this election is we have changed people's ideas about what the mayor is supposed to look like or where he was supposed to be born," proclaimed Cantrell who came from Los Angeles to New Orleans as a student attending Xavier University and since then has made this her home building her career and family in the Crescent City.

Hayden and Obama ended the opening program with an in-depth conversation around Obama's forthcoming memoir "Becoming" (Crown Publishing Group) to be released in November of 2018. The book focuses on the experiences that have impacted her life, her family and the country.

Hayden, a phenomenal woman in her own right is the first woman and the first African-American to lead the Library of Congress. She was nominated to the position by President Barack Obama in February 2016, and her nomination confirmed by the U.S. Senate in July 2016.

Obama's memoir will be published in the U.S. and Canada and in 25 languages around the world. The book invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her, from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work to her time spent at the world's most famous address.

won't stand for it. This evil must stop immediately, and these children must be reunited with their parents without delay."

"I will continue to publicly condemn the Trump administration and Attorney General Jeff Sessions' enforcement of their new immigration policy to separate families," said Council President Jason Williams. "Forcibly separating children from parents as a matter of course is inhumane and unnecessary, and as an African American and a descendant of American slaves, this policy is evocative of some of darkest days in this country's young history. This policy is truly self-inflicted wound, and like many we have seen from the current administration, is antithetical to American values and basic humanity."

The resolution calls for an end to this policy and immediate reunification for those children separated. Copies will be sent to the entire Louisiana Congressional Delegation, the Attorney General, and the President.

their ties to the purple and gold contributing resources to continue its mission teaching young men; and giving them the tools to become leaders in many fields of endeavor not just in New Orleans but across the nation.

Paul Beaulieu was also one of the pioneers in the field of journalism, breaking barriers and giving African-Americans a larger voice in media. Writing an opinion column for one of the daily newspapers, "The States-Item." In addition, he started his own newspaper, "The Spectator News Journal" he also was the host a Public Affairs Program called "Dimensions." Later in his career he would serve as the co-host of the popular TV Program "Between the Lines" with fellow St. Aug Alum and community advocate Lloyd Dennis. Then he lent his voice to WBOK AM-1230 where he would have a top-rated show and later serve as the Station's General Manager before retiring in 2015 with one of his last interviews being the present New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

### Controversial Split Verdict Law (Non-Unanimous)

In short, Louisiana is only one of two states (other is Oregon) in the country that do not require a unanimous jury verdict in serious felony cases. A result that often leads to sending people to jail often for life. In fact, Louisiana only requires 10 of twelve jurors to consent in serious felony trials to get a guilty conviction. This unusual and controversial practice is something that's contributed to Louisiana being (recently Oklahoma took top spot) as the prison capital of the world.

This law has historical links to a race-based legacy of segregation and racism that in 1898 worked to restore White Supremacy by preventing Blacks from voting and removing them from all aspects of power and relegating them to second-class citizenship. This was occurring as a White backlash in a state that during Reconstruction had Black Legislators and a Black elected official rising to hold offices as high as Lt. Governor and for a short time Governor.

In this law there is a disconnect where in less serious felony case, these are tried before a six-person jury and the verdict must be unanimous for a defendant to be found guilty. So, should we ask ourselves why in cases for more serious felonies that the same rules do not apply?



### June 16

#### Former First Lady Michelle Obama Comes to New Orleans

The Continuing of the American Dream: Former First Lady Michelle Obama

America is at a crossroads at home and on the global stage. We have witnessed a shift from the Obama years, ones that promoted openness and inclusion, fast forward to today, we are seeing the exact opposite coming from the Oval Office.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden moderated the conversation with former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama during the Opening General Session of the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference and Exhibition Friday, June 22nd. This session took place at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.



### June 23

#### Trump Administration Creates Humanitarian Crisis in America

The New Orleans City Council issued a demand for the end of detention of children at the U.S. Mexico border.

As Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen speak across town at the National Sheriffs convention, the City Council President and Vice President's office filed a joint resolution for Thursday's full Council meeting demanding an end to the un-American and inhumane DHS policy of forcibly separating immigrant children from their parents.

"The Trump Administration is perpetrating a heartless violation of human rights right here in America," said Council Vice President Helena Moreno. "These innocent children are being terrorized in our name, and I simply



### August 11

#### A Love Supreme: The Life and Legacy of Paul Beaulieu

#### A Life Dedicated to Serving Others

On July 24 the city loss a great New Orleanian and selfless servant and humanitarian who dedicated his life to helping others. Paul Beaulieu, who was a trailblazer using his positions as a broadcaster and educator passed away at the age of 75.

For those who crossed paths with this native of New Orleans, hailing from the 7th Ward experienced a man who represented the best of what the City has to offer pouring from his cup into others and inspiring them to greatness. After graduating from Xavier University in 1965 he worked tirelessly as an English Teacher at his alma mater St. Augustine where he led the alumni association before founding the Cornerstone Club, where graduates over the years would maintain



### Sept 15

#### The Most Important Vote In History

#### Louisiana Voters Have a Chance on Nov. 6th to Change Controversial Split Verdict Law

#### Proposed Amendment No. 2

As the citizens of New Orleans head to the polls on November 6th the weight of history hangs in the balance. Unlike other elections this one goes beyond voting for those who would hold various elected offices. This election has on the ballot one of the most important and impactful issues that affect disproportionately effect on African-Americans.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2 reads, 'Do you support an amendment that require a unanimous jury verdict in all non-capital offenses that are committed on or after January 1, 2019.'



### Nov 10

#### Historic Election in New Orleans

It was a historic night for voters nationwide. In New Orleans citizens went to the polls to vote for several elected offices and Louisiana Constitutional Amendments on the ballot. Including Constitutional Amendment 2, a controversial Jim Crow Law where persons in the state could be convicted of serious felonies with 10-2 non-unanimous votes could lead to long prison sentences. (story on Amendment 2 appears in page 11 of this issue).

Cover Story, Continued on page 11.



# Philly Judge Grants Mumia Abu-Jamal Right of Appeal

## Data Staff Edited Report

A judge in Philadelphia has reinstated appeal rights to former Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal — convicted of killing a city police officer more than 30 years ago — who has long maintained his innocence as his case gained international attention.

Advocates of Abu-Jamal praised the decision by Philadelphia Common Pleas Judge Leon Tucker as a significant development toward winning the freedom of a man whose case generated decades of protest and thousands of supporters in the “Free Mumia” movement.

“This is an unheard of legal victory,” said Rachel Wolkenstein, former lawyer and longtime activist for Abu-Jamal. “This is the best opportunity we have had for Mumia’s freedom in decades.”

Abu-Jamal has been incarcerated since his 1982 conviction for killing white Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner in a racially charged case. The judge who issued the latest decision called the case one of the most polarizing shootings in the city’s history. In 2011, prosecutors dropped the execution case against Abu-Jamal because of flawed jury instructions and instead agreed to a sentence of life in prison.

For years, Abu-Jamal’s attempts at securing a new trial were denied. In the latest legal argument, his lawyers argued that Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille should not have presided over Abu-Jamal’s appeals battles. Castille was formerly Philadelphia’s district attorney whose office fought to keep the activist and prolific writer behind bars.



Philadelphia Judge Leon Tucker ruled Thursday that former Justice Ronald Castille should have recused himself because of statements he made as a prosecutor about police killers that suggest a potential bias. The ruling, gives Mumia Abu-Jamal (pictured) the chance to reargue his appeal because of that perception of bias.

Castille refused calls from Abu-Jamal’s supporters to recuse himself from hearing the appeal, saying he never directly worked on the case. In 2012, Abu-Jamal’s advocates thought he lost his final appeal when the state Supreme Court rejected a claim challenging the validity of forensic evidence that was used to convict him.

In his legal opinion on Thursday, Tucker said Castille made the wrong choice, because even the appearance of being biased can be damaging to the judicial system.

“The claim of bias, prejudice and refusal of former Justice Castille to recuse himself is worthy of consideration as true justice must be completely just without even a hint of partiality, lack of integrity or im-

propriety,” Tucker wrote.

Tucker’s ruling has breathed new life into the hopes of Abu-Jamal’s supporters that he may one day be granted freedom.

The possibility of a new hearing for Abu-Jamal arose after a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision. That ruling found that Castille improperly took part in an appeal from a different death row inmate whose prosecution he oversaw when he was the city’s top prosecutor. The defendant in that case was Terrance Williams. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Williams case applied to other cases Castille heard as a Pennsylvania justice, including Abu Jamal’s.

“If a judge served as prosecutor and then the judge,” wrote Tucker, summarizing the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Williams case, “there is a finding of automatic bias and a due process violation.”

Tucker, in his opinion, said Abu-Jamal should be given another chance to argue his innocence in front of the state’s high court, now that Castille is no longer a sitting judge.

“The court finds that recusal by Justice Castille would have been appropriate to ensure the neutrality of the judicial process in [Abu-Jamal’s appeals] before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court,” Tucker wrote.

Abu-Jamal’s lawyers have 30 days to inform Pennsylvania’s courts of their intent to pursue an appeal.

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## Cover Story, Continued from page 10.

Data News Weekly in our role as “The People’s Paper” want to give you a snapshot and insight on several races we’ve been focusing on and their importance to our community.

### U.S. House of Representatives

In the race for Louisiana Congressional District 2 incumbent Cedric Richmond handily won re-election winning 81 percent of the vote. In this session of Congress, with the House of Representatives being controlled by Democrats many

issues surrounding healthcare, the economy, criminal justice reform and affordable housing here in New Orleans.

Cedric Richmond who has ascended to a leadership position as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and he joined with many leaders across the state to support Amendment 2.

### Clerk of Orleans Parish Civil District Court

In the race for Clerk of Orleans Parish Civil District Court Chelsey

Richard Napoleon won in a hotly contested race against District D, City Councilman Jared Brossett. Already experienced in running the office, being the Chief Deputy for 11 years, she vowed to continue to innovate the office and to serve the people of the city with honor and integrity.

### First City Clerk of Court

In the race for First City Clerk of Court, a post that handles small claims and evictions was won by former Louisiana State Represent

Representative, Austin Badon over Timothy David Ray, 64 to 36 percent. Ray, a local attorney who made his second run at an elected office. He was the interim Clerk of First City Court replacing previous officeholder Ellen Hazeur, who won an election to serve on the Orleans Parish Civil District Court.

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