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New Orleans

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News Weekly

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Anniversary
Jazz Fest Adds
Extra Day**

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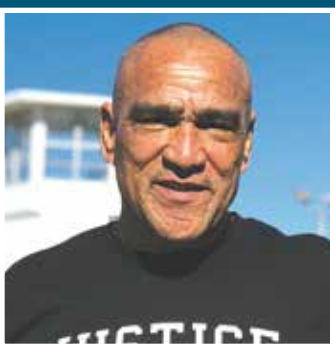
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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HBCUs in Your Community



This proud HBCU graduate illustrates the pride students take in our local HBCU's. Dillard University celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year. With Xavier and Southern University also over 100 years old, their leaders and advocates say they are just as relevant and needed as they were at the turn of the century.

By Darby Farr
Data News Weekly Contributor

A century and a half.

This year Dillard University marked 150 years since its founding as Straight University. Southern University in Baton Rouge, Grambling University, and Xavier

University of Louisiana are all over a century old and Southern University at New Orleans has crossed half a century. Within those 100-plus years, the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities are intricately tied to the history, development, and vitality of the Black communities they serve, scholars note. As these institutions look toward another century, their leaders and advocates say they are just as relevant and needed

as they were at the turn of the century.

"HBCUs continue to provide unparalleled access and opportunities to many students from all walks of life," said Ray L. Belton, the President of the Southern University System in Louisiana and the Chancellor of Southern University of Baton Rouge. "We create legacies and valuable contributors to this country. We are also instrumental in shaping the middle-class of America," he added.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

HBCUs are as relevant as any beneficial institution of higher education, Belton added, but HBCUs also offer a bonus because they are the cultural hub for the towns and cities, they are located in.

"Students in middle and high school consistently look up to our students, our bands, academic programs and partnerships, and see phenomenal opportunities that are within their reach," Belton said. "We are a beacon to many through not only our educational programs but also community activities. It is important that we know that and act accordingly," he added.

This responsibility to the Black community is rooted in their very creation and continued existence, despite challenges to higher education institutions today, according to scholars of HBCU's history. The ideas and actions taken to change the social and political outcomes of African-Americans, have been organized at and through HBCUs.

Even today, HBCUs still continue to produce firsts among local and national leaders, and particularly for women. The first woman to be mayor of New Orleans, LaToya Cantrell, is an alumna of Xavier. The first woman of Jamaican and Indian ancestry to be elected a U.S. Senator, Kamala Harris, announced this month she was running for president, and is an alumna of Howard University in Washington, D.C. On Feb. 5, 2019, Spelman College alumna Stacey Abrams became the first Black woman to deliver the State of the Union rebuttal, after a contested Georgia State election in November 2018 where she was the first Black woman nominated to run for governor of any state, by a major party.

"HBCUs have always been the center of Black intellectualism in the Black community," said Marcus Cox, the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs at Xavier who is a scholar of Historically Black Universities in the Jim Crow South. "When you think of all the iconic Civil Rights Activists, almost all of them were educated at Black colleges," he added.

Cox said that he believes that HBCUs played such an important role in the Black community because they were at the center of the student movement in the fight for Civil Rights. Those student activists that led sit-in demonstrations during the 1950s, 60s and 70s were majority HBCU students, Cox explained.

"These students were going to HBCUs to not only get an education, but they were also becoming more conscious and aware of the social injustices and poli-



HBCUs are as relevant as any beneficial institution of higher education, but HBCUs also offer a bonus because they are the cultural hub for the towns and cities, they are located in. Pictured is the 2018 Southern University Commencement Ceremony where thousands received their undergraduate and graduate degrees.



This virtual sea of Xavier University graduates, emphasizes the importance of our local HBCU's and the responsibility to the Black community that is rooted in their very creation and continued existence, despite challenges to higher education institutions today.

tics that were going on around them," Cox added.

Education was arguably the most important weapon these student activists could have utilized in the fight for social justice. Since HBCUs were the only places that openly welcomed Black people seeking higher education, these institutions became the meeting place for educated Black people to strategically plan each detail of the Civil Rights Student Movement.

"It was of extreme importance to have a mass of people who were thinking about things in a similar way," said David Robinson-Morris, the Director for the Center for Equity, Justice and the Human Spirit at Xavier, and who researches the current state of higher education. "On a college campus you have a critical mass of young adults who are able to mobilize and who have knowledge behind the mobilization to actually put their ideas and plans into work," he added.

Education for people of color has always been important for them to be treated like equal citizens in a country where they were not treated equally before. Morris said that it was through education that people of color were made free, mentally.

"Don't let anybody tell you that education is not political. All of it is," Morris said.


African-Americans were no longer bonded by the inability to ex-

press themselves, he explained. Education allowed for them to be able to fight for their equal rights. "At Black colleges in particular, you receive an education that says you now have an obligation to go out into the world to free other people once you've been freed mentally," Morris said.


Students choose HBCUs for a variety of reasons, and today it is as much about the empowerment and freedom that the Black educational space provides them, as it is the civic engagement.

"What you get at a Black college is the ability to interact and work with people that look like you, and also there is a level of consciousness that you would not necessarily get at a [predominantly White institution]," Cox said. "Students who choose HBCUs often feel like the experience they will get at a Black institution is more supportive," he added.



HBCUs provide a place for Black students to learn without their humanity ever being put into question, Morris said. "My grandfather will tell you that it is on an HBCU campus that he felt the most human," Morris said.



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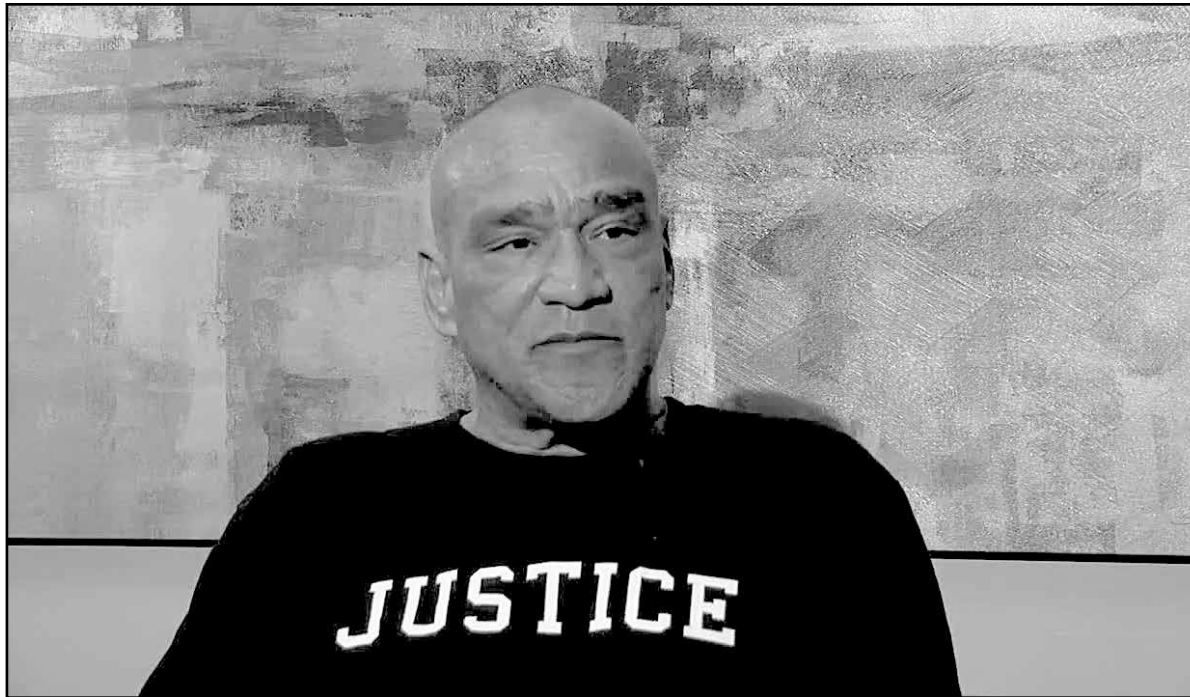
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Eric Prudholm Exonerated by DNA Evidence After Serving Over 37 Years in Prison

By The Innocence Project of New Orleans

In January 2019, Eric Prudholm was released from the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, into the arms of his daughter as a free man after a joint order to vacate his conviction and sentence was filed today. Mr. Prudholm was a 21-year-old young man visiting his girlfriend and her family in Bossier Parish, Louisiana in 1981 from Los Angeles, California, when he was wrongly arrested for crimes he did not commit. DNA evidence shows he is innocent.

In 1982, Mr. Prudholm was convicted by a non-unanimous jury and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for aggravated rape, plus 50 years for armed robbery. He was convicted with two co-defendants,



Eric Prudholm says DNA testing is a blessing after spending 37 years in Angola for Bossier rape and armed robbery.

prove that Mr. Prudholm did not rape the victim. The rape was committed by his co-defendants. Mr. Prudholm was not present when Mr. Gladney and Mr. Hicks committed these horrendous acts.

Given the new DNA evidence plus the weaknesses of the evidence used to convict Mr. Prudholm, the Bossier Parish District Attorney's office and Mr. Prudholm reached an agreement to enter into an Alford plea, allowing him to maintain his innocence in exchange for immediate release. Mr. Prudholm was resentenced to time-served for the nearly four decades he spent in prison. As a 58-year-old man, Mr. Prudholm's urgent wish is to be reunited with his daughter and grandchild. His daughter was born months after he was wrongly arrested and detained in 1981, and he has long wished to spend time with her outside prison walls.

Jee Park, IPNO's Executive Director, said: "Mr. Prudholm spent 37 years and three months in prison for crimes he did not commit. We are thrilled that his wrongful incarceration is finally over and that he has been reunited with his loving family. Mr. Prudholm is the 33rd innocent client IPNO has freed or exonerated. On average, our cases take 10 years of hard-fought litigation to free the innocent. We are confident that if we had litigated this case to its end, Mr. Prudholm would have been fully exonerated because he is innocent. Our legal system, however, is too slow to undo its mistakes, and as a man who has suffered greatly in prison, time with his family is more precious and urgent."

Kia Hayes, IPNO's Staff Attorney, said: "Seeing Mr. Prudholm reunited with his daughter, who has never doubted her father's innocence and has supported him throughout these many decades, is heartening. His life was taken away from him by a shoddy legal process, and he deserves to be fully exonerated, but this compromise allows him to be released immediately so that he can enjoy the remainder of his life with his family in freedom, rather than lose precious years while we fight in court."

Mr. Prudholm walked out of Angola today with nothing but the clothes on his back and the plea agreement means he cannot seek compensation from the State for his wrongful incarceration.

James Gladney and Reggie Hicks. Mr. Gladney and Mr. Prudholm were convicted of rape and robbery and Mr. Hicks was convicted of robbery. On June 8, 1981, the victim was raped in a dimly lit motel room in Bossier City by two men with a third man who served as a lookout. The only evidence presented by the State against Mr. Prudholm was the identification testimony from the victim who admitted that she was asleep until the first rapist attacked her, the room was dimly lit, and her eyes were mostly closed during the attack. She also described the second rapist, whom she identified to be Mr. Prudholm, as a dark-skinned Black man, but Mr. Prudholm has a light brown, tan complexion. Additionally, Mr. Prudholm presented seven alibi witnesses in his motion for new trial showing that he was in California, where he lived, when the crime occurred. Despite the State's weak, unreliable eyewitness evidence and Mr. Prudholm's strong alibis, he was convicted.

When Mr. Prudholm was arrested 37 years ago, DNA testing was not available to confirm his innocence and identify the true perpetrators. In 2013, with the help of IPNO, Mr. Prudholm located the evidence in his case and fought for five years, going up to the Louisiana Supreme Court, for the right to clear his name by having the evidence DNA tested. The DNA results from the bed linens and the victims' nightgown conclusively

In Honor of Black History Month



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"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

—Booker T. Washington

Women in Sports Day Mentors High School Students

By Lacey Ancar
Data News Weekly
Contributor

In the male dominated world of sports, female athletes and professionals say it's important to support young girls and women to change current stigmas for future generations. To support this goal in sports education, Dillard University hosted their Second Annual National Girl and Women in Sports Day in their Student Union Building on Feb. 9, 2019. The day-long seminar provided mentorship and strategies for young girls to navigate different career parts in the sports world.

"The reason I wanted to host the program is because I was sitting around thinking that I'm still the only woman athletic director in the State of Louisiana and that's just not acceptable in 2019," said Kiki Baker Barnes, the Athletic Director at Dillard University.

"I felt like I have an obligation to figure out a way to help increase the pipeline of women who are going to participate in career opportunities in sports," Barnes said.

Her commitment to building this pipeline comes from her recognition that there are few women in the state, in positions like hers. She told the young students from high schools in New Orleans how important it was to help women of color in the industry.

"You have to support, because it is challenging. Without it, it can be lonely since most of the time you are the only one who looks the way you do in your workplace," Barnes said.

Sports figures such as Ashley Baker, the Assistant Athletic Director at Xavier University of Louisiana, Nancy Sikobe the Head Coach of Dillard University's volleyball team, and Kirsten Ellerby,



Dillard University Women's Basketball Team welcomes local high school students to the National Women in Sports Day with "Girl Power" t-shirts on Feb. 9, 2019.



Sports Journalist Allana Barefield encouraged local high school students to stand up and use their voice on Feb. 9, 2019. (Photos by Lacey Ancar)

the Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athletes Enrichment at the University of New Orleans, joined Baker to mentor the students. Roughly 50 student ath-

letes attended the seminar.

Sports journalists also examined the challenges of being women who cover the industry. WGNO and ABC26 Sports Reporter Karen Lof-

tus shared her experiences of what it is like to cover athletes. She said the job can be fun, but women are often stigmatized.

"I have to strive to be better than

everyone else, I'm here because I deserve to be here and I'm smart," Loftus said. "Make sure you're doing it because you love the job of telling people's stories, it's a grind," she added.

Being dedicated for 12 years to her craft has taught Loftus how to juggle her work and personal life. Working long hours can cause Loftus to miss holidays and important events with her loved ones, but she said she compromises around her schedule, spending time with them whenever she gets a chance. "I have a great support system, my friends and family celebrate Christmas on Dec. 27th sometimes," she said.

It's never too early to start either. Allana Barefield will graduate from Xavier in May 2019, but she told the young athletes that they should always fight for what they want, even when others do not think they belong. "I was told 'no' so many times, but I didn't give up, I just kept thinking that every 'no' was just a 'not yet,'" Barefield said, describing when she was rejected for professional opportunities in this competitive field.

She continued to work hard, she said, and received national internships and worked to create a marketable name for herself. "I guess that saying of every 'no' was a 'not yet' became something I lived by," Barefield said.

The event impacted the young participants who said they were inspired to follow in the footsteps of Barnes and others.

"Growing up in the Black community, you have to take leadership in what you want and not let anyone tell you that you can't do something," said Destaney McKee, 17, and a junior at Bonabel High School. "I will always walk into a room and be confident in myself and what I say," she added.

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50th Anniversary Jazz Fest Adds Extra Day - Festival to Kick -Off Thursday, April 25



The 2019 Jazz Fest official poster by artist Scott Guion showcases 55 musical greats in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. The poster is available at www.art4now.com and can be purchased matted and framed, autographed or not at the website. (Photo courtesy art4now ©2019 art4now inc. & NOJ&HF Foundation, Inc.)

Producers of the 50th anniversary Jazz Fest have decided to mark the milestone event with something special: the addition of another day of the signature festival celebrating New Orleans music and culture. Thursday, April 25 will now be the opening day of the 2019 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival presented by Shell. Both of the event's week-

ends will run Thursday through Sunday, April 25 – 28 and May 2 – 5.

The Festival also announced that the new day will be “Locals Thursday,” which allows anyone with a valid Louisiana ID to purchase up to two discount tickets at the gate on that day. “Locals Thursday” discount tickets will again be only \$50.



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THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN.
AND WHERE WE'RE GOING.*



During Black History month, we remember the past in order to create a prosperous future. We salute and acknowledge the innovations, accomplishments and culture of African-Americans. From scoreboards to boardrooms and from concerts to congress, you are making differences that can be felt every day. Toyota salutes those who are driven to succeed because determination can lead to elevation.



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Andreanecia Morris
Executive Director,
HousingNOLA

to help New Orleans grow is also a good housing policy, both of which are essential to our future.

The light bulb turns on above people's heads when they consider what happens when houses are better insulated, have air leaks repaired, or install energy star refrigerators and high-efficiency air conditioners. With each unit of added energy efficiency, our utility's existing power resources go that much further to serve more customers. With a large amount of added efficiency across the city, our utility can plan for smaller or fewer power plants, avoid expensive sub-station expansions, and have much more flexibility to meet the economic growth we all hope for in New Orleans at a lower

expense. All this results in lower costs systemwide.

This reality points to a powerful prescription. When our utility needs more power to fuel economic growth, we can decide to invest in a new power plant – as Entergy New Orleans has proposed to do, plus all the fuel, wires, sub-stations, flood risk, and pollution that go along with it – or we can invest to make houses, schools, and offices more energy efficient by adding Insulation, installing modern air conditioners, repairing leaky windows, and so on.

People are often surprised when they see the economics. Across the country, utilities find that getting a megawatt of power from improving customers' houses is very

often cheaper than building a new plant to generate and deliver the same power. Those numbers don't even factor in other values such as the value to the resident of a new air conditioner, the added comfort of a house warm in the winter, or the economic stimulus from hiring local firms to insulate houses, repair leaks, and install new air conditioners.

I'm a firm believer in home-grown solutions. We can be proud that this has been proven right here in New Orleans. Entergy has years of experience operating a very successful program called Energy Smart. They offer customers incentives to add insulation, repair leaky windows, and install high-efficiency air conditioners.

Some people make the reasonable argument that there's only so much energy efficiency to be had and that the utility, at some point, needs power generation to serve customers' needs. That is correct, but we are a long way from that point. There is an enormous amount of work to be done today to improve houses, schools, offices, warehouses, and hotels, all over town.

What's before this community is, ultimately, a simple question. If the people of New Orleans are going to spend more than \$200 million dollars to improve our utility system, what's the best way to spend that money? We have to make rational, reasoned decisions to put housing first.

In Honor of Black History Month

I celebrate Our Progress



Hon. Chelsey Richard Napoleon
Clerk, Civil District Court

I leave you love. I leave you hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. I leave you a thirst for education. I leave you respect for the uses of power. I leave you faith. I leave you racial dignity. I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow men. I leave you finally a responsibility to our young people. Mary McLeod Bethune

The Value of a Golf Instructor

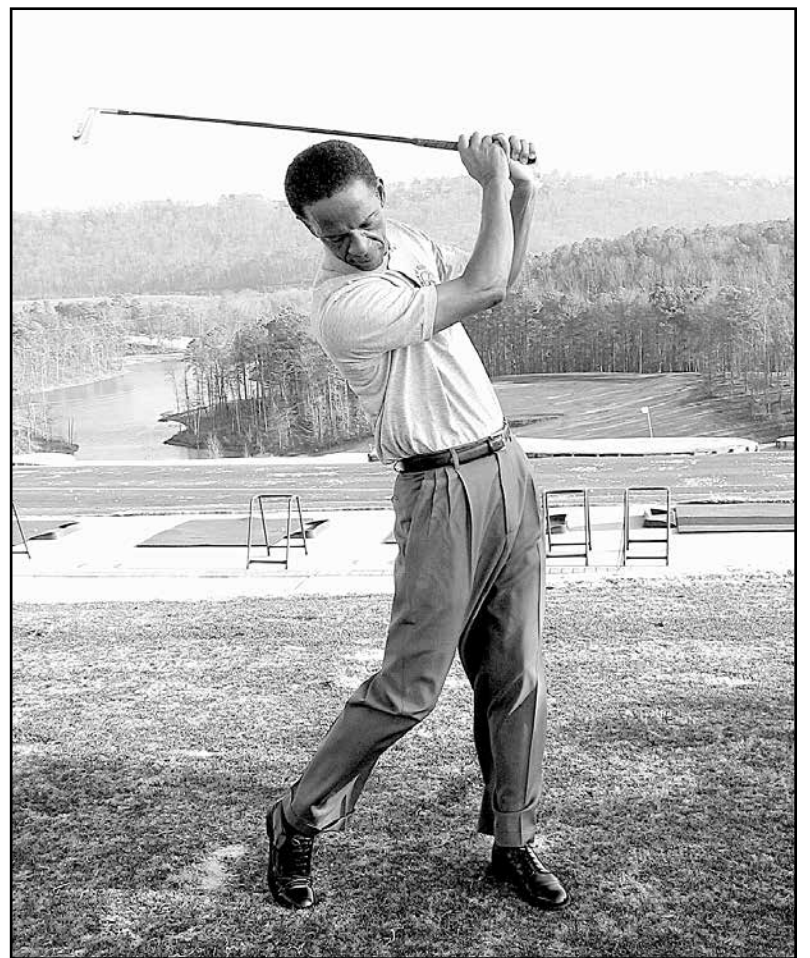


Glennon E. Bazzle
"The King of Swing"
Data News Weekly Contributor

Did you know that curiosity is the number one reason why people want to learn to play golf? And even though they may have great intentions when starting out they still run into many difficulties. Some may look to friends or relatives for advice and some can teach themselves through intuition. But the values a knowledgeable golf instructor offers are usually the safest, surest, quickest and most economical way to learn.

As a certified golf instructor with the United States Golf Teachers Federation since 1995, I have found that essential golf instruction should include the basics of the swing mechanics as well as the intrinsic aspects of the game, such as emotional balance and mental toughness.

To understand what is happening in the golf swing, you must know the proper parts of the body and the proper sequence in which



they move. You must find the right instructor who will teach you this, how to practice golf and how to play the game with a purpose. You must learn and understand that it takes discipline to play well and that discipline is a skill in itself. By set-

ting your sights on a certified golf instructor who teaches those essentials you will meet your goals, and with a little willingness to succeed, you will be able to keep your enthusiasm high and your scores low.

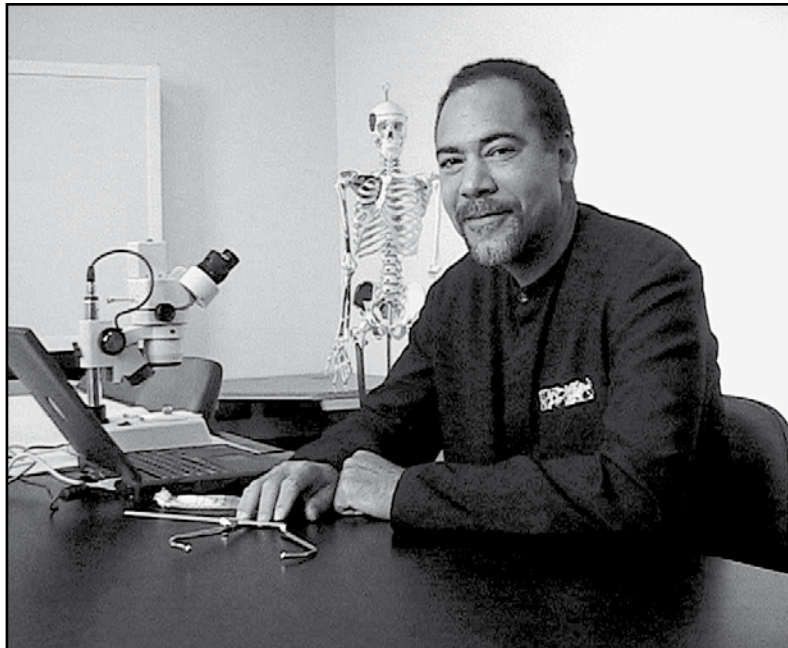
Happy Golfing!

When Paying Homage to Our History, Remember Our Ancestors' Stories that the Bones Will Tell

Leon A. Waters
Chairperson of the Louisiana Museum of African-American History; Manager of Hidden History Tours, @ www.HiddenHistory.us

In September 1997, Dr. Michael Blakey, former Howard University Archaeology Professor, and former Director of the African Burial Project from New York City, visited New Orleans. Dr. Blakey was brought to New Orleans to introduce New Orleans Public High School teachers and students to the world of Archaeology and Anthropology by examining the former slave skeletal remains buried in two former slave cemeteries on the site of the Bonnet Carre' Spillway.

This educational venture was part of the Authentic Voices Project, an African Studies Program, chaired by its Director, Dr. Clyde Robertson and sponsored by the New Orleans Public School System. This effort was conducted jointly with Malcolm Suber, Spokesperson for the African-American History Alliance of Louisiana, (now the Louisiana Museum of African-American



Dr. Michael Blakey, a noted Archeologist and former Director of the African Burial Project from New York City, visited New Orleans in 1997 to introduce New Orleans Public High School teachers and students to the world of Archaeology and Anthropology by examining the former slave skeletal remains buried in two former slave cemeteries on the site of the Bonnet Carre' Spillway.

can History), the Army Corps of Engineers, and the University of New Orleans.

Teachers and students from Booker T. Washington, Benjamin Franklin, McDonogh #35 and Mc-

Main High Schools visited the former cemetery sites of the Kugler and Kenner Plantations. Dr. Blakey demonstrated how excavation is conducted, engaged the students in the process, and conducted a public

examination of some of the skeletal remains obtained negligently by the Corps of the Engineers. Dr. Blakey would make the comment: "Much of the written record of the former enslaved has been neglected. Archaeology is what is used to uncover this record. The living people are not here, but the remains are."

What did the bones reveal?

The bones of several African peoples (Kongo, Angola, Mandingo, Senegal, etc.) were examined and explained. Dr. Blakey was able to trace the impact of 'slave labor' on the human body. His examination of the deceased bones would reveal damage to the upper and lower body parts traced back to repetitive motion, or mechanical stress in the bones or both. He would explain how the muscle and ligament attachments of the arms and legs illustrated how the enslaved was engaged in lifting and pulling. He pointed out the many examples of muscle tear in the arms and the legs consistent with overwork.

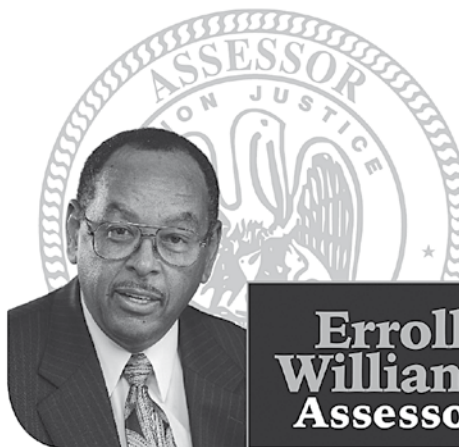
He furthered examined the dental remains. He was able to high-

light the kinds of foods the enslaved consumed noting that the enslaved had a very unhealthy and poor diet. This was very evident by his examination that included chemical testing. The enslaved diet consisted of a large reliance of starchy foods, including flour, corn, peas, yams, potatoes, sugar, rum and salted fish. In addition, his examination revealed the presence of scurvy, dental loss, and abscessing which was consistent with a diet in sugars and starches.

Dr. Blakey was able to show how the enslaved from the two cemeteries were worked to death and how malnourished they were. His examination would reveal the depth of the oppression our ancestors suffered. The scholarly work that he introduced to those teachers and students is no longer being shared or taught in our public schools today. Today, Dr. Blakey is the Director of the Institute for Historical Biology at William and Mary College in Virginia.

We, who are citizens in New Orleans, have to find a way to restore such invaluable instruction to today's schools.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Erroll Williams
Assessor

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Black Publishers Push for More Diabetes Awareness

By Lauren Poteat
NNPA Newswire Washington
Correspondent

On a mission to combat issues of diabetes, which disproportionately afflicts Black Americans nationwide, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association for more than 215 of the nation's leading Black media companies, moderated a very important conversation surrounding the chronic condition and its ongoing negative impacts on people of color.

Panelists participating in a high-energy January 24th discussion, held during the NNPA's Mid-Winter Conference, vehemently pushed for people of color to actively "get ahead" of their health. The panel was moderated by Bishop Elton Amos, MD, founder of Church of God In Christ's Glob-



The American Diabetes Association reports that 13.2 percent of all Black Americans aged 20 years or older have been diagnosed with diabetes. Blacks are 1.7 times more likely than their White counterparts to suffer from the disease.

al Health and Wellness Initiative, in cooperation with Eli Lilly and Company. The panel also featured two executives from Eli Lilly: Nate Miles, VP Strategic Initiatives, State Government Affairs and Tanisha Blake, Associate Brand Manager, Payer Marketing.

"We have to get ahead of our health," said Bishop Amos, whose organization is devoted to promoting healthy lifestyles among minorities. "Diabetes is still a major issue for people of color. We have to start utilizing our doctors more, getting tested regularly and working better on balancing and maintaining healthy lifestyles."

The American Heart Association cites diabetes as one of three major dangerous health

conditions (along with high blood pressure and obesity) that play a vital role in increasing the chances of succumbing to heart disease and strokes.

Additionally, the American Diabetes Association reports that 13.2 percent of all Black Americans aged 20 years or older have been diagnosed with diabetes. Blacks are 1.7 times more likely than their white counterparts to suffer from the disease.

In an attempt to combat diabetes, Eli Lilly and Company, a global pharmaceutical corporation and leader in diabetes management, announced the recent opening of their Lilly Diabetes Solution Center and Helpline, crafted particularly for Black Americans.

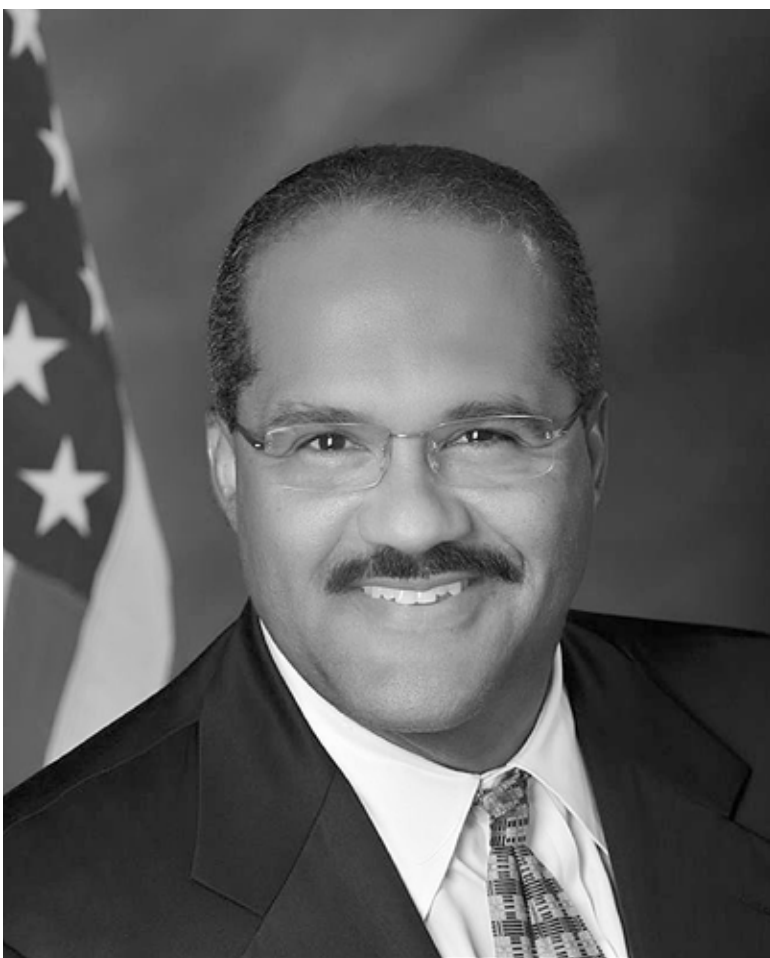
The announcement was received enthusiastically by NNPA's Chairman, Chicago Crusader Publisher, Dorothy R. Leavell and others in attendance. "Eli Lilly and Company has taken big steps to develop a solution center for diabetes," Chairman Leavell said. "This center will help our people gain access to affordable insulin and valuable resources and also provide cost savings solutions and free clinic information."

Dedicated to making sure that no one has to pay full price for insulin, the new Lilly Diabetes Solution Center and Helpline prides itself on being a solution-oriented program that grants relief for those who are not insured, are underinsured or have high out-of-pocket expenses.

With a longstanding reputation for pouring into communities of color, the Lilly organization has also donated insulin to three relief agencies that serve communities of color globally, particularly in the U.S.: Americares, Direct Relief and Dispensary of Hope, and has distributed insulin to over 150 free clinics around the country.

"This new helpline alone, will help people get direct access to affordable diabetic healthcare," Leavell said. "It will help link them directly to clinics in their local communities that can help and will provide information on how to go about utilizing resources. We are really working hard to get this information out to all of our publishers and we thank Eli Lilly and Company for this initiative."

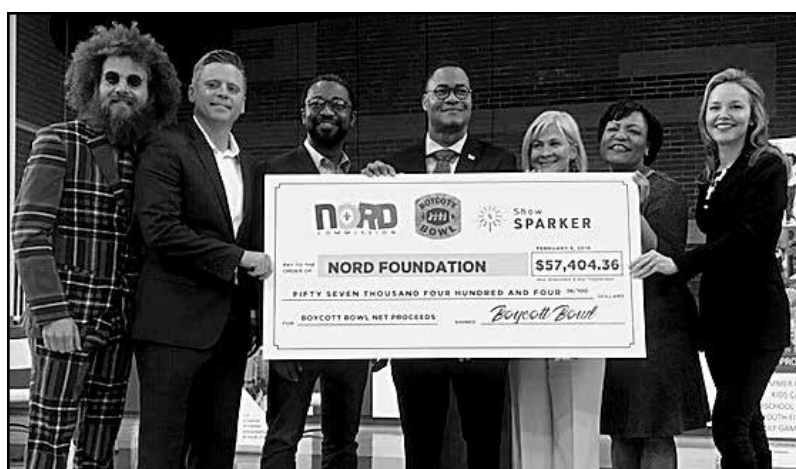
To learn more about the Lilly Diabetes Solution Center and Helpline, visit: Lilly Diabetes Solution Center and Helpline.



"Black history is American history. Our roots are deeply planted throughout the foundation of the world. We should celebrate our successes everyday of our lives."

SENATOR TROY A. CARTER, SR.
DISTRICT 7 OF LOUISIANA

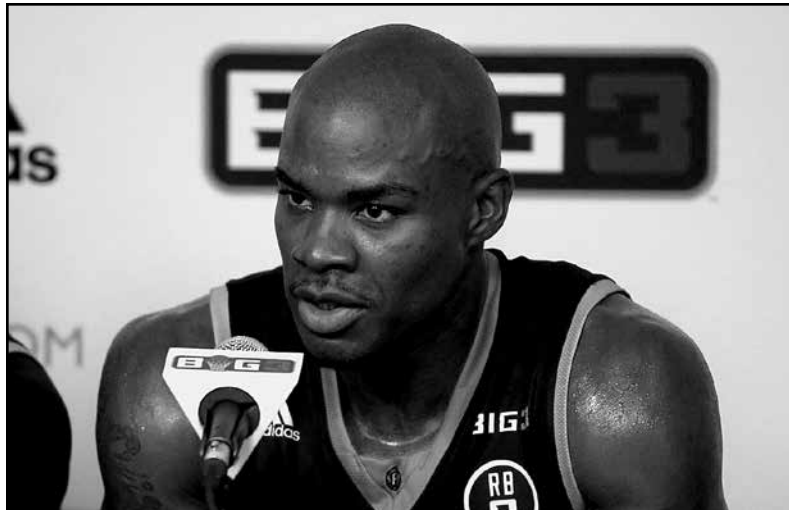
Boycott Bowl Founders Present Donation to NORD Foundation



The event was organized in two weeks, with those wanting to attend the event asked to make a \$10 donation on showsparker.com. There were also VIP opportunities thanks to Après Lounge and Ernst Café joining the charitable cause to make the event happen on Fulton Street. Within five days, the event was a sellout with only standby ticketing available the day of the event.

Mayor Cantrell also was joined by City Council Vice President Helena Moreno, NORDC commissioner Kimberly Abramson and NORD Foundation Chair Louis V. Lauricella.

Second Woman Who Claims She was Raped by Virginia Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax Says Ex-NBA Star Corey Maggette Raped Her at Duke Too



Former Duke and NBA basketball player Corey Maggette



Virginia Lieutenant Governor, Justin Fairfax

By **Kia Morgan-Smith**
theorio.com

The second woman to come forward with sexual assault allegations against Virginia's Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax says that she was also raped by a former Duke and NBA basketball player Corey Maggette while they were undergrads at the school.

Meredith Watson says that she was victimized by Maggette in 1999 but says the school failed to take action when she reported the assault during her sophomore year, her attorney Nancy Erika Smith said.

Watson said she told a dean who "discouraged her from pursuing the claim further," The NY Daily News reports.

Fox Sports has now said it will be investigating those allegations brought against Maggette who has been a basketball analyst at the network since retiring from the NBA in 2013, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Duke is also reportedly launching an investigation into the claims as well.

In an emailed statement to The Hollywood Reporter, a Fox Sports West spokesperson said: "Fox Sports takes allegations of miscon-

duct seriously, and we are looking into the matter. We have no further comment at this time."

Watson's childhood friend confirmed that she opened up and revealed the assault.

"Meredith told me she had been raped twice at Duke," R. Stanton Jones, a lawyer who is a friend of Watson's, told the New York Times. "And she told me that one of the men who raped her was the Duke basketball player Corey Maggette. That was a name I knew because I'm a basketball fan."

According to reports, Watson also talked about the Fairfax assault

in Facebook messages with friends. She said however, she was reluctant to report it because of how her claims against Maggette were dismissed by Duke.

While plans to impeach the embattled Lt. Governor are on hold he has been placed on leave by his law firm as they investigate the sexual assault claims. Several government staffers have also resigned from his team.

Watson said Fairfax assaulted her during spring break in 2000 at the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity house at Duke, where they were both students.

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Today, Mrs. Chase, 96, still cooks in the restaurant named for her husband, its walls lined with photographs of the visionaries and leaders who've eaten there.

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#OneTimeInNOLA.



NewOrleans.com

Image courtesy of Loyola University New Orleans.