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Data News Weekly

The Great Divide Gets Bigger Black-White Life Expectancy Gap Expands

By Janell Ross

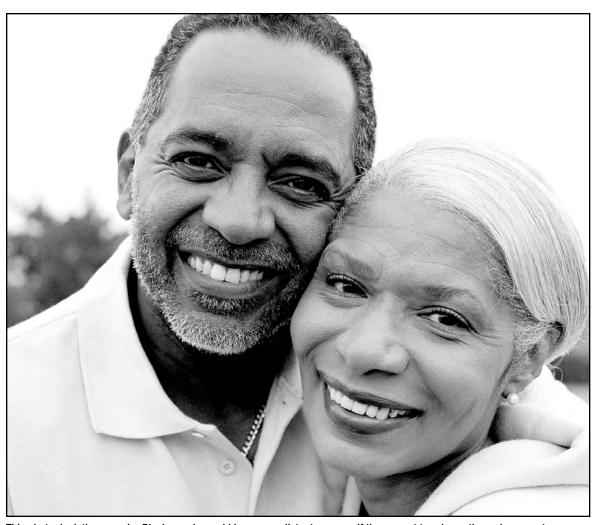
For nearly two decades, the expected life spans of Black and White Americans steadily narrowed, offering a hopeful indication of both racial progress and medical success: Everyone was living longer, and the gap was closing.

Then came 2009. For all Americans, the average life expectancy again nudged up for the year, reaching 78 years and two months according to preliminary figures from the Centers for Disease Control. But Black Americans saw no improvement in life expectancy, remaining at 74 years and three months.

Some experts construe this unanticipated widening of the Black-White life expectancy gap as a product of the Great Recession. The recession extracted brutal economic costs from nearly every slice of American society, particularly from African-Americans. Nearly two years after the recession's official end, Black unemployment remains at 16.1 percent compared to the 8 percent of White Americans unable to find work. And it's the stress that can come with a job loss that some experts say may explain the new size of the life expectancy gap.

"We should regard this one year data as an alarm," said Kofi Kondwani, an Assistant Professor in Community Health and Preventative Medicine at the Morehouse School of Medicine. "In a country where there are already multiple measures of health that show vast differences between the Black and White population, any increase in the life expectancy gap may be an indicator that our efforts to deal with health disparities may not be working."

The federal researchers who compile the data reacted more cautiously, noting that one year's



This photo depicting a senior Black couple, could become a distant memory if the current trends continue. In a country where there are already multiple measures of health that show vast differences between the Black and White population, any increase in the life expectancy gap may be an indicator that our efforts to deal with health disparities may not be working.

change in the data might eventually be explained by myriad factors not related to Black unemployment. Still, they said they were eager to see the data for 2010 and would focus on the again-widening Black-White gap.

"If we did see the Black-White life expectancy gap widen in a second year then we are going to be very concerned," said Bob Anderson, the CDC's chief of death data. "Freak out is probably not the right term but that would definitely set some priorities around here."

Looking at data along demographic lines can reveal some of the factors that affect life expectancy. Suicide is more common among the White population, and homicide is more common among the Black population, said Kondwani. Thus social forces associated with a recession - such as the disproportionate share of Black and Latino work-

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



Americans wait on line for free medical services at expos popping up around the country.



Soon, families like the one pictured center, can be even more scarce, as a lower life expectancy will affect men even more than women.



The high cost of healthcare, decreases availability for adequate care, lowering life expectancy in Blacks.

ers who remain unemployed or who have lost homes to foreclosure – could reasonably be assumed to affect different slices of the population in particular ways, he said.

Those inclined to pin the blame for the widening life expectancy gap on the recession point to one key factor that generally accompanies unemployment or worries about the ability to pay the bills: stress.

When people experience stress, the body produces hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol that produce short bursts of energy useful in weathering a crisis. When stress is sustained, the body continues producing these hormones, which tend to be associated with medical problems such as depression, high blood pressure, heart disease and strokes, said Uma Rao, a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Sciences at Meharry Medical College.

"You have heard the expression fight or flight," said Rao. "Well, what happens to the body when it senses it must fight and cannot flee for a long period of time is just as real. And it can be ugly."

Too Stressed To Work

All of that sounds uncomfortably familiar to Bernadette Lacy. At 45, she is looking for a job that will replace her once enviable income and career. She is a heart attack survivor.

Through most of the last two decades, Lacy made a good living working for political marketing companies and then government contractors. She loved the challenges that her work brought. She earned more than she ever expected as a woman without a Bachelor's degree.

"I got pretty successful," said Lacy, who is Black. "I went from earning maybe \$12 an hour as a temp to earning \$80,000 a year at my main job."

Lacy is a single mother who says she has never received child support. So, even as she was thriving at her full-time job, she worked a second job - mostly in retail -so she could manage the things she felt her son deserved, such as the fees required for him to play football and the savings she stashed in his college fund. Her second job helped to ease the cost of renting an apartment in Montgomery County, a Maryland suburb outside Washington, DC. She worked so much that she missed every one of her son's freshman year football games.

About six years ago, Lacy embarked on a particularly arduous project, managing electronic medical records for the Navy.

"It was a very, very stressful environment," Lacy recalled.

Her doctor eventually diagnosed her with high blood pressure and ordered her to sharply curtail her work schedule. Either that, or she might not live long enough to see her son into adulthood.

These were the factors that prompted her to temporarily stop working in late 2008 amid the worst economic downturn since the Depression.

She felt confident she would be able to resume work once she was healthy. She had a stellar record and intact security clearances, which made her eligible for a host of government work. She never had difficulty finding a job.

Less than two months later, in January 2009, Lacy's blood pressure was under control, but everything in the working world seemed to have changed. The financial crisis has brought hiring to a virtual standstill. Food and gas prices were soaring, slicing through Lacy's savings at a faster pace than she had anticipated.

"It seemed like, six weeks earlier there had been so many jobs I could have had my pick of the litter," said Lacy. "That dried up so fast it was astonishing."

At the peak of her job search, Lacy says she sent out 35 to 40 resumes every day. She worked with headhunters. She called old contacts.

"I was applying for all sorts of stuff, everything from the fields where I had worked to scrubbing floors," She said. She cashed out her retirement savings and used it to pay the bills. "I was really just trying to maintain some normalcy for my son," she said.

In the spring of 2010, Lacy was granted an interview with another government contractor. But all the worrying about money, work and daily rejections had rattled her nerves and her confidence. During a group interview, one person asked Lacy a question about her approach to managing others. Lacy's mind went blank, she said.

"I could hear myself saying 'uh, uh.' Then I think I made some little joke and nobody laughed," Lacy said. "Honestly, I can say I blew it. That was truly embarrassing because I have high expectations for my-

self, just some standards for how I want to perform."

John Henryism

What was happening to Lacy is not unique, said Sherman James, an Epidemiologist and Public Policy Professor at Duke University in North Carolina. Sustained adversity can lead to medical problems, he said.

James and other epidemiologists have found evidence that such problems are particularly acute among African-Americans. He suggested many are so aware of negative racial stereotypes that they labor extra hard and worry exceedingly about their performance in an effort to counter damaging generalizations.

Some academics call this "high-effort coping." Sherman prefers the term "John Henryism," a reference to an American folk legend. As the story goes, John Henry worked building railroads, and his employer decided to try to replace him with a machine. Henry was so determined to demonstrate the unique abilities of humans that he agreed to face the machine in a contest. He beat the machine but then died of exhaustion.

Workers who have lost jobs through no fault of their own are extra prone to develop health problems, according to a 2009 State University of New York-Albany study. The study found that 83 percent of people who were healthy when they lost their jobs reported some sort of health problem one year later.

Lacy thought her job was stressful. But struggling to overcome unemployment was even worse, she said.

"There were a lot of lonely days and a lot of lonely nights," Lacy said.

As last summer gave way to fall, Lacy realized she would soon have to give up her apartment for lack of rent money. She sent her son to live with his godfather so that he could continue attending his suburban school. Lacy moved in with an aunt in Washington, D.C.

Some experts argue that a weak economy perversely lowers the death rate, because people out of work are less likely to engage in certain high-risk activities.

The CDC last month released a study that found suicides appeared to increase during the Great Recession, the Great Depression and other recessions in between. In 2009 suicide increased slightly but just enough to move self-inflicted harm into the top 10 causes of death.

Lacy feels certain that unemployment and searching for work made her health much worse.

About three weeks into her family's new living arrangement, Lacy had a heart attack.

She was 43 years old and lying in the emergency room.

Since then, she has changed her diet and lost 15 pounds. She is eating more salad and preparing her meals at home. And she is eligible for Medicare because of her health.

She is still searching for full time work while working parttime in retail, the pursuit of an ample paycheck still gnawing at her peace of mind.

Newsmaker

Civic Luncheon Honors Community Leaders during 41st Southern Area Conference of The Links, Incorporated

Several Baton Rouge and New Orleans' community leaders were honored May 27th at a Civic Luncheon, one of several activities that will be attended by representatives of Seventy-Seven Chapters in the Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated meeting in New Orleans (LA) for the 41st Southern Area Conference May 25th through 29th.

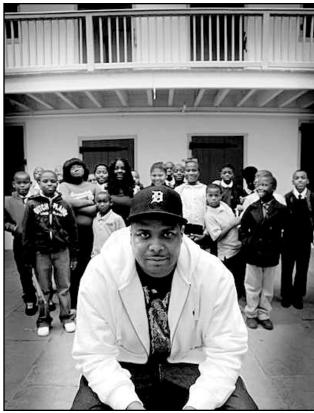
Approximately 1,000 Links, family members, business and community partners attended the four-day meeting, headquartered at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside and hosted by the New Orleans, Crescent City and Pontchartrain (LA) Chapters.

National President Margot James Copeland served as the keynote speaker for the luncheon. Honorees were recognized for significant contributions to services to youth, national trends and services, the arts, international trends and services, and health and human services. Nominations for awards were submitted by the host chapters.

The Services to Youth Facet recognized Derrick Tabb, Founder of Roots of Music and Jerome Smith, Founder, Tambourine and Fan. The National Trends and Services Facet recognized Diana E. Bajoie, former Louisiana State Senator, who is Director of Community Relations for the LSU Health Sciences Center. The Arts Facet recognized Derek Gordon, President and CEO of the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge. The International Trends and Services Facet recognized Dr. Charles René, Clinical Associate Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Tulane University School of Medicine. The Health and Human Services Facet recognized Julia B. Moore, Community Organizer and Activist.

Tabb, Smith, Bajoie, and Rene are New Orleanians. Gordon is from Baton Rouge. Tabb is one of CNN's Top 10 Heroes for 2009. He was chosen for his work as founder of Roots of Music, a mentoring program housed in the historic Cabildo in Jackson Square, in the heart of the French Quarter. A professional musician and major contributor to the music industry,

he has been the snare drummer with the renowned Rebirth Brass Band for more than 15 years. Tabb had a dream of build-



Derrick Tabb



Jerome Smith

ing a city-wide marching band for students after Hurricane Katrina. He launched Roots of Music in the Spring of 2008. One hundred twenty-five students, ages 9- 14, participate in the program with five hundred students on the waiting list. Tabb owns and operates a full-service recording studio, and has extensive experience with school marching bands.

Smith is revered and respected as a mentor, teacher, and nurturer of African-American youth in the Seventh Ward and Treme neighborhoods of New Orleans. Mr. Smith is a dedicated activist, humanitarian and former Freedom Rider. He is founder of Tambourine & Fan, a community- based organization that passes on the history, culture, and heritage of Black Americans to youth.

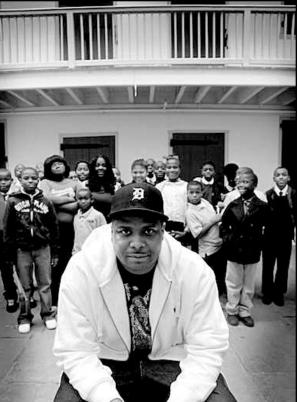
A wide array of activities and programs teach youngsters about civil rights, leadership, and political engagement. In August 2010, General Mills "Feeding the Dreams Program" named Jerome Smith the New Orleans Community Champion for his involvement and activism with youth in New Orleans.

Bajoie became the first African-American woman elected to the Louisiana State Senate in 1991. She was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1976. Bajoie became the first woman in Louisiana history elected to a leadership role in 2004 when she was elected Senate President Pro Tempore. Bajoie led the effort in the legislature to create school-based health clinics, and wrote legislation to provide breast cancer screening and treatment for low-income and uninsured women; mandated coverage of mammography and other cancer screening tests; and increased health care coverage for citizens with mental health disorders. Senator Bajoie currently serves as Director of Community Relations for the LSU Health Sciences Center, where she is responsible for defining strategic direction, development, implementation and operation of programs that provide education and health resources to New Orleans citizens.

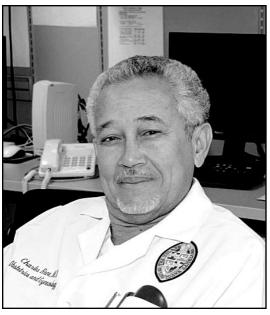
Gordon is President and CEO of the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge. Gordon is responsible for revitalizing the Arts Council and the development of the River City Jazz Coalition, a culturally diverse group of community leaders committed to bringing worldclass jazz performances and educational opportunities to the Greater Baton Rouge community. Gordon and Debbie Allen, friend and artistic collaborator, created a community dance residency, which has provided world-class training and performance opportunities for young people of all ages, races and socioeconomic status. The residency gives the young people a culturally diverse learning experience where they learn about dance and each other. Gordon is committed to the engagement of all residents in experiencing the power of the arts to transform lives and communities.

René is an American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Certified Physician, with licenses in Louisiana and Mississippi. He serves as Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. René has been actively committed to helping to improve health care in his native Haiti since the 1980s. He is cofounder of Association Haitienne de Développement Humain, Inc., a health and education program to support Haitians in the United States and Haiti; Comité de Support pour Restauration de le Démocratie en Haiti, a program to support Haitian refugees detained in prisons in Louisiana; Fondation Ertha Pascal Trouillot, a humanitarian project targeting women; and Haitian Organization for Health Services, a blueprint for a modern health system in Haiti after the restoration of democracy.

Moore is a breast cancer survivor who has dedicated her life to working with projects that support cancer survivors and their families. A former teacher and counselor, Mrs. Moore is a community organizer and activist. She is also an author of Cooking with an Attitude, which contains the favorite recipes of cancer survivors. She has also written several articles and plays about surviving cancer. Mrs. Moore has been involved in a wide array of church and community programs, projects, and activities. In April 2011, the Baton Rouge Council on Human Relations named Moore as winner of the 32nd Annual Powell-Reznikoff Humanitarian Award for her community health activism.



Diana Bajoie



Dr. Charles René, M.D.

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tzakenya Perry

Dedicated to Making It Right

by: Edwin Buggage

Zakenya Perry is a woman whose life has been committed to uplifting her community. "As a girl in Uptown New Orleans, I grew up in a neighborhood where people looked out for each other; today although some things have changed, I live my life in the spirit of the tradition that was planted in me from a young age and I continue to live by today."

Perry holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Management and has for over a decade, connected resources to those who are most needy, "Giving back is important and I have been fortunate to have chosen a career that married my passion with my larger purpose of serving humanity," says Perry.

In her years of working in the community she has assisted people of all ages. She has worked with Operation Reach, a program committed to helping young people through tutoring and mentoring; she has also worked with Community in Schools, the NFL Boys and Girls Club and with the Brad Pitt "Make It Right Foundation". "Through all these organizations, all of them are aimed at helping people gives me a great feeling, but I have also grown through giving to others," says Perry. Continuing she says, "I have found that in giving you also learn about yourself in the process."

This was tested in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when Zakenya, who purchased a home located in the Lower Ninth Ward two months before the storm, saw



her house washed away as the water came pouring in destroying her home. But this did not stop her will to rebuild, and to coin a phrase, 'Make It Right' she began to rebuild the pieces of her life while helping others in the ravaged Lower Ninth Ward. Helping others was part of her job, but simultaneously she was piecing her own life together attempting to make it whole again. "It was a very trying time for me helping people while I too was in need, but it was a time all of us had to be strong for each other and that is one of the amazing things about the people in New Orleans; our connectedness in knowing we all were determined to put our lives back together."

Today Zakenya is back in her house and still helping people make it right. She says what keeps her inspired are her two young sons Zyrian and Michael. "My sons are very important to me; they are two young Black men who have overcome obstacles and are growing up to be positive young Black men from the Lower Ninth Ward, they both inspire their peers to better themselves and are leaders in their own right and that makes me proud."

She is a woman who continues to work to make it right in all areas of life and community. Zakenya Perry is a woman who has dedicated her life to helping people and has poured positivity into the cup of life of so many others. Today, she is being honored by Data News Weekly as our Trailblazer for May of 2011.





Shoot Va Best Shot

Gregory D Hosts Record Listening Party

Story and Photos by Edwin Buggage

Recently, local hip-hop pioneer Gregory D, New Orleans first hip-hop artist to make a record and later the first to receive a national record deal, hosted a listening party for his upcoming album. This release will feature star studded productions from Mannie Fresh who D worked with before he went on to fame with Cash Money Records, local standout Black and Mild, also KLC, the man behind some of No Limit biggest hits and a host of others beat makers. Gregory D promises this album will be a standout summer smash. This event was a who's who of industry insiders from club owners, radio DJ's record store owners and many others came out to support this legendary artist who put New Orleans rap on the map.



Legends in the building:Full Pack Don Juan, KLC of Beats by the Pound/Medicine Men, the architect of Southern Hip-Hop, Rapper and DJ 2XL and Fess of Full Pack.



Data News Editor Edwin Buggage and Local Hip-Hop Icon Gregory D.





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Peaches Record Store Owner Shirani Rea and Daughter Lillie Rea.

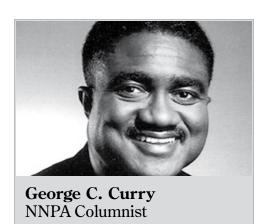
Data News Weekly Celebrates 45 Years

AUGUST 2011						
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SAVE THE DATE

Commentary

Demonizing the Poor for being Poor



In the 1960s, we had the War on Poverty. In 2011, we're now seeing a War on People Who Live in Poverty.

One of the most callous examples of this occurred on – you guessed it – Fox News. Charles Payne, in a business segment, acknowledged that anti-poverty programs, food stamps, and unemployment insurance were "good programs", but then went on to attack recipients of those programs.

"I think the real narrative here, though, is that people aren't embarrassed by it," Payne said. "People aren't ashamed by it. In other words, there was a time when people were embarrassed to be on food

stamps; there was a time when people were embarrassed to be on unemployment for six months, let alone demanding to be on for more than two years... No longer is the man being told to look in the mirror and cast down a judgment on himself; it's someone else's fault. So, food stamps, unemployment, all this stuff is something that they probably earned in some indirect way."

The host of the business show, Stuart Varney, called food stamps, Medicaid, and the Earned Income Tax Credit "a form of welfare, income redistribution" benefiting people with an "entitlement mentality."

Varney and Payne, in effect, dismissed the findings by the National Bureau of Economic Research that showed that such programs keep 1 in 6 Americans out of poverty, mostly the elderly, the disabled, and the working poor. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, without those programs, the poverty rate would double.

As states continue to struggle to balance their budgets, as required by their constitutions, some state lawmakers are directing their anger at the poor.

In Kentucky, a Republican State Representative has introduced a bill that, if passed, would require random drug testing for all adults receiving welfare, food stamps

or Medicaid.

Rep. Lonnie Napier, of Lancaster, KY., introduced Kentucky House Bill 208 that would immediately terminate benefits to recipients who fail a drug test. He told the Huffington Post, "This program is gonna save us a lot of money, because there's gonna be a lot of people showing up on illegal drugs and they will lose their assistance."

There is no evidence that people benefiting from anti-poverty programs are any more prone to becoming drug addicts than those who do not receive such aid. Professor Harold Pollack, of the University of Chicago, pointed out that Michigan implemented a mandatory drug testing program 10 years ago at three of its welfare offices. Of the 258 welfare applicants tested, only 21 tested positive for illegal drugs. Of the 21 failing, 18 tested positive for marijuana.

Newt Gingrich, who is testing the GOP presidential waters, has tried to indirectly inject race into his campaign. Speaking to a group of Republicans in his home state of Georgia, he said: "President Obama is the most successful food stamp president in American history. I would like to be the most successful paycheck president in American history."

When asked about the comment on Meet the Press, Gingrich denied his comment contained racial overtones. He asserted, "...I have never said anything about President Obama which is racist."

Perhaps not overtly, but certainly covertly. That point was not lost on Adam Serwer of the Washington Post. "I don't think Gingrich lacks the sophistication to understand how it sounds when he calls for poll tests and refers to the first Black President as 'the food stamp president,'" Serwer wrote. "...He gets to play the victim of a politically correct world where liberals try to stifle all criticism of Obama by characterizing any such criticism as racism. His dog whistle is thus amplified by enraged liberals, while

conservatives get to play up their own form of racial grievance politics."

Nearly 12 percent of Americans are beneficiaries of the Food Stamp program – 28 percent of Blacks, 15 percent of Latinos, and 8 percent of Whites.

Recipients, who are at or below the poverty line, are given a plastic card to purchase food, seeds, and food plants. The card cannot be used to purchase alcohol, tobacco, paper goods or pet food. Despite those restrictions, the users of food stamps are still used as a political football.

"If people buy fresh vegetables or other relatively expensive though nutritious foods, they are considered to be living high on the hog at the taxpayers' expense," the New York Times observed in 2009. "But if they buy cheap foods like hot dogs they are criticized for poor health habits."

Many people who were quick to criticize the Food Stamp Program in the past are now embracing it after they have lost their job. More than 36 million people are food stamp recipients, with an additional 15 million eligible for enrollment.

"This is the most urgent time for our feeding program in our lifetime, with the exception of the Depression," Under Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Concannon told the New York Times. "It's time for us to face up to the fact that in this country of plenty, there are hungry people."

And, those hungry people – many of them facing unemployment for the first time in their adult life – should not be stigmatized by candidates for public office seeking to score cheap political points.

George E. Curry, former Editor-in-Chief of Emerge Magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com You can also follow him atwww.twitter.com/currygeorge.





Data News Weekly

An Ounce of Treatment is Worth a Pound of Prevention

By Phill Wilson

NNPA Columnist

As we prepare to commemorate 30 years since the first AIDS case was diagnosed in America, we now have the tools that could end the HIV pandemic.

Last week the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institute of Health (NIH) released the results of a historic study demonstrating the efficacy of treating HIV patients with antiretroviral drugs as a method of HIV prevention.

The study involved 1,763 couples in which one partner was HIV negative (not infected with HIV); the other partner was HIV positive (infected with HIV). All of the HIV positive participants had a T-cell count-a measure of their immune system's strength—of between 350 and 550. The participants were randomly divided into two groups. One group started on antiretroviral treatment right away, while researchers delayed treatment for the other group until the HIV-positive partner exhibited symptoms of an AIDS-related illness or his or her T-cells fell to 250 (the recommended time to start antiretroviral therapy for most of the world at the time the study began). All participants were given condoms and provided HIV- and STI-prevention services.

During the study's 6-year duration, 28 infections were genetically linked to the HIV-positive partner. Of those, 27 occurred in the group whose treatment was delayed; only one took place in the group where

treatment had been started right away. This suggests that if a person with HIV takes antiretroviral (ARV) treatment they are 96 percent less likely to pass on the virus than someone who is HIV-negative and not taking preventive ARVs.

These findings definitively end the previous debate about whether to invest in prevention or treatment. There is no longer a "prevention strategy"; there is no longer a "treatment strategy." From now on there should only be a coordinated "end the AIDS epidemic strategy"; for if the results of this study are confirmed, treatment is prevention!

These results come on the heels of promising clinical trial findings about the efficacy of vaginal microbicides for women and pre-exposure prophylaxis for men who have sex with men.

We have reached a deciding moment: HIV is 100 percent preventable, 100 percent diagnosable and in many cases treatable. Our prevention toolbox is now exploding with options. We now have the tools to end the AIDS epidemic!

But, the question remains whether we have the political will to invest in using these tools strategically, effectively, and compassionately.

It's time to call on Congress, the Obama Administration, and federal and state agencies to do three things:

- 1. Invest in expanded access to testing and linkages to care.
- 2. Increase access to care for vulnerable communities including the ADAP

waiting lists.

3. Raise HIV science and treatment literacy in vulnerable communities.

People need to know their HIV status, and those who are HIV positive need to be linked to appropriate care immediately.

Federal and state governments must address the ongoing funding crisis facing the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which provides HIV-related prescription drugs to those who are underinsured or without insurance. Over 30 percent of all people diagnosed with AIDS are enrolled in ADAP. Over 60 percent are uninsured, and 55 percent are Black or Hispanic.

Nationally nearly 8000 people remain on ADAP waiting lists. Fourteen states have reduced the number and types of drugs they will pay for. A number of states have stiffened financial eligibility requirements, capped enrollment or removed some people who were already enrolled. Other states are considering doing the same.

This approach is outrageous. Not only are such cuts immoral and financially shortsighted, as these recent data prove, starving ADAP programs creates a public health threat.

We also need to finally invest in HIV treatment education in vulnerable communities. HIV health disparities are growing in the U.S., and Black people are disproportionately impacted. Black Americans become

infected at a younger age and at higher rates, are

diagnosed at a later point in their disease, and die faster than any other racial ethnic group. Our lack of scientific understanding about how the virus behaves in the body and what options exist to treat it is one of the biggest barriers to efforts to confront HIV in our communities.

Lacking this knowledge too many of us in the Black community become distracted by myths and misinformation. When we don't understand the science of HIV/AIDS, we are unable to protect ourselves, we put off getting tested, delay starting treatment, fail to adhere to the treatment regimens, and are reluctant to own the disease and/or our responsibility for ending it.

If we don't raise HIV-related science literacy, capacity and infrastructure in Black communities, Black people will continue to be left behind, and we won't succeed in ending the disparities, despite the biomedical advances we're making.

As the saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." We may have reached a time where we can get both a pound of prevention and a pound of cure/treatment on the same dime—if only we're willing to spend the dime.

Phill Wilson, President and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute, is available for interviews and press queries. PhillWilson@ BlackAIDS.org or (213) 353-3610 ext. 105, www.BlackAIDS.org



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State & Local News

Dillard University Appoints Dr. James Lyons to Interim Presidency, Effective July 1

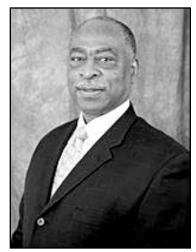
Dillard University announced recently that Dr. James Lyons, a three-time University President and Member of Dillard's Board of Trustees, will assume the post of Interim President on July 1, 2011. Dillard University is currently conducting a presidential search, and Dr. Lyons will provide leadership until a permanent president is named.

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Dillard University President Marvalene Hughes, who announced her intention to step down in February, will conclude her six-year tenure on June 30.

"We are aware of the importance of an efficient transition to new leadership," said Joyce Roch, Chair of Dillard's Board of Trustees. "Dr. Lyons has an outstanding record of accomplishment, and we are so excited that he has agreed to take on this position. He is an experienced academic leader who is passionate about Dillard's mission."

Over the past three decades, Dr. Lyons has served as Presi-





dent of California State University, Dominquez Hills; Jackson State University; and Bowie

State University. Most recently, he served as Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

A native of New Haven, Conn., Dr. Lyons attended the University of Connecticut, where he earned a Bachelor's in Spanish, a Master's in Student Personnel, and a Ph.D. in Professional Higher Education Administration. He later attended the Harvard University Institute for Education Management.

Dillard University has retained the services of the Isaacson, Miller Firm to help conduct the search for its seventh president. The university's board of trustees has also assembled an internal search committee comprised of trustees, faculty, staff and students to facilitate the search process.

For up-to-date information about the search for Dillard University's next president, please visit Dillard's official Web site at www.dillard.edu.

Urban League of Greater New Orleans and the Women's Business Resource Center announce Entrepreneurial Training Series

WBRC Entrepreneurial Training Series is a multi-week course to teach entrepreneurs better business planning skills, from concept development to actual preparation of a comprehensive business plan. The course enables participants to work through the various stages of business growth and development. WBRC Classes address the special needs of entrepreneurs by providing a practical approach to developing their small business whether just starting or ready to grow. These classes are offered to help individuals turn their ideas and concepts into reality.

Workshop Classes offered

- 1. 50 Steps for Starting Your **Business/Organizational Structure**
- 2. How & Why to Write a Business
- Business Management: The Right

- 4. Operating for Success
- 5. Marketing & Understanding who the Customers Are
- 6. Marketing & Networking: How to Connect to the People
- 7. Understanding Business Financials, Projections, Cash Flow and Budgeting
- 8. Finding the Money /Series Wrap Up

June 2011 Entrepreneurial Training Registration is open until June 1, 2011 Fee: \$60 for 8 Classes

(Fees cover cost of Materials/Speakers) Attend individual classes for only \$10 each.

Class Info:

2475 Canal St., NOLA 70119 Mondays & Thursdays June 2, 2011-June 27, 2011 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Rserve Your Seat Today: Contact Sheenan Green, Event Manager (504)620-9647

sgreen@urbanleagueneworleans.org Seating is Limited

The Second Annual New Orleans TRAD **Jazz Camp Swings In The French Quarter**

The New Orleans Traditional Jazz Camp for adults is kicking off its second season June 5-10, 2011. The camp is held in the heart of the French Quarter at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel. Campers from 18 states as well as Canada, Switzerland and Argentina are attending the camp to hone their music skills with some of the best Traditional Jazz Musicians in the City. The camp was started in 2009 by Banu Gibson, Leslie Cooper and Nita Hemeter to promote and preserve Traditional Jazz in New Orleans. Established trad jazz camps for adults already exist in Sacramento and San Diego, but there's no place like home, the place where it all began.

This year the camp is excited to award scholarships to ten student musicians from local schools. The scholarships were made possible by contributions from local jazz lovers and as well as supporters from across the country.

Morning sessions begin with our guest speakers who include: Bruce Raeburn from the Hogan Jazz Archives, John Joyce Jazz Studies Professor at Tulane University, Grammy nominated musician David Sager from the Library of Congress and John McCusker a local Photographer and expert on Jazz. Their focus is on the Musical Heritage of New

The major part of the day is spent in music classes with instructors specific to their instrument and in bands where musicians will hone their skills learning selected songs. Evenings are spent jamming in the hotel and around town in the clubs. On Thursday night campers will go to Preservation Hall as their dreams come true to perform in the Mecca of Traditional Jazz. Friday, June 10th is the free and open to the public Camper Concert. Campers will perform the songs they have been working on for the week. Saturday,

June 11th will be the first ever New Orleans Traditional Jazz Festival at the Palm Court Jazz Cafe from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Schedule of Events:

June 5th - Bourbon Orleans Hotel - Meet and Greet and Professor Performance – 7 p.m. Private (press are welcome)

June 7th - Second Line Parade through the Quarter - parade rules apply

June 9th - Preservation Hall Party – 6 – 8 p.m. – Private (press

June 10th - Camper Concert - Grand Ballroom Bourbon Orleans Hotel - 7 p.m. Public Invited

June 11th - New Orleans Trad Jazz Festival - Palm Court Jazz Cafe 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Public invited - Free

100 Black Men Of Metro New Orleans, Inc. **Presents The 3rd Annual** Tommie Smith Youth Track Meet

100 Black Men of America, Inc., Metro New Orleans Chapter will host its 3rd Annual Tommie Smith Youth Track Meet on Saturday, May 28th, 2011 at Tad Gormley Stadium, gates opening at 7:30 a.m.

"This year's will further build Mexico on the develop-

ment of healthy families dealing with childhood obesity issues." said Sam Castle III, Chairman of Metro New Orleans Chapter's Health and Wellness Committee.

100 Black Men of America, Inc., with more than 106 chapters throughout the United States and abroad, is dedicated to improving the quality of life for African-American youth in their respective communities. Likewise, the Metro New Orleans Chapter has established a strong legacy and rich history of success of its own, boasting the award of



youth track meet Olympics in Mexico City,

more than \$200,000 in academic scholarships to deserving students, since its inception in 1992. Additionally, the chapter has, for the past 19 years, sponsored and facilitated youth mentoring activities in the Greater New Orleans Area.

Youth interested in participating in the Tommie Smith Youth Track Meet

can sign up online at www.coacho.com. Meet registration for AAU members is \$5.00 per participant. Admission to the event is \$5.00, children under 12 years old are free. This is an AAU sanctioned activity, and has drawn over 1,000 participants in previous years.

100 Black Men of Metro New Orleans, Inc., is a 501(c) (3) organization. For media contact or more information, Reuben DeTiege, rdetiege@ hotmail. com or call 504-208-9337 at the 100 Black Men offices.

Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Inc. 8th Biennial Conference, June 2-5, 2011

The Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Inc., (JSUNAA) and the New Orleans Metro Alumni Chapter will host the 8th Biennial Conference in New Orleans, June 2-5, 2011. The theme for the conference is, "Renewed Alumni: Preserving the Legacy, Embracing the Future."

The purpose of the 8th Biennial Conference is to: 1) provide enlightening and engaging workshops, panel discussions, and other activities for over 200 conference attendees from across the U.S.; 2) encourage stimulating conversation to obtain feedback on ways to strengthen and en-

hance Jackson State University; 3) transact the business of the JSU National Alumni Association; and 4) provide opportunities for fellowship and networking while fostering "esprit de corps" in a major tourist destination - New Orleans!

Highlights of the conference include a dynamic keynote address by Roland S. Martin, a CNN Analyst, National Award-Winning Journalist and Commentator for TV One Cable Network. Martin is the host of "Washington Watch with Roland Martin," and was named one of the 150 Most Influential African-Americans in

2008, 2009 and 2010. The conference will also feature a panel discussion regarding the health of African-Americans and a discussion regarding the future of Historically Black Colleges and Universities with the Presidents of Jackson State, Dillard University and Southern University of New Orleans.

The New Orleans Metro Alumni Chapter will host a reception for Mr. Terry Woodard, President of the JSUNAA, Dr. Carolyn Meyer, President, Jackson State University and Mrs. Lydia Payne Monie, President, New Orleans Metro Chapter. Other activities

include a community service project at the Ronald McDonald House, a Job Fair, The Campaign for JSU, awards banquet and gospel send off. The banquet, which features the keynote, Roland S. Martin, is open to the public and you may purchase tickets for \$75 or register for the conference online at www.jsunaa.com by May 26, 2011.

The New Orleans Chapter is a member of the "Southwest Region" of the JSUNAA and is the only active chapter in Louisiana, says Lydia Monie, President of the Chapter. "We are excited about hosting this event and welcome alumni from across the country to enjoy the city and everything it has to offer, along with the various activities that have been planned for this conference."

The 8th Biennial Conference offers various sponsorship levels and souvenir booklet advertising opportunities for the business community. Please contact Gwen Caples, Director of Alumni and Constituency Relations at (601) 979-6944, if you would like to serve as a sponsor.

"Time Out" New Talk Show Brings Community Voices on Air

Do you wish there was a place where you could call in and voice your opinions instead of talking to the radio in your car or the tv in your kitchen? Now there is. The new radio talk show "Time Out" which airs on WGSO 990 AM radio from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays offers New Orleanians just that chance.

"Time Out" host New Orleans own Eustis Guillemet says of his show, "It's for everybody, it is not all Black or all White. I want to deal with all the communities, let us all build together."

Guillemet, a native New Orleanian, is also a musician, with a long career playing New Orleans music, classical music in Europe, R&B, and modern jazz. For the past 30 years he was in New York playing in Broadway shows: Ain"t Misbehavin And "Ubie Blake". As A Bass Player Guillemet worked with such names as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Motown/Stevie Wonder/ and the Spinners, Sammy Davis, Gladys Knight and others.

The call in number for "Time Ou"t on the radio is (504) 556-9696 and the show can also be seen on Ch.76 NOACTV, on Mondays at 8 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on Thursdays 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.

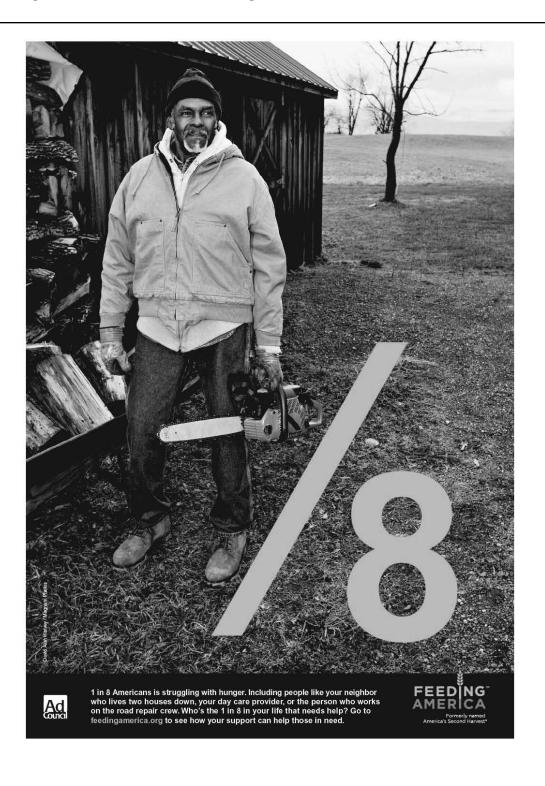
St. Katharine Drexel Parish Catholic Gospel Extravaganza

St. Katharine Drexel Parish invites you to attend their Catholic Gospel Extravaganza on Friday Evening June 3, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Church. St. Katharine Drexel Parish is located at 2015 Louisiana Ave. New Orleans, LA 70115-5228.

This year's Extravaganza celebrates "It Is Good to Praise the Lord in Music" and will feature the St. Katharine Drexel Parish Gospel Choir with specials guest including The Golden Voices Community Choir along with other soloists, guest choirs and liturgical dancers and drummers.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Parish at 504-891-3172 or visit their website stkatharine@archdiocese-no.org.







- month of your birthday,
- the month of your birthday, or
- up to 3 months after the month of your birthday.

If you already have Medicare coverage, Medicare may make you wait until later in the year to change your plan. **But you may qualify for an exception** and be able to join Peoples Health now for example, if you...

- have just moved into the area,
- are losing your coverage through your employer and you're eligible for Medicare,
- make less than \$1,353 per month, or
- · have Medicaid too.

If you're new to Medicare you have a lot of options and probably a lot of questions. Is Medicare enough by itself? Do I need to buy a supplement? What about Part D drug coverage? Or a Medicare Advantage plan that combines benefits and Part D?

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The benefit information provided herein is a brief summary, not a comprehensive description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. You must be eligible for Medicare Parts A, B and D; live in the plan service area and continue to pay your Part B premium. Enrollment limitations may apply. Peoples Health is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. H1961_11N2MAKPA_CMSApproved05282011