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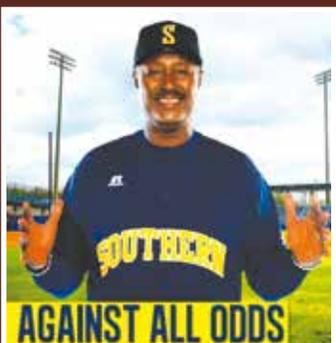
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Luke James

## The Essence of Soul Music

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# New Orleans Native Luke James is the Essence of Soul Music



By Edwin Buggage

## Luke James Son of New Orleans and a True Soul Singer

Luke James' voice embodies the soul of many greats who came before him. He is a pure talent that needs no gimmicks or studio tricks for his voice to shine through in an entertainment industry that has become much about style and not substance. The New Orleans native has taken the world by storm along the way garnering two Grammy Nominations, opening up for Beyonce' and writing songs for artists such as Chris Brown, Justin Bieber, Brittany Spears and a host of others. In addition to being tapped by first Lady Michelle Obama to take part in her Let's Move initiative. This campaign is attempting to fight childhood obesity, by encouraging kids to simply get up and get moving!

With June being Black Music Month Data News Weekly caught up with Luke James as he was performing as part of the Verizon "Now Playing" tour in anticipation of the upcoming Essence Music Festival. On this hot day in June, James is casual and comfortably chic,

"I am a singer, songwriter, actor, a lover, and a child of New Orleans," says James as he describes himself.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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sporting a Bob Marley T-Shirt, dark jeans, a baseball cap slung to the back and Adidas to make the look complete.

The singer has many hits under his belt including "I.O.U." "Make Love to Me" "I Want You" Strawberry Vapors" and "Options" where combined these songs and

### 5-0-4 and the Planting of the Seeds of Greatness

While there are many more artists from New Orleans that carry it around more prominently as their ID. Luke James, a St. Augustine Graduate is a well-rounded young man who shows that young artist from New Orleans isn't all rappers

me, just being from here opened me up to many different types of entertainment and all different aspects of art including acting, theatre, illustration, painting and also music and food and that is something you can consider art. Being raised here shaped me to be open to the different genres of music through the ages and to explore different

sounds and just become something more in my music."

### Lending His Celebrity to Help with Social Causes

James is not just a soul singer that talks about love, sex and relationships, but he is someone with a social consciousness and broad view of himself as an artist and feels

it is his responsibility to lend his celebrity to social causes.

"Verizon had always been great supporters of me when I've done Essence Festival and their raising awareness for domestic violence is something I just wanted to be part of. Also being here today do-

Cover Story, Continued on page 10.



The two time Grammy nominee Luke James was personally chosen by Beyoncé to open for her worldwide Mrs. Carter Tour.



Luke James with Comedienne Sommore Photo by Glenn Summers

others he has several million hits on YouTube. Luke James unlike his singing voice with its four octave range is a soft spoken guy whose accent is a blend of many places he's been with traces of New Orleans still left in for good measure.

"I am a singer, songwriter, actor, a lover, a child of New Orleans," says James as he describes himself. Continuing he says, "It is music that is everything it kicked off a lot of things for me, everything else comes after that. I feel that is who Luke James is today but I am ever evolving as a man and as an artist."

who are street in their approach to making music. But James is undeniably New Orleans but has taken a sophisticated approach to his art and is a guy whose musical range and swagger can rock from the streets to the suites as witnessed by his broad fan base that spans the globe.

"New Orleans is a big part of who I am. How did the City influence my music, my first instrument was the saxophone and that opened me up to jazz, blues and experimenting and later I realized I had a voice and that's what opened me up."

"New Orleans is what shaped



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# Roger Cador

## *A Living Legend*

By Jermal Greenberry  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Roger Cador will enter his 31st season as Head Coach of the Southern University Jaguars Baseball Program. A native of New Roads LA and son of a sharecropper, Cador owes a great deal to his mother and the community that raised him. "My mother was a big force in my life because she was the one that encouraged me," Cador said. He believes that it takes a community to raise a child, and that's what keeps him motivated to continually coach the kids in his baseball program. "They aren't getting the type of leadership and guidance that we got when I was growing up because times are different," he said. "[The] community could help raise kids when I was growing up because everybody knew each other. [Now], kids don't have someone to say 'Hey! Don't do [that], I'll tell your parents!'" Cador's future didn't look so promising in his early years. "I didn't have the proper education so I struggled," he said. He didn't go to school full-time until the seventh or eighth grade, so dealing with the kids was tough, but he has never let that get him down. He uses his experiences to teach his kids a lesson. "What I try to do is instill in them that you can be whatever you want in this country if you work hard," Cador explained.

At Southern he would flourish as a student-athlete playing three-years on the hardwood and four years on the baseball diamond. "I knew that to get to college, I had to be a basketball player," he said. "And I ended up developing into a decent one so I could get to Southern, but once I got there, I was thrust into a position where I had to play both sports." During his years at Southern, Cador earned not one—but two degrees: a Bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education and a Master's degree in Guidance Counseling. Cador's accomplishments on the diamond were just as remarkable.

After a successful college career with the Jaguars, the Atlanta Braves drafted Cador in the 10th round. His professional career with the Braves organization lasted only five years, starting in 1973. Those years with the Braves were valuable. He had the chance to get to know and play on the same team with his



childhood idol: Hank Aaron. Transitioning from being a fan of Aaron to being teammates with him was an astonishing experience. "That was a big step in my life to meet someone as iconic as Aaron was," Cador expressed. "But at the same time, he was a very humble person and that taught me that you can be really good and still be humble."

After being an Outfielder for the Atlanta Braves, Cador retired to the place where he would make the most impact; the place that gave

him his start: Southern University.

Serving as an assistant baseball coach from 1977-78 and as an assistant basketball coach from 1980-84, he began to make an immediate impact in young men's lives.

In 1984, Cador would get the chance of a lifetime when the University named him the new head baseball coach. Since taking over the Jags' baseball program, he has turned Southern into one of the most successful Historically Black College or University (HBCU) baseball

programs in the country. Cador has led Southern to 14 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) championships, eight NCAA tournament appearances, and has earned 14 SWAC Coach of the Year awards.

Cador's proudest moment came in 1987 when he became the first African-American coach to lead an HBCU to a win in an NCAA tournament over, at the time, no. 2 ranked Cal-State Fullerton. It was a great moment for the Jaguar program. "If I can step back, when I recruited

that class in '85, I pretty much told them that this group was going to be a part of history," he said. Brian Cornelius, Adell Davenport, Ray Payton, Juan Guide, Andre Gordon, and Andre George were the top recruits of that class. Cador knew that the Southern Jaguar Baseball Program would never be the same again. "I said, 'When history is written, you are going to be a part of history.' This happened way before we played Cal State Fullerton. I realized I had recruited some special kids."

Coach Cador endured another great moment in 2003 when his team defeated the number six seed Southern-Mississippi. This was a particularly important win because of what the team encountered when they arrived in Hattiesburg, Miss. He and his team couldn't believe that so many years later, racism still existed in the south. They turned that negativity into positive energy to emerge victorious against Southern Mississippi. "My players didn't give in to bigotry and all of that stuff we encountered," Coach explained. "So to me that proved that my kids had arrived. They took that stuff and they made it happen."

Over the years, Coach Cador and Southern University have sent over 60 players to play pro ball. Of those players, six of them went to play Major League Baseball. For him he said, "That was a big accomplishment."

Michael Woods of the Detroit Tigers, Rickie Weeks of the Milwaukee Brewers, and Cody Hall of the World Champions San Francisco Giants are just a few of the players who were coached by Cador. His coaching record is unlike any other HBCU coach in the nation, being ranked number 20 among active coaches with 603 wins and an overall record at Southern 850-488-1.

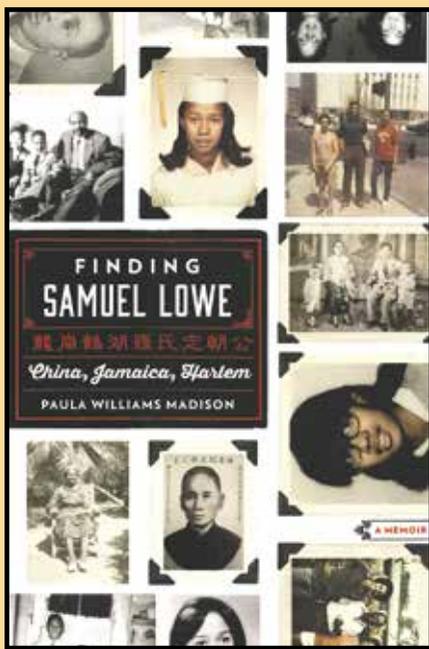
When asked what defines him he said, "I love people and I love to help people. Every day I look at the world and what it has to offer and try to make sure that people understand. When people come to me and complain, I try to tell them about the good things, rather than complain. That's what I'm all about. I don't like complaining. I try to look at the positives, so I'm a bright light to a lot of people and I love being that because it's important. Someone has to be that."

It is evident why his kids love him so much, and are continually motivated to keep going.



# Finding Samuel Lowe

*China , Jamaica , Harlem*



“Finding Samuel Lowe: China ,  
Jamaica , Harlem ”  
by Paula Williams Madison  
c.2015, Amistad  
\$25.99 / \$31.99 Canada  
276 pages

By The Bookworm Sez

## Your last family reunion was a big one.

It was fun, too, and eye-opening. You hadn't really stopped to think about how many people are related to you until you saw aunts you hadn't seen in decades and met cousins you didn't even know you had.

That one had Grandma's eyes. This one has the distinctive family laugh. And, as in the new book "Finding Samuel Lowe" by Paula Williams Madison, there were many more surprises to come.

Growing up on the roughest block in Harlem in the early 1960s, Paula Williams Madison knew her family was unusual, starting with her Chinese-Jamaican mother. Nell Vera Lowe Williams was fierce and fearless – she once held a meat cleaver to a man who'd threatened her son – but she was also quietly sentimental. To Nell, nothing was more important than family and she insisted that her three children remain close, maybe because Nell had no parents or known siblings of her own.

Though they were estranged, Madison knew her mother and dad loved her. That, in fact, was a repeated theme she heard as a child: Nell often said that Madison was lucky to know a father's love. On that, Nell didn't elaborate much and she rarely discussed her childhood, leading Madison to wonder about her mother's father...

Over time, she learned that Samuel Lowe had left China for Jamaica in the early 1900s and later became a shopkeeper, having little-to-no contact with his "outside child" before returning to China in 1933, when Nell was fif-

teen. This, perhaps, caused the "persistent and painful sense of loss" Madison felt her entire life: her mother's hurt had become hers. She imagined finding her grandfather.

## In late 2011, she finally seized the chance.

"Samuel Lowe" was too common a name for online searches, but querying elderly relatives offered clues and a long-lost cousin who informed Madison about an "alumni reunion" in Toronto. Someone else led her to a contact who knew some Lowes in China.

## One of them was Samuel Lowe's son.

There's a lot to like about "Finding Samuel Lowe." There's a lot to learn here, too, but first, you'll have to ready yourself.

Be prepared, for example, not to fret over things that are hard to follow in this book. Author Paula Williams Martin includes a lengthy and highly-convoluted family tree that's often "duppyproofed" with false names and birth-dates. Seriously, the Book of Genesis is easier to follow than those sections; you're best off just accepting that it mightn't make sense.

Get past that, though, ignore the repetition, and you'll find a fascinating family memoir that peeks inside the life of a 1960s Harlem kid, takes readers back a century to Jamaica, and then reads like a detective story. In those parts, pay attention: Martin writes with such passion that it's a treat to see how finding her grandfather means finding herself.

Historians and genealogists will love this book but for everyone else, it'll take some getting used to. You'll enjoy "Finding Samuel Lowe," but you may also find it confusing.

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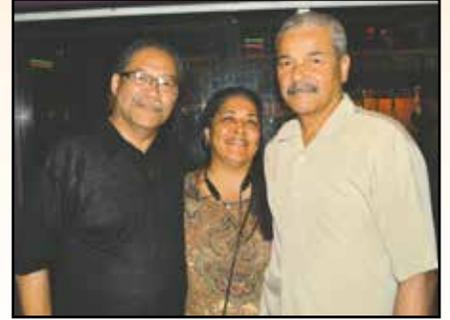
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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Kim's Birthday Bash

Photos by Terry Jones

Our own Little Kim held her annual birthday bash at the Prime Example, on Saturday, June 6th, 2015. It was a fun event and as usual Data was there!!!



## Partying at Spice

Photos by Terry Jones

Partying on Saturday nights is always great. This Saturday was no different and Data was there!!!



# Serena Williams

## a Champion on and off Court



**Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.**  
NNPA Columnist

dare to push forward for equality on the international stage of history. Having just won the French Open against Lucie Safarova in Paris, Serena has now won 20 major tennis singles championships.

At the age of 33, she still has a tremendous career ahead of her as she continues to win tennis competitions throughout the world. Today, she is ranked as the number one female tennis player in the world. Serena and her sister, Venus, also an internationally recognized tennis winning legend, are admired by millions of people.

But it has not been an easy journey. The Williams family has had to overcome many hardships and difficulties. As Black American women tennis stars, each has had to face multiple forms of racial prejudice and stereotypes in the sport and in the media. Yet, because of the irrepressible spirit and strong determination of the Williams family, Serena continues to soar to the heights of achievement and success.

Serena recently explained to TIME magazine how she had to stay focused to achieve her career goals while refusing to let inequalities and indignities hold her back. The fact that she had the constant strength and support of her family was key. Serena's father and mother coached and managed her career from the very beginning as she began to win major tennis matches as a teenager.

Even though Serena won a major tennis tournament at Indian Hills, Calif. in 1997 when she was only 15 years old and then again in 1999, in 2001 at the age of 19, she was booed by the predominantly White audience. Subsequently, Serena was falsely accused along with her sister Venus of cheating and throwing the game at Indian Hills.

Williams stated, "The undercurrent of racism was painful, confusing, and unfair... As a black tennis player, I looked different. I sounded different. I dressed dif-

ferently. I served differently. But when I stepped onto the court, I could compete with anyone."

From that time in 2001 until today, Serena and the Williams family have prevailed with resilience and won against the odds of racial and social inequality.

During those years of overcoming the skepticism and critics of Serena, I had the opportunity to meet with her father, Richard Williams. His confidence in Serena's stamina and skill never waned. I could readily sense that Richard Williams had raised all his children to share his freedom-fighting spirit and resolved.

In 2003, tragedy struck the Williams family when the oldest daughter, Yetunde Price, was killed by gunfire in Compton, Calif. Yetunde had also served as a personal assistant to Serena and Venus. The Williams family stayed closely bonded during and after that tragedy.

During a tour of Africa, Serena confided to a group of aspiring

girls in Nigeria about not allowing constraints or prefixed social molds to hold you down. She said, "We were able to break the [mold] and win a lot of grand slams and change the face of tennis ... when tennis was very dominated by white people. It doesn't matter what your background is and where you come from, if you have dreams and goals, that's all that matters."

Watching the final moments of Serena's latest with at the French Open, it appeared that every time she hit the tennis ball, Serena was striking more than another triumphant blow to win the tennis championship. Serena Williams was also striking another victorious blow for freedom and equality.

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## Time for Young People to Stop the Violence



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

those who are of not African descent join this movement. Still, I am waiting for the same young leaders to demand that their peers stop killing one another. I'm not embracing the right-wing hype about Black-on-Black crime, because they don't address White-on-White crime. I'm not suggesting that the movement for police reform take a back seat to anything else (after all, we can have more than one movement at a time). I am suggesting, however, that young African Americans confront their peers and say "enough." When "elders" say it, we are accused of preaching, but someone needs to say it.

What if the young people who abhor the killing of their friends and neighbors took shooters and their associates to task? What if they got up in their faces (in safe spaces, of course) and demanded to know why some of the young people who could contribute

much to our community have now been massacred in the streets?

Some of those who lost their life were victims of mistaken identity, or trapped in the wrong place at the wrong time – some were little girls playing on their porches or sitting on Grandma's lap. Some of them were simply walking home from school. Some of them were in the middle of simple misunderstandings and lost their lives because of an errant glare, a careless word. Some, like Charnice Milton, survived childhood on to go to her grave at 27.

Charnice was a talented, ambitious young reporter determined to tell the story of Southeast Washington, the part of the nation's capital with the highest concentration of African Americans, the highest poverty rate and, more recently, the primary target of gentrification that pushes poor Black residents out of the homes in favor of young, affluent, White "urban pioneers."

Her death was more than a faceless statistic – it was personal. Charnice was in my office fact-checking my most recent book for a few weeks, and she literally shimmered when she spoke of the stories she hoped to tell. She didn't want to be the story, she wanted to tell the story of the least and the left out and of the people and organizations making a difference.

Charnice's dreams of telling untold stories, along with her body, were tragically shattered when a depraved young man used her body as a human shield to protect him from a drive-by gunman.

Tears have been shed, hands have been wrung, and teddy bears and flowers have been left at the place where Charnice was slaughtered. A few days from now, someone else will be shot and the crying and handwringing will begin again. So far this year, 18 people have been killed in Ward 8 – almost one each week. The tears shed for

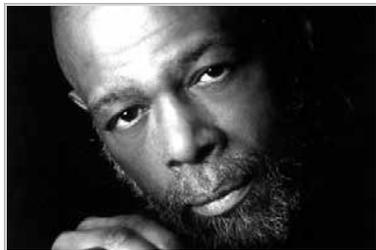
Charnice are special tears for this amazing young woman, and yet they are the all-too-regular tears for lost life, for names that don't quite make the news.

Some young leaders are quick to blame heartless police or and the right-wing obsession with crime – even while it is declining in some cities – but how many in Washington, D.C., in Baltimore (where 43 people were killed so far this year), in Harlem, in Third Ward or Fifth Ward Houston, in St. Louis, were killed not by cops, but people who look like us? At some point, we ought also be able to say, simply: Stop the killings!

According to the Pew Research Center, "While blacks are significantly more likely than whites to be gun homicide victims, blacks are only about half as likely as whites to have a firearm in their home (41% vs. 19%)."

**Commentary, Continued  
on page 11.**

# Let It Go, Please!



**James Washington**  
Guest Columnist

Today is truly a day that the Lord has made and it's apparent to me that as the world gets more and more complicated, the Word of God gets easier to understand. I often-times get reminded of the power of ego (mine), pride and the desire to control or more correctly, be in control. Dare I say that most people believe, certainly understand the concept of letting go and letting God. But actually doing it, they find it

impossible. I know many so called Christians, as you do, who can quote scripture, but even after all these years demonstrate very little faith, if any. I know Christian control freaks who must have the last say and who just have to be right all the time. I've gotten caught up in rationalizing my own actions given the circumstances of the day, as if by some miracle of intelligence, I am the authority, only to recognize later that not only am I wrong, but God never entered the picture. I call it faithless behavior.

It is at these times that I feel open to receiving the Holy Spirit and realize every day is full of miracles. I am blessed and highly favored and always have been. I am not in control. I never have been and if the truth be told, it's okay. Giving one's life to Christ requires a constant vigil

against taking credit or assessing blame. When you focus on service in the name of the Lord, you really do get a chance to see all of this from a very different perspective. Service in this regard neither seeks nor expects reward. Any act of this nature speaks for itself. It can't get any simpler than this. Christ suggests that God can see into your heart and knows your intention. Let's see now. Love God and love your neighbor as you would love yourself. Incredibly simple! So simple, you could miss it altogether. Now on this day, any day that the Lord has made, let's march this simple concept in what appears to be an ever increasingly complex world. Behavior should then have limits. Actions should have purpose and your intent should be upper most in your mind. So, let's take

a look at yesterday. You see how easy it is to get up and succumb to jealousy, pettiness, cruelty, envy and the like? It actually takes work to be humble, loving, giving and a source of truth all day every day. It shouldn't but it does. The world sees to that. It takes will power and you know the will I'm talking about.

I believe the calling of every Christian is simply to try. It's the effort that God expects. It's the intent He wants. If you're first seeking Him, then the question, then how you perform, how you think, what you say and who you hang out with gets answered with a resounding amen! I'm fortunate enough to believe that I've known people who were angels walking. Thus, I believe there are saints among us and I don't ever want to be so busy that I ignore them in my haste pursu-

ing the world instead of the Word. However, from these living breathing angels, I've learned the battle is not necessarily over until you win. And don't concern yourself about the victory because Christ did that some time ago. What's that line in the movie? What we do today echoes in eternity. My eternity is set. All I have to do is get through this life thing. Therefore get up each and every day and get this before you leave your home. See me see God. You can do this one hour at a time, one day at a time, one person at a time. Let it go, please.

**May God bless and keep you always.**

James, jaws@dallasweekly.com

James A. Washington is the Publisher of Dallas Weekly Newspaper, and is General Manager of The Atlanta Voice Newspaper.

## Dollars and Sense

# Feds and States Successfully Team Up to Prosecute Housing Bias

By **Charlene Crowell**  
NNPA Columnist

Three recent and separate enforcement actions involving federal and state agencies together prove how coordinated efforts against housing and credit discrimination can lead to equitable settlements for those whose rights have been denied. Further, the actions illustrate how the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) works in cooperation with other federal and state agencies to ensure that everyone harmed is protected by federal or state laws – or both.

On May 26, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) resolved the largest disparate treatment in redlining in the agency's history. The settlement is also one of the largest redlining complaints brought by the federal government against a mortgage lender.

Associated Bank, based in Wisconsin and operating in multiple

states, denied Black and Latino mortgage applicants loans from 2008-2010, particularly in large minority neighborhoods. As a result, Associated must now make more than \$200 million in new mortgage lending available in majority-minority census tracts in Chicago and adjoining Lake County; Milwaukee and nearby Kenosha and in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Beyond the \$200 million in new mortgage lending, Associated Bank's settlement also guarantees the opening of four loan offices in four of the majority-minority census tracts – three in Chicago and a fourth in the Milwaukee area. Within six months, fair housing training must be offered to all of its employees and agents with substantial residential lending and a second level review on all denied residential loans will also go into effect.

An additional \$5.75 million from the bank will be used to support homeowner improvements/repairs (\$3 million), affirmative marketing

of loans (\$1.4 million), community reinvestment and fair lending and education training (\$1.35 million).

"Discriminatory lending practices have too often cut off many credit-worthy families from the opportunities they need to thrive," said HUD Secretary Julian Castro. "This agreement will ensure that more Americans can fulfill their hopes and aspirations."

Days later, CFPB took two, back-to-back enforcement actions – again largely affecting Black and Latino consumers who either purchased a home or were striving to avoid foreclosure. About 16,000 affected consumers of color will share a total of \$36.7 million for the harms incurred by these illegal actions.

On May 28, CFPB and the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a joint complaint against Provident Funding Associates. The firm charged higher fees that were unrelated to an applicant's creditworthiness, and allowed broker discretion to charge higher interest rates to

Black and Latino consumers seeking a mortgage. At the same time, similar White consumers were never charged the higher costs. Provident encouraged its brokers to follow these discriminatory practices by sharing a portion of the higher costs, also known as yield-spread premiums, with their brokers.

DOJ and CFPB filed charges based on the Equal Credit Opportunity Act that bans creditors from discriminating against applicants in credit transactions on the basis of characteristics such as race and national origin. While charging these consumers of color higher rates than those of White borrowers, DOJ further alleged that Provident violated the Fair Housing Act, which also bans discrimination in mortgage lending.

Consequently, approximately 14,000 Black and Latino who were sold Provident mortgages from 2006 to 2011 will share \$9 million in damages for the harms incurred. Based in California, Provident

mortgage brokers made loans across the country.

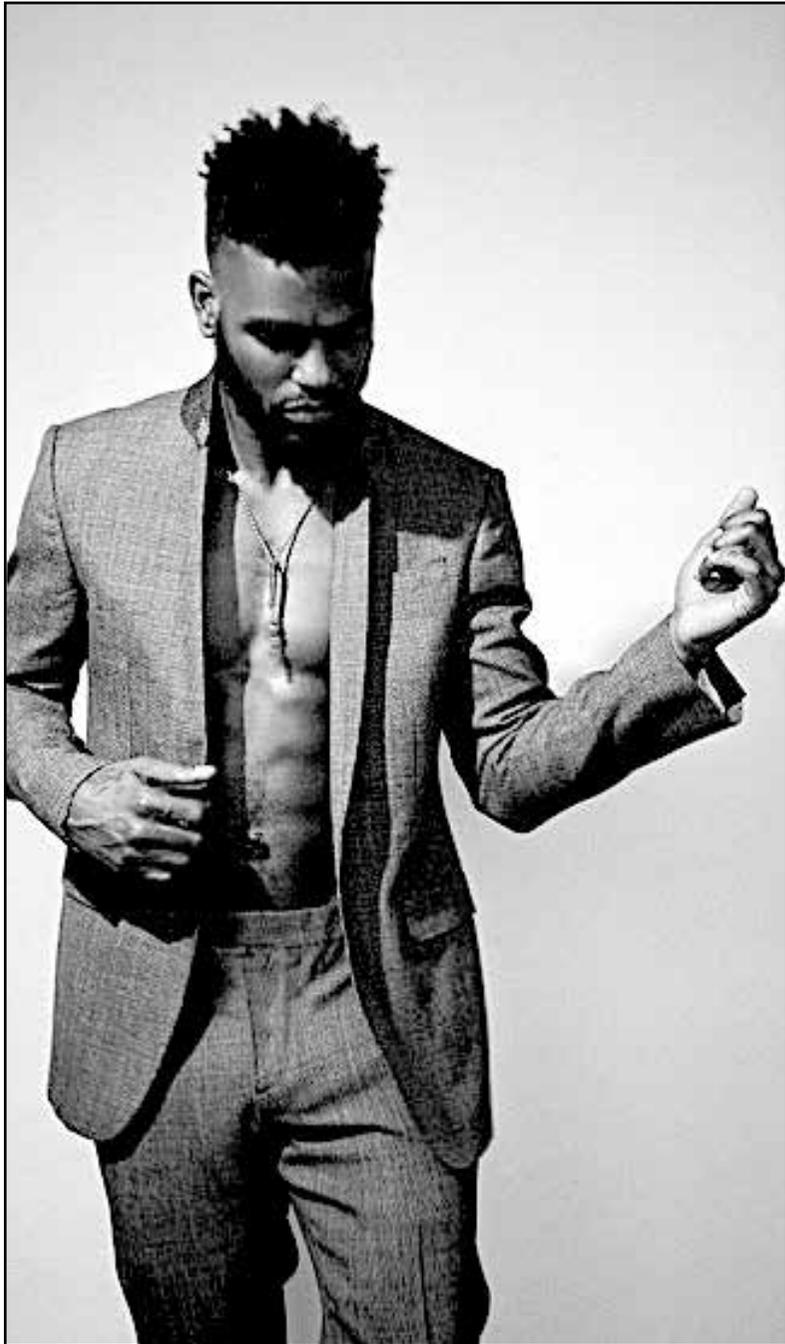
For Paul Leonard, a senior vice-president with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), the Provident case was like a bad habit that would not go away.

"We've seen this before. A lender provides broad discretion to mortgage brokers," commented Leonard, "and results in African-American and Latino borrowers being systematically targeted for higher broker fees. . . . It was a bad practice before the crisis and it is a bad practice today."

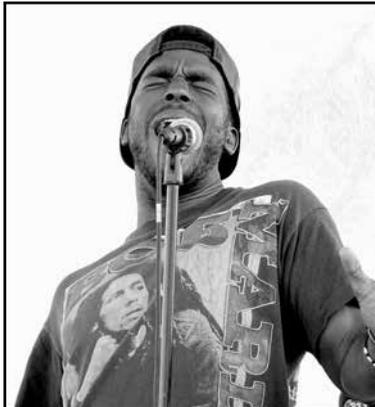
On May 29, CFPB and the Florida Attorney General's Office together obtained a final \$27.7 million judgment against a foreclosure relief scam that targeted troubled homeowners facing foreclosure. Hoffman Law Group (formerly known as Residential Litigation Group), its affiliates and operators were charged with using deceptive

**Health, Continued on page 11.**

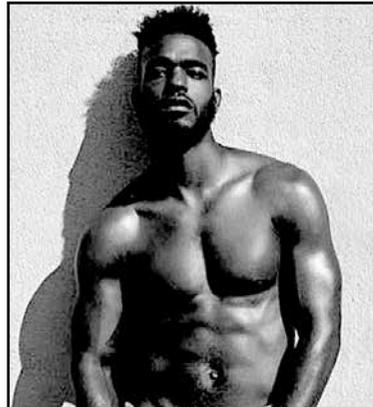
Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.



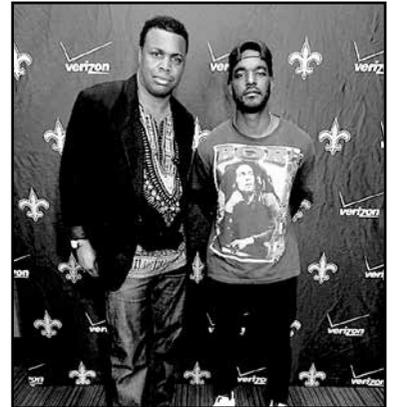
"I love that my career is taking off, but I miss New Orleans because it is such a special and unique place and I am proud to be from here. I really miss my mother, my friends and the culture and just wish I had more time to be in the City."



James is being hailed by some as one of the best singers of his generation. Photo by Glenn Summers



With legions of female fans, James was voted "Sexy Man of the Week" by People Magazine



Data News Weekly Editor Edwin Buggage with Luke James. Photo by Glenn Summers

ing something that's celebrating my City and my community," says James of his commitment to helping those in need.

On Beyonce' Choosing Him to Open on her World Tour

His talent is undeniable and he has gained legions of fans as well as peers who respect his amazing talent. One of the biggest opportunities came to him when he was personally selected by Beyonce' to open for her world tour during the "The Mrs. Carter Show."

"Luke James is a gifted singer and songwriter and what he does on stage with his pure falsetto is incredible. I am excited to have him join the tour and to introduce this soulful singer to an audience that will be discovering a true star," the megastar said in a statement to the press of Luke James and his talent.

He says of being on tour with the present queen of pop music, "Being on tour with Beyonce' was an opportunity that was presented to me by her and of course I was elated to jump at the opportunity

as a new artist to share the stage with an amazing act and icon and I learned so much on the road with her about how to be a professional and working to perfect my stage performance."

### Luke James a True Talent and Voice of a Generation

While his star continues to shine and his career grows he is becoming a household name as a singer, songwriter and adding actor to his resume appearing in several films including "Black Nativity" opposite Forest Whitaker, Angela Bassett, Tyrese Gibson, Jennifer Hudson and a star studded cast that in 2013 brought to the big screen the musical originally written by the great Harlem Renaissance Writer Langston Hughes.

Luke James is traveling the globe and doing major things, while saying he is happy and fortunate to see his hard work pay off and his talent meeting opportunities that sometimes does not happen in the entertainment

industry. He says he sometimes misses the special place where he honed and developed his talent.

"I love that my career is taking off, but I miss New Orleans because it is such a special and unique place and I am proud to be from here. I really miss my mother, my friends and the culture and just wish I had more time to be in the City. I've been to many places but I actually miss my City because there's no other place like it anywhere in the world."

Luke James is a star on the rise with his eyes on the prize. He channels the greats of soul music and shows that their spirit is still alive in his music. He is an artist that knows no boundaries and has unlimited potential as his career unfolds. Who knows when it is all said and done his name may be among many of the greats that's inspired him as he is being heralded as one of the best male vocalist of his generation. He is the definition and essence of soul music and it is only the beginning for this young man from New Orleans in his journey to greatness.

### Health, Continued from page 9.

marketing practices and scams to take \$11,730,579 in illegal fees from approximately 2,000 Florida consumers.

Their actions violated both federal and Florida laws by charging troubled homeowners upfront fees of \$6,000 to presumably keep their homes, and an additional \$495 in monthly fees. Additionally, consumers were told to stop communicating with both their lenders and servicers.

In exchange for the fees paid, consumers were to be added to frivolous lawsuits that the firm claimed would pressure lenders to modify loans or provide foreclosure relief.

In addition to the \$11 million restitution paid to consumers, the final court judgment also ordered the corporate defendants to pay two

different civil penalties. The first is \$10 million for the violation of Regulation O, formerly known as the Mortgage Assistance Relief Services (MARS) rule that bans advance fees for mortgage loan modification services and misrepresentations about loan modifications. The second civil fine, another \$6 million is charged for violation of Florida state law.

With state and federal laws providing legal sanctions, at least some compensation will be shared with victims of discrimination. More importantly, the journey towards justice continues.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

### Commentary, Continued from page 8.

Thanks to the National Rifle Association, there has been a proliferation of guns in our nation. According to federal figures, there were 310 million nonmilitary firearms in the United States as of 2009. That's an average of nearly a gun per person in our nation of 318.9 million people, making us the most heavily armed country in the world. There are more gun sellers in the U.S. than McDonald's or grocery stores.

Even so, the NRA opposes any legislation to reduce easy access to guns, and offer clichés such as "guns don't kill, people do." But guns don't fire themselves. Meanwhile, young African Americans are mowed down like bowling pins, and except for the occasional reporting of an exceptional life, those who are

killed are also ignored.

It is time for young leaders to take their peers on, to step up and demand that the violence stop. It is time for these leaders to demand that media outlets cover the cumulative loss of life and the individuals who have been killed, without tediously parroting the mindless and non-contextual conversation about Black-on-Black crime. I write this not as an episodic elder preaching, but as a seasoned warrior asking her esteemed young leaders to take this baton and run with it.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based author and economist. She can be reached at [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com)



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# STEM Majors Awarded \$25,000 Per Year for College

By Freddie Allen  
NNPA Senior Washington  
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – When Morgan Grayned opened the envelope from the Buick Achievers' scholarship program and learned that she would receive \$24,000 a year to attend college, she screamed and danced and ran around her house with the letter.

She posted it on Facebook. Her mom called the scholarship a blessing.

Grayned applied for the scholarship less than a week before high school graduation with limited expectations. That was four years ago. Recently, Grayned, 22, graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in finance from Hampton University on Mother's Day, a great gift for her mom, a single parent who had wholeheartedly supported her throughout her entire academic career.

"Coming from a single parent household, I just knew that I needed assistance to [pay] for college," said Grayned. "I knew that I was going to go regardless, I just wasn't sure how I was going to pay for it. The biggest thing for me with having the Buick Achievers' scholarship is the fact that I didn't have financial stress."

Grayned joined the Sigma Beta Delta Business Honor Society and Ebony Fire, Hampton's dance troupe, where she was team captain her senior year.

The Stone Mountain, Ga. native said that traveling with the football team and performing with the band were great experiences and provided a creative outlet while helping her to hone her leadership skills.

Those experiences may not have been possible without the Buick Achievers' scholarship she received four years ago. The General Motors Foundation started the scholarship program in 2011 in an effort to increase the pipeline of students flowing into careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). A 2013 study on STEM jobs conducted by the Census Bureau reported that Blacks account for just 6 percent of the STEM workforce even though they make up 11 percent of the labor market in the U.S.

Karen Nicklin, the manager of educational initiatives at the GM Foundation said that the group targeted



Morgan Grayned (above) is one the Buick Achievers' scholarship recipients who will receive \$24,000 a year to attend college.

first generation students, veterans and children of veterans, children from diverse backgrounds and students from low-income households in an effort ensure that that a quality education was affordable and accessible to more students. Since the program's inception, 3400 students have received nearly \$28 million in scholarships to attend college.

"Students can receive up \$25,000 dollars and the scholarships are renewable for up to five years for some eligible majors," said Nicklin. "Those eligible majors are all STEM or automotive-related majors."

Last year, 15 percent of the Buick Achievers scholarship class was Black. Applicants for the scholarship have to enroll full-time at an accredited four-year college or university based in the United States or Puerto Rico for the entire 2015-16 academic year. There are more than 40 majors that are eligible through the program, including computers science, graphic design, finance and chemical engineering. A full list of majors and eligibility requirements is available at [www.BuickAchievers.com](http://www.BuickAchievers.com).

"Awards are renewable for the given years noted above or un-

til a bachelor's degree is earned, whichever occurs first. Renewal is contingent upon maintaining a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), full-time enrollment and continuing to major in an eligible field of study," according to the program's website.

Grayned credited the program for providing opportunities for Black students to attend historically, Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) continuing a legacy started by their parents or starting a new one in a nurturing and culturally-rich environment unique to Black colleges.

She said that she was able to find a lot of minority scholarships to attend predominately White institutions (PWIs), but resources for an African American student to go to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) were harder to come by.

Grayned also said that HBCUs provided students Black students the opportunity to grow in a nurturing environment and experience campus life unique to Black colleges. Grayned's mother, who graduated from Spelman College in 1989 with an economics degree, encouraged her to go into an HBCU. Although

she was accepted to Spelman, she chose Hampton University instead.

She stumbled across the scholarship days before she finished high school said that she was grateful to have the opportunity to be in the first wave of Buick Achievers to graduate.

Nicklin said that the GM Foundation and the Buick Achievers Scholarship program has worked with the White House Initiative on historically Black colleges and Universities and the United Negro College Fund to get the word out about the scholarship program.

Paulette Jackson, the vice president of development at UNCF, said that General Motors was one of the original sponsors for group, supporting a number of events across the nation including an "Evening with the Stars" and also which was once known as "The Lou Rawls Parade of Stars."

Jackson said that the Buick Achievers Scholarship is a need-based scholarship and students that come to UNCF often have extreme needs. Jackson said that students can find more information about the Buick Achievers scholarship and more than 400 other plans managed by the non-profit group at [www.UNCF.org](http://www.UNCF.org).

The group also promotes the unique scholarship opportunity through their traveling "Empower Me Tour" that provides high school students with tips for succeeding in college and career readiness exercises for undergraduates.

As the country's infrastructure ages and the global technology industry continues to evolve, Jackson said that the U.S. needs more people getting into STEM-related fields. The country is going to need more people to getting involved in STEM-related fields.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 advocacy and outreach groups, reported that that less than 3 percent of Blacks have earned STEM-related degrees by the age of 24.

"The students will have to be able to function, not just in the U.S. but abroad as well," said Jackson. "Opportunities are going to be massive, but students have to have the education in order to meet those challenges. STEM is going to be a major way that African American students can get viable jobs that are going to be around for a long, long time."

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