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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# President Celebrates 150th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment



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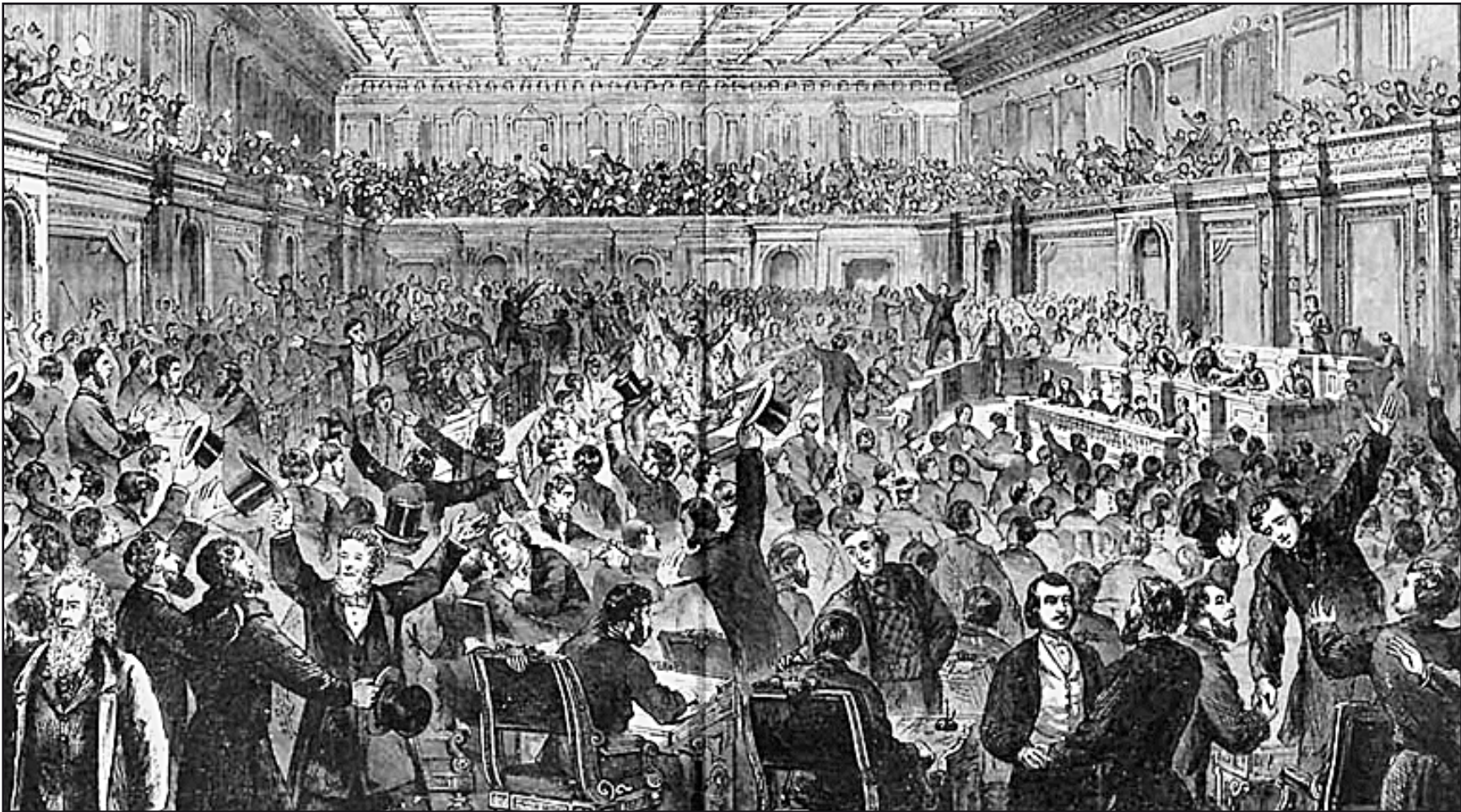
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# Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment



Above, is an engraving from Frank Leslie's magazine of the celebration when the Thirteenth Amendment was passed.

By Janelle Berry  
NNPA News Wire

The Actual Amendment that Abolished Slavery  
WASHINGTON – Ask Americans what the Emancipation Proclamation is and most who know of President Abraham Lincoln’s executive order will respond like 20-year-old Ebony Harris, a student of Howard University from Chicago, Ill., and say, “Isn’t that the

thing that freed the slaves?”  
But, the Emancipation Proclamation did not actually free the slaves. It freed three of the four million slaves in states that were in revolt against the Union during the Civil War, and it was not permanent.  
Ask them about the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, and most responses sound like Josephine Jacob-Cox, a schedule manager for the New York City Transit Authority.

“Does it have something to do with voting,” Jacob-Cox asked.  
Actually, this was the law that freed the slaves.  
Had it not been for that amendment 150 years ago, there may not be a U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, media mogul Oprah Winfrey, billionaire Robert Johnson, Xerox President Ursula Burns, music impresario Sean “Diddy” Combs, “Empire,” R&B music, hip hop or rap, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

**On the Cover:** President Barack Obama delivers remarks at an event commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., Dec. 9, 2015. (Lawrence Jackson/White House)

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser or President Barack Obama.

Obama and Congress paused last week (Wednesday) to celebrate the moment 119 all White men in the U.S. House of Representatives would forever abolish slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime.

"Today, the issue of chattel slavery seems so simple, so obvious — it is wrong in every sense, stealing men, women, and children from their homelands, tearing husband from wife, parent from child; stripped and sold to the highest bidder; shackled in chains and bloodied with the whip," Obama said in

were fighting in the war together against the rebellious Confederacy, causing over half a million deaths. Fear of more tragic fatalities caused Lincoln to threaten to free all of the slaves in the U.S with the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

Even after the Senate passed the amendment April 1864, Lincoln aggressively pursued the favor of representatives in the House who opposed the amendment by bribing them, offering his support in their political careers and even convincing them that the amendment's purpose had nothing to do with racial equality.

The fear of granting African

“It’s antithetical not only to our conception of human rights and dignity, but to our conception of ourselves — a people founded on the premise that all are created equal.

- President Barack Obama”

Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

"It's antithetical not only to our conception of human rights and dignity, but to our conception of ourselves — a people founded on the premise that all are created equal."

Fredette West, director of the African American Health Alliance and the chair of the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition, expressed her happiness to be a guest at the commemoration.

"This commemoration was deep and penetrating to the soul," West said. "I wish everyone had the opportunity to be here, but it's great that the media was here so the youth can hear it and take in the message that was given today."

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) also voiced his gratitude.

"The 13th amendment is just 43 words long," Ryan said. "It is so short that you can almost miss its whole significance. Today we celebrate this 43-word amendment; this new birth of freedom. It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this."

Although the amendment's purpose was to abolish slavery, it was also a strategy to end the bloody and tragic fatalities during the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. For four years, Black and White Union soldiers

Americans the same constitutional rights caused fear, therefore, creating the constant battle to grant passage of the amendment. However, on Jan. 31, 1865, the House finally passed the bill, with 119 yes votes and 56 against.

Once the bill was passed in January, on Dec. 6, 1865, the bill was ratified, declaring the end of slavery. Eventually, several states began to ratify the amendment to their state constitutions, the first being Illinois on Feb. 1, 1865.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) presented first lady Michelle Obama's remarks on her reverence of the progress of African Americans and the United States since the abolishment of slavery.

"She said that 'Today' — and I carry this in my heart — 'I hope that Sojourner Truth would be proud to see me, a descendant of slaves serving as the first lady of the United States of America,'" Pelosi said.

Obama also gave reverence to the African American leaders of the past who struggled and fought for the freedom that all citizens of America have today, such as Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Frederick Douglass. He also commended Lincoln for being the president that sparked the change that America needed to see.



Had it not been for that amendment 150 years ago, there may not be a U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, media mogul Oprah Winfrey or President Barack Obama.

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# Terrill Lewis, Jr. is a Superhero!

Photos by Ted Quant  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

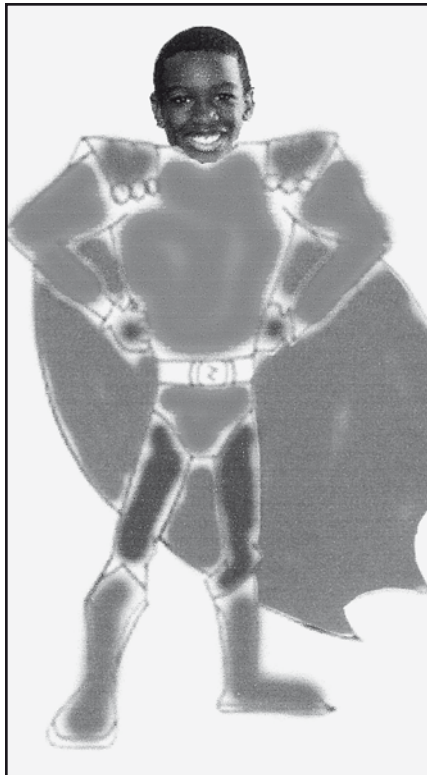
## Meet a Real Life Superhero!

Ten-year-old Terrill Lewis, Jr. loves to read superhero comic books. One day he told his grandmother that he wanted to be a superhero himself.

Terrill knew that he did not have the ability to fly to be a super-hero, but he figured out that he could do good things to affect the lives of people in other ways.

Terrill learned that there is an urgent need for hygiene supplies for the children of Haiti. Therefore he started a project called "A kit for a Kid," which raises funds for personal hygiene items for Haitian children. Each kit contains:

2 wash cloths, 2 hand towels,  
1 girls Deodorant 1.4oz, 1 boys



## Terrill's mission:

My mission is to provide personal hygiene kits to the children of Haiti. As we all know Haiti have had several terrible earthquakes causing hardships for many families. With your help, we can make the lives of the children a little better. The children of Haiti and I thank you very, very much for your support.

Little Terrill Lewis, Jr. met his first big goal of putting together and distributing 100 kits for Haitian kids. He is asking for your support to continue this worthy project. You too can be a superhero! You can make cash donations to the "Kit for a Kid" project by contacting:

Shirley Edwards  
(504) 307-0351  
Shirley5050@cox.net

Also you can donate the listed items for the kits, as they are all available at Walmart.

The shipping and distribution of the kits is directed by Mary Jo Poux of Hope for Haitian Children, sponsor of FEPE Orphanage, Ecole Foyer Espoir, and Families in Need.

Deodorant 1.8oz, 1 soap holder, 2 bars of Gold Antibacterial Dial soap, 1 toothbrush (soft), 1 toothbrush holder, and 1 kids toothpaste. All of the items are placed in a festive red drawstring bags and shipped to Haiti. The total cost of each "Kit for a Kid" is \$15.

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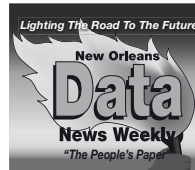
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# Dr. Takeisha Davis Named CEO of New Orleans East Hospital

## Data News Staff Edited Report

On Tuesday, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Orleans Parish Hospital Service District A (HSD) and LCMC Health announced that Takeisha Davis, MD, MPH, will serve as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the New Orleans East Hospital (NOEH) beginning on Jan. 11, 2016. Dr. Davis has spent the last ten years at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) where she currently serves as the Director of the Center for Community and Preventive Health, Medical Director and Assistant State Health Officer for the Office of Public Health (OPH). Dr. Davis is a New Orleans native who earned a Doctorate of Medicine from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University, has extensive experience in clinical care, community engagement and healthcare systems management.

"Last year, we opened the New Orleans East Hospital to ensure that residents had access to quality and affordable healthcare services," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "This year, we have been searching for a leader who can manage and nurture the culture of NOEH so that it becomes a catalyst for growth in New Orleans East. With exceptional knowledge of the healthcare industry and roots in New Orleans, Dr. Davis is uniquely positioned to

serve in this role."

As CEO of NOEH, Davis will be directly employed by LCMC Health, the management partner for NOEH, and will report to the 13-member HSD Board, which is comprised of business and civic leaders, healthcare providers and operators, as well as New Orleans East residents.

Ronald V. Burns, Sr., Chairman of the HSD Board said, "We are pleased to welcome Dr. Davis to NOEH. She shares the board's vision to ensure accessible, full-service healthcare for residents of the East, Gentilly and Lower 9. We will work together to continue to make good on our promise to serve this community."

Charlotte Parent, Director of the New Orleans Health Department and Vice-Chairman of the HSD Board said, "Now in its second year, NOEH needs an exceptional leader who can articulate a compelling vision for its future and take it to the next level. With certainty, we have found that person in Dr. Davis. With her leadership, NOEH will continue to contribute to the Health Department's overall goal of improving the quality of life for all New Orleans residents."

Dr. Davis was born and raised in New Orleans. The daughter of two public servants, she graduated from Eleanor McMain Secondary School and entered Xavier University of Louisiana with a desire to serve the public through the field of medicine.



Dr. Takeisha Davis

Dr. Davis' responsibilities with DHH include overseeing nine regional offices, 68 parish health units, the OPH Laboratory, the OPH Pharmacy, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, and medical supervision of all of OPH's programs statewide. She is also a Clinical Assistant Professor at Tulane Medical School and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

The \$130 million, 80-bed hospital opened in July of 2014, providing healthcare services to residents of New Orleans East, Gentilly and the Lower Ninth Ward. Last July, former CEO Dr. Mario Garner, accepted a new position at Memorial Hermann Pear-

land Hospital in Pearland, TX. Since that time, Charlotte Parent

has served as the interim CEO.

The full-service hospital now offers emergency services, surgical services, cardiology, gastroenterology, radiology, and rehab services including cardiac, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. There are currently over 150 physicians on staff and affiliated with NOEH, and 200 additional staff, including nurses, therapists, case managers, technicians, and environmental and dietary service providers.

New Orleans East Hospital is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with 24-hour emergency care. Located at 5620 Read Boulevard, the hospital has already seen over 25,000 emergency room visits in 2015. In the case of an emergency, please call 911.

For more information about the hospital, visit [www.noehospital.org](http://www.noehospital.org) or call (504) 592-6600.

## AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Accredited by NCQA

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, a Medicaid managed care health plan serving Louisiana and part of the AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies, announced that it has become accredited by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana began caring for Louisianans participating in Bayou Health, the state's Medicaid managed care program, in February 2012. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's NCQA accreditation

is valid through June 5, 2018.

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana boasts a network of more than 10,000 providers (primary care providers, specialists and hospitals) and a community outreach team with a presence in every part of the state, as well as community investment projects and partnerships with local and national organizations. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's network providers, associates and community partners work every

day to build healthy communities in each of the state's 64 parishes.

"From our first day serving Louisianans, we have been committed to meeting high standards of excellence, said Kyle Viator, market president of AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana. "NCQA's accreditation standards are as rigorous as they come, and achieving NCQA accreditation is a sign of our success in helping those most in need get the right care in the right place at the right time."

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Adonis' Birthday Bash & Toy Drive



Photos by Bernie Saul  
Data News Weekly Contributor

Adonis C. Expose's Annual Birthday Celebration and Christmas Toy Drive took place on Saturday December 12th at the "Roy E. Glapion, Jr. Hall" (New Zulu Hall). It seemed like the whole city turned out to wish Adonis a happy birthday, and to drop off a toy for a child who will love it. Thank you to all who donated, and Happy Birthday Adonis. Music was provided by DJ Raj Smoove.



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

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## BENeFit

By Kichea S. Burt  
Data News Weekly Contributor

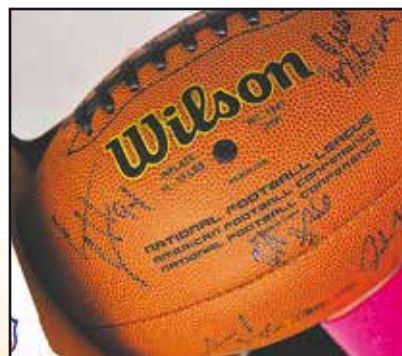
On Tuesday, December 8, 2015 Saints Football Team's tight end Benjamin Watson, his wife Kirston Watson, and their foundation, One More, spearheaded a benefit for the mothers of 25 families from the New Orleans Family Justice Center. The BENeFit was hosted by the Walmart Store in Harahan, Louisiana. Food was provided by Papa John's Pizza. The mothers, who were accompanied by either Ben, one of his team mates from the Saints, or members from the Watsons' church were allowed to shop for their children's holiday gifts and/or things that were needed in their households. Each family was allotted \$325 to shop with.

Ben and Kirsten founded One More as a way to pay it forward in the communities where Ben has been a football team member because they both stand strongly in their faith and the belief that "Our call is to be a light in the community wherever we are. It is exciting times to discover where God leads us." "Since its inception our desire has been for One More to be a vehicle to carry the hope and love of Christ to those in our community who need it most, while understanding that the best and most efficient way to reach people's hearts is by first meeting their physical needs. Our mission is to simply be a blessing to those around us wherever we are, whether that's supporting existing charities or initiating programs of our own."

One More was established in January 2008 and is a 501(c) 3 public charity. The Foundation serves as an extension of Kirsten and Benjamin as they reach out to the community with faith in God as their foundation. It also allows them to support and partner with those who share their desire to make a positive difference in the world.

The New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC) is a partnership of agencies dedicated to ending family violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking through prevention and coordinated response by providing comprehensive, client-centered empowerment services in a single location. They are located at 701 Loyola Ave # 600, NO LA 70113. Contact number is 504-592-4005. The 24 hour crisis line is 504-866-9554.

The Watsons were accompanied by Saints players Luke McCown, Josh Hill, Michael Hoomanawanui, Justin Drescher, Willie Snead, Cameron Jordan, Senio Kelemete, Seantavius Jones, Thomas Morstead, Obum Gwacham, Chris Manhertz, Austin Johnson, some of their wives, and Justin Macione of team communications, Tamika Lee of WWLTV and her husband, as well as one of the Watsons' daughters, members of the Watsons' church Lake View Christian Center, and staff of the Orleans Family Justice Center.





# Reflections From Paris 2

## What's Going On



By Edwin Buggage  
Editor, Data News Weekly

COP 21, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change brought many world leaders to Paris including U.S. President Barack Obama. They spoke about global warming and many other issues related to repairing and car-

ing for the physical environment. But what has been on everybody's mind is the recent attacks in Paris and the wave of violence, intolerance and misunderstanding that's happening globally. Something that seems to dominate news broadcasts, social media and our everyday conversations. While it is good we are discussing these important issues, the broader question is how do we change the human relations environment in the world we live in today?

As someone who has written extensively on the human condition and the inequality of New Orleans, the U.S. and now internationally. I must say it has been quite interest-

ing to live in another society meeting people from every corner of the globe and discussing the state of the world; and coming to the common conclusion that there is a universal quest for the human race to live in peace and prosperity, something that is an aspiration for all. But the key question for us as global citizens is how do we get there? I had the unique opportunity to be interviewed by Benoit Ballet, a Paris based journalist who works with RMC radio in France. We met on oddly enough a street called Passage Landrieu. Can't seem to escape reminders of New Orleans, in addition to the fact I am also living on the same



Benoit Ballet of RMC Radio France interviews Data News Weekly's Edwin Buggage.

street I lived on in New Orleans (Cabrillat) here in Paris.

When we spoke and I told him that one of the biggest problems that we face in the world today is fear, ignorance and how to communicate effectively with each other. These are the things that inhibits greater understanding that will lead to solutions to our problems. That we spend too much time forging ahead with our own understanding of things and refuse to look at or listen to the other side of issues we feel passionately about. And understanding that while passion could be a good thing that in its most

**Buggage, Continued**  
on page 11.

# Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

## Defends Racism from the Bench



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

On the same day that President Barack Obama gave a stirring and historically grounded commemoration regarding the 150th anniversary of the passage of the 13th Amendment, the one that "abolished" slavery, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia chose to disregard tenets of equality and opportunity from the bench during the hearing for Fisher v. University of Texas when he suggested that African American students would benefit more if they went to "lesser track" schools. His verbatim comments:

"There are those who contend that it does not benefit African-Americans to get them into the University of Texas, where they do not do well — as opposed to having them go to a less advanced school, a slower-track school where they do well," Scalia said. "One of the briefs pointed out that

most of the Black scientists in this country don't come from schools like the University of Texas. They come from lesser schools where they do not feel that they're being pushed ahead in classes that are too fast for them."

What does Justice Scalia mean by "lesser schools?" Does he suggest that the African Americans, most at the top 10 percent of their high school class (as required by Texas law) can't compete with their peers, similarly situated students at the top of their classes? Abigail Fisher, who is bringing this lawsuit, was deficient, and judged as so. She was not in the top 10 percent at her Texas high school; according to the Top Ten Percent Plan any graduating senior in the top 10 percent of their graduating class receives admission to the University of Texas at Austin. More than three quarters of the slots at the University of Texas-Austin are reserved for that group of students — the best and the brightest of their high schools. What about Fisher? She didn't make the cut. A middling student, she had not enough redeeming social value to be considered among the 8 percent whose admission is a function of the Personal Achievement Index (PAI) and Academic Index (AI). These are the folks who based on their race, socioeconomic

status, family background, extra curricular activities and other factors stand out. These folks are not all African American; in fact of the 841 that make up the 8 percent, only 47 of them scored lower than Fisher and only five of them were African-American. They are folks whose portfolio deserved special consideration.

Abigail Fisher is an ordinary White girl who was so seeped in White skin privilege that she fully expected to have her way. She is a whiner who has been enabled by the anti-affirmative action crowd. She is pushing a point because she cannot own her own deficiencies. She is attacking affirmative action because that is her excuse for being deficient and mediocre.

Lots of students don't get into their first choice school. Most recover — they go to their second or third choice, graduate, and manage their lives happily. From time to time, they may ruminate that they would have liked to have their first choice. They may show up at football games, cheering for the school they weren't admitted to, or they may relish the success that comes to them, despite their early disappointment. But they are grown people, used to a setback (who isn't), and prepared to move on with their lives. They know they

weren't in the top 10 percent, and they are happy if they made the second cut at UT, or content to go to another school and excel. Not Fisher. Buttressed by the dollars that come from affirmative action opponents, she is willing to be the poster girl for inadequacy.

From his remarks from the Supreme Court bench, Judge Antonin Scalia is willing to consider her point and exhibit his own racism. What does he mean by "lesser schools?" Is he familiar with the data on African American accomplishment? Does he share the same hubris that Abigail Fisher does, asserting that a deficient white student deserves an edge over a well-prepared black one? Scalia needs to look at the data before running his mouth. Both African American and white students go to schools that are less highly rated than the University of Texas (lesser schools, really). Most of them succeed. They would have succeeded at UT, too. Regardless of race, they accept the fact that, not in the top 10 percent of their class, they were not entitled to admission. After that, their admission was a roll of the dice.

While President Obama talked about freedom, invoking the history that made the 13th Amendment important, reminding us of "the preachers, black and white,

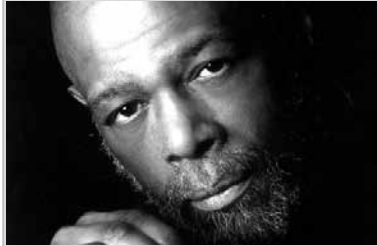
(who) railed against this moral outrage from the pulpit. Where are these preachers now? They know that there are racial economic gaps, but they are silent. They know that there is a structural racism that perpetuates unfairness, but they are unwilling to fight against it. They will offer preaching, perhaps tepid, perhaps rousing. But they won't step up and attack the systems that produce disparate economic results. They won't condemn attacks on affirmative action.

How would Justice Scalia's respond to President Obama's eloquence with his White-privileged arrogance? If there is a poster girl for fairness, she isn't Abigail Fisher. To lift her up is to embrace the arrogance of White skin privilege. To lift her up is a disgraceful rebuff to the University of Texas students who achieve against all odds. To denigrate the students who were admitted instead of Fisher is a laughable attempt by a so-called justice to justify his injustice, and it flies in the face that our President made when he spoke of the 13th amendment.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, DC. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" will be released in 2015 and is available for preorder at [www.juliannealveaux.com](http://www.juliannealveaux.com).



# It's All About Your Ugly!



**James Washington**  
Guest Columnist

The subject is not new but the circumstances demand some of us need reassurance. Do you have an addiction, a weakness, something you are aware of but just cannot shake on your own? It may be a secret, your secret, something you dare not reveal for it goes the complete opposite of who you believe yourself to be and counter to the person whom you are truly trying

to become. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 says, "To keep me from becoming conceited, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." If I'm the only one shouting right now, it's okay. I know many of you are shouting silently, internally, privately.

You know some things in the bible reverberate over and over again and we still don't get it. I don't mean to infer that we don't understand the words because most of us do. The point is we do not or cannot

incorporate what we're reading into our daily lives. In this passage Paul lets us know that there is indeed a reason to accept our shortcomings and deal with our flaws and faults with a basic understanding that in doing so, God will invariably show up and then proceed to show out. It is through our warts that God demonstrates to us and the world that He is Lord. Can you imagine experiencing the "perfect power" of the Lord? Apparently it's as easy as looking in the mirror and making an honest assessment of who you really are and who you should be striving to become. To put it into proper perspective, you are who you are only in relationship to God. And don't forget to take your imperfections with you. If you know and accept yourself to be a child of

God, then you must attempt to be an example of God's Word and His work. The only thing standing in your way is admitting to yourself, you can't go it alone. You and I need help and that help comes only from one source. It's the perfect source and comes with consequences. The consequences begin with recognizing that there is divine purpose in your particular set of weaknesses. I know that's hard to believe, but it is true.

Dare I say most of us would reject the notion that sinful could be anything more than just sinful. The text however says it is our duty to understand through spiritual recognition that God chooses your problems to show off His righteousness through you by doing miraculous things. When you get a hand from

the Lord to overcome your addictions, your passions, your vanity, your shortcomings, you get so much more than you bargained for. According to this part of the bible, you also get Christ's power to work with. Isn't that something? No wonder Paul continues by saying, "That is why, for Christ's sake I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

By itself, you might wonder how Paul comes up with this conclusion. But when taken in the context of the entire passage, isn't it true that out of many impossible situations and circumstances, God rescued you? How many testimonies do you need to hear before you give God

**Spirit, Continued on page 11.**

## MY BEST IDEA CAME FROM MY BLOCK IN QUEENS.

### Where We Come From

I'm proud of my contribution to music, but I didn't create hip-hop. My proudest achievement is much more personal, because it's something I did create and I believe it will help make the world a better place for my kids. It's what we've done at RushCard. I started RushCard for people who weren't able to participate in the banking system. When someone can't get serviced by a bank, they get shut out of the economy, they spend hours in line getting their checks cashed and paying bills. It means they can't do business online. As the world speeds up, they are forced to slow down, and I wanted to do something about it.

### How It Works

RushCard helps folks overcome challenges by providing them with a prepaid Visa debit card and giving them their direct deposit check 2 days early. It allows me to transfer money to my kids while they're away at school and help save for the future. It means anyone can shop online. Access to financial services is absolutely needed to advance our community. And RushCard works. You can see how it's been adopted by all sorts of middle class Americans, because all of us can appreciate the value you get from using it.

### What's Next?

At RushCard we've always been an industry leader in product innovations that make your life easier. Now, in addition to our award-winning low fees structure we're giving all of our customers a fee holiday through February 29, 2016 so anyone can enjoy the full benefits of RushCard. For this upcoming tax season, if you direct deposit a \$3,000 tax refund, we'll add \$30 to your account. We never stop innovating for all of our customers old and new. That's why I started this company in the first place.

Sign up today by visiting [RushCard.com](http://RushCard.com)

-Russell

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**RUSHCARD**





# Clark Atlanta University Students Awarded \$75,000 As Winners of Third Annual Ford HBCU Community Challenge

The telepathic conservation system created by Clark Atlanta students Bradley Gilbeaux and Damon Willis can be customized for both business and residential use – saving millions of gallons in water. The students and school will take home \$75,000 in scholarships, grants and implementation funds as winners of this year's challenge.

Second place and \$15,000 goes to North Carolina A&T State University for a plan to develop creative workspaces for innovation and entrepreneurship for teens in the Greensboro area. Alabama A&M University captures third place and \$10,000 to implement a project that combines a community garden and vehicle distribution system to reach needy residents.

Now in its third year, Historically Black Colleges & Universities



An innovative lawn irrigation system that wirelessly tracks weather forecasts and soil moisture to water only when needed has earned Clark Atlanta University top honors in Ford Motor Company's Historically Black Colleges & Universities Community Challenge.

tion. Ford Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, invests nearly \$9 million a year – about one-third of its annual financial support – in scholarships and other educational initiatives.

Students in the national contest were asked to develop projects that creatively address a community need touching on at least one of these four areas – mobility, alternative energy, sustainability/water and a systematic approach to meeting community needs.

Each finalist team received funds to support the implementation of its ideas within its community, in addition to iPads for each student member. In total, the program awarded \$100,000 in scholarships and grants.

"Ford's Historically Black Colleges & Universities challenge provides students the opportunity to positively impact their communities, and scholarships to help them realize their educational goals," said Pamela Alexander, director, community development, Ford Fund. "All of the participants this year made us proud with their ideas, energy and spirit of giving back."

Next year, Ford Fund will serve as presenting sponsor of Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage, which has raised funds for Historically Black Colleges & Universities since 1999.

To view the journey these students took follow #FordHBCU.

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Community Challenge is jointly supported by Ford Marketing and Ford Motor Company Fund, with participation from national radio personality and longtime supporter Tom Joyner, and the Rickey Smiley Morning Show. Joyner was assisted in final judging by PBS Finding Your Roots host Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.

"Ford's Historically Black Colleges & Universities Community Challenge is a model of corporate support for our historically black schools – one other companies should emulate," said Gates. "Ford

has long been a leader in its support of this kind of programming, and this challenge affords an opportunity for our finest students to demonstrate their mastery in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as their entrepreneurial skills with concern for communities.

"Rarely have I been prouder of any students, anywhere," Gates added.

The challenge is a reflection of Ford's longtime commitment to supporting the African American community, and its focus on educa-

**Buggage, Continued from page 8.**

overzealous form it inhibits rational thinking and blinds individuals from seeing things from other perspectives. This is something that has to cease. Minds must open to other viewpoints, if we are to build the bridges of understanding that is essential to having a peaceful world.

That means we must move to a space where we can respect our differences without thinking of those whose views are different as deficient or worse we demonize them. This is not the world we should be striving to live in today. I see in France the rise of the Front National, a party that has anti-immigrant and a form of nationalism within its rhetoric if it does not get checked can lead to the seeds of

intolerance growing in France to dangerous proportions. Similarly, I see in my own country a place where an atmosphere of exclusion, nativism and xenophobia is taking place. Where people who vie for the nation's highest office are making blanket statement condemning people from entire religions or regions of the world because of the acts of a few. In my own City of New Orleans the race and class divide and the newcomers vs. natives that are causing a rift with people with extreme views on both sides of the issues expressing their views with extra wattage. Something I would argue short circuits productive dialog that can lead to positive public policy and structural changes.

Today communicating and listening is more important than ever in a world that is global and interconnected. That today we have more access to information that at any time in the history of mankind. Today we can build bridges of understanding much easier because we have access to each other and use these innovations as a tool to unite us and not divide us and build a civil society. In the 21st Century we can learn and grow in ways to recognize our common humanity like never before. This should be the goal for the 21st Century, an environment where we can eliminate the waste that is intolerance, hate and miscommunication that is leading us to a toxic state of affairs.



# For Communities of Color, the Fight against Diabetes is Far from Over



**Patricia Maryland**  
Data News Weekly  
Guest Columnist

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the rate of new cases of diabetes in the United States declined by about 20 percent from 2008 to 2014. This represents the first sustained decrease in diagnosis since the disease emerged as a major threat to public health over the course of the past two decades. But the fight is far from over, especially for communities of color.

While the CDC report is good news regarding an overall decline in diabetes rates, it did not acknowledge a significant change in prevalence among the African-American community, which continues to be far more vulnerable to the disease than other racial and ethnic groups.

Consider the data: Black adults are about twice as likely to have diagnosed diabetes as non-Hispanic White adults. They are also twice as likely to die from the disease. What's more, African-Americans are more than three times as likely to suffer from health complications related to diabetes, such as lower-limb amputation and kidney failure.

It's clear that the African-American community is shouldering an

**EVERY 17 SECONDS** someone in the US is diagnosed with diabetes.

**AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE ALMOST 2X MORE LIKELY TO HAVE DIABETES THAN NON-HISPANIC WHITES.**

COMMON MYTHS	THE FACTS
It's possible to have "a touch of sugar"	No. A "touch of sugar" means you have diabetes. Either you have it or you don't.
People with diabetes need to follow a special diet.	People with diabetes benefit from the same healthy food that is good for anyone else.
You have to lose a lot of weight for your diabetes to improve.	Losing 10 to 15 lbs can improve your blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol.

People diagnosed with diabetes, aged 20 years or older.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT LIVING WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES AT [DIABETES.ORG/TYPE2PROGRAM](http://DIABETES.ORG/TYPE2PROGRAM)**  
1-800-DIABETES (342-2383)

**American Diabetes Association.**

unequal burden when it comes to diabetes treatment, prevention, research and education. And so the CDC's announcement—while welcome news—does not signal that the fight against the disease is over. There is more work to do to not only overcome the diabetes epidemic, but also eliminate the healthcare disparities that disproportionately plague our community.

To do that, we must redouble our efforts to create a culture of health in African-American communities—one that removes the stigma of seeking care and helps our neighbors and family members access the opportunities provided under the Affordable Care Act. Healthcare.gov is now available for the open enrollment period through January 31, 2016, and taking advantage of the options

available today is the first step our community can take to reclaim Black health and wellness.

But coverage alone isn't enough to guarantee better health outcomes for African-Americans. Healthcare providers have a responsibility to deliver inclusive, quality care that considers the needs of the whole patient. That means providing patients with relevant, reliable information that empowers and engages them to make choices for a healthier life.

The truth is that all healthcare providers should strive to provide an environment where no one is excluded—where everyone has access to compassionate, personalized care and the opportunity for better health regardless of their struggles or station in life. And that's the right model for all providers. Because we

must get to know our patients on an individual, holistic level—not prescribe a one-size-fits-all approach—if we intend to truly improve their health outcomes.

Finally, our policymakers, civic leaders and all who have a stake in the health of our community must address the social determinants that influence and widen the diabetes equity gap. For years, we've known that diabetes can be prevented and managed with healthy lifestyle changes such as exercise and good nutrition. But it's difficult to go for a run around the block when you live in a high-crime neighborhood. It's challenging to find fresh fruits and vegetables when you live in a food desert. We must marshal our communities around the policies that affect our environment's ability to support a culture of health and wellness.

Diabetes has been—and will continue to be—a major public health issue in the U.S. We're making progress in the fight against the disease, but we need to do more to address the disparities felt by the African-American population. With a focused effort from members of the Black community, policymakers, civic leaders and healthcare providers to create a culture of health, deliver compassionate, personalized care and advance the policies that make healthy lifestyles viable, I am confident we can curb the diabetes epidemic for good, for everyone.

Patricia A. Maryland, Dr.PH, is the President of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer for Ascension Health.

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### Job Opportunity

#### Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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

We can't wait to  
hear from you!

Spirit, Continued from page 9.

the praise He deserves? Or is it that you can testify on your own about frailties that have become strengths to be relied upon and give you wisdom to share? All I'm saying is stop fighting yourself. Stop denying your insecurities. Accept them and give them too, over to the Lord. Then step back and watch God do His thing with your life. He'll do things you never could. Then watch Him revel in those who see His divine work through you. It's that let go and let God thing again. Paul just reminds us that even on your worst day, it's not about you. If you just remember it's all about Him; your good, your bad and your ugly.

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