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March 14 - March 20, 2020 54th Year Volume 46 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

SCHALYECE HARRISON

*The Right Choice
for Judge of
First City Court,
Section B*



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Schalyece Harrison

The Right Choice for Judge of First City Court, Section B

Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief

It is a time in our City where the need for leaders with the right combination of skills to serve the people of New Orleans with competence, integrity, compassion and fairness is urgent. Schalyece Harrison is armed with these leadership qualities and is presently running for Judge of First City Court, Section B. Recently, Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak with Harrison about her campaign and why she feels she's best equipped to take on the job.

New Orleans Native

Giving her biography she says, "I was born and raised in New Orleans in the Hollygrove area. I graduated from Eleanor McMain Magnet High School and after graduating I attended the University of New Orleans where I obtained my bachelor's degree in Political Science before going on to earn my law degree from Southern University Law Center. I loved law school so much I decided to obtain my Master's in Law in taxation, from Golden Gate University Law School. Currently, I am in private practice dedicated to civil law matters and tax law. In addition to my law practice, the last 4 years I have served as an Administrative Hearing Officer, for the City of New Orleans, where I have conducted over 3,500 administrative hearings involving municipal violations."

Harrison is someone who is local, but yet lived on both coasts working as an attorney in many capacities, something she says that makes her the best candidate in this contest. "I am the best candidate because I am the only candidate who has experience conducting fair, impartial hearings where I have considered testimony, examined evidence and rendered judgments in over 3,500 cases. I am the only candidate that has experience managing a docket, dealing with attorneys and unrepresented parties."



New Orleans Native Schalyece Harrison's life is an inspiration for many as she is successful in her work as well as working giving back and selflessly serving others.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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Culture of Community

Speaking of her reasons for running for Judge she states,

“First City Court handles cases such as evictions and small claims. Often the parties are unrepresented single moms who are facing eviction, therefore we need a judge who is from this community and understands our culture and our traditions and who will treat everyone with dignity and respect no matter their race, age, or income level.”

Post Katrina, New Orleans is seeing an influx of people from other places, something that is changing the fabric and direction of the City. While some of this is good, it is in some ways changing the City with some of the citizens believing that it is important that those who lead appreciate what the City is and what it can be. Harrison feels that being raised in New Orleans is special and chose to return to contribute to its rebirth and renaissance.

“Everyone that knows me knows how much I love this City. I have been fortunate to have spent time on the East Coast and the West Coast in my career, but there is nothing like our culture and our sense of community, this is something that other communities just can't match. Since moving back, I immediately became involved in the community by doing pro bono work, participating with clean-up efforts in the city through Clean-up NOLA and working with various local civic organizations. After being elected, I plan on working to change the misconceptions that judges are out of touch with the community and show that judges serve the public with patience, compassion, and common sense.”

Harrison's life is an inspiration for many as she is successful in her work as well as working giving back and selflessly serving others. Speaking of her definition and formula for a successful life she says, “Success can be defined in many ways, but becoming successful is not allowing anyone to tell you that you aren't capable of succeeding. Always believing in yourself when others don't.”

Harrison recognizes the power of the ballot as in the community letting their voices be heard and she is encouraging all to go out and vote in the April 4th Election.



“I am the best candidate because I am the only candidate who has experience conducting fair, impartial hearings where I have considered testimony, examined evidence and rendered judgments in over 3,500 cases. I am the only candidate that has experience managing a docket, dealing with attorneys and unrepresented parties,” says Harrison of why she is qualified to occupy the seat of Judge of First City Court.

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Darnell and Denna, adopted 16-year-old Isaiah

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Gov. Edwards Confirms Louisiana's First Presumptive Positive Case of COVID-19

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

BATON ROUGE —The Louisiana Department of Health has reported Louisiana's first presumptive positive case of COVID-19, commonly referred to as coronavirus, a Jefferson Parish resident who is hospitalized in Orleans Parish, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced Monday there are three known cases of the illness in the state.

The Governor discussed his planned Opening Legislative Session and was joined by public health officials for a media conference in the Governor's Press Room on the Fourth Floor of the State Capitol.

Gov. Edwards said, "While today is the first time that we can confirm that we have a presumptive positive coronavirus case, Louisiana has been preparing for this moment for many weeks. The CDC still believes the risk to the general public is low, but we will work quickly and decisively to assess the risk to those around this patient."

"Encouragingly, we were able to test this patient due to recently broadened criteria," said Stephen Russo, Interim Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.



Gov. Edwards said, "While today is the first time that we can confirm that we have a presumptive positive coronavirus case, Louisiana has been preparing for this moment for many weeks. The CDC still believes the risk to the general public is low, but we will work quickly and decisively to assess the risk to those around this patient."

"It's critical to be able to catch COVID-19 early to prevent spread in our communities."

"Now together we all—as a government, as Health Care Systems and providers, as schools, businesses and as neighbors—must take action and be vigilant to prevent the spread of this virus in our

great state," Gov. Edwards said.

NEXT STEPS

Louisiana will send the presumptive positive test to the CDC for final confirmation of COVID-19. Because of the reliability of the test, Louisiana will move forward as if the test is an actual positive and take actions

to contain the illness and assess the risk of spread.

The Office of Public Health's Epidemiology Team will begin an investigation of people who have come in close contact with the patient, including health care workers, to determine the risk of spread.

OPH will administer additional

COVID-19 tests to determine if more people have been infected. Some people at risk may be quarantined for 14 days, even if their initial test is not positive.

LOUISIANA'S RESPONSE

Public Health officials have been in close contact with the CDC and health providers since January, as the COVID-19 outbreak grew in China.

Gov. Edwards established Louisiana's COVID-19 Task Force to lead Louisiana's planning for different scenarios relating to the spread of coronavirus. It will offer guidance not only to the Governor and the Unified Command Group, but also to state agencies, local governments, businesses and organizations.

Members of the COVID-19 Task Force include the Louisiana Department of Health and the Office of Public Health, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Division of Administration, the Department of Education, the Louisiana National Guard, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Louisiana Department of Justice,

Gov. Edwards,
Continued on page 8.

New Orleans Residents Respond to the Spread of the Coronavirus

Jordan Deloch Data News Weekly Contributor

Over the span of January to March, in response to the worldwide spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), U.S. citizens say they are now increasing their awareness about the virus and finding ways to prevent its spreading. World health officials place the total number of infected persons at over 100,000 people with over 3,802 deaths. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported around 400 cases in 33 states, with 21 deaths. The states with the most cases reported are Washington State, New York, and California. At this time, there are three known cases in the state,



Marianne Alexis, New Orleans East native

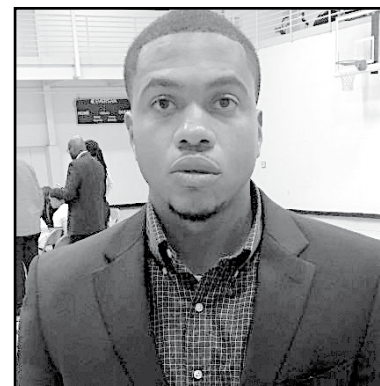
however, in neighboring Texas, there have been eight reported cases of positive testing.

"The coronavirus is honestly scary. There is no telling how and when the virus can be spread to



Christina Williams, youth mentor

our city," said Christina Williams, an Uptown, New Orleans resident and youth mentor. "Nor is there a way to know what has caused this virus," Williams said, adding that: "The fact that this virus could



Ernest Lumpkins, Uptown resident

come, and people not know about it is nerve-wrecking."

Workers in the city said that many workplaces have restricted travel for employees, and schools have sent notifications

to parents of the possible threat that the virus poses, and to encourage enhanced hygiene.

"We just finished Mardi Gras season with hundreds of thousands of people visiting our city. I pray that no one has brought the virus here," said Tyler Townsend, a senior biology major at Xavier University of Louisiana, who is a native of Los Angeles, Calif. "It's like we were an open target for the coronavirus," Townsend said, given the city's many festivals and events that attract tourists from all over the world. "I am ready for the coronavirus, but it is no secret that I am still nervous about it as well," he added.

The increase in concern about the spread of the virus to each state

Residents Respond,
Continued on page 10.

First City Court Judge Section B Candidates Attend Community Forum

Story and Photos by Kenya Meredith
Data News Weekly
Contributor

As election day approaches on April 4th, candidates running for the Orleans Parish First City Court Judge Section B election participated in a community forum on March 3, 2020.

The candidates who participated were Aylin Acikalin, who handles government, business, and family litigation; Schalyece Harrison, a civil and tax attorney; Sara Lewis, a civil and commercial attorney, and Marissa A. Hutabarat, who also handles civil litigation. A fifth candidate, Robbins Graham, who handled child support cases for the Office of Family and Children Services did not make the forum.

"A lot of the people that come here [First City Court] are self-represented, meaning they do not have attorneys," Lewis said about the types of cases the judge of this court would have to rule on.

"Evictions are a huge problem in this city," Lewis added. "We have twice the national eviction rate. In areas that are predominately African American, one in four people faced eviction within the last three years versus one in twenty-four in predominantly White areas," Lewis explained.

The First City Court's jurisdiction includes civil lawsuits with claims up to \$25,000; small claims suits up to \$5,000; and evictions for residential and commercial properties with rental fees within the jurisdictional limit of up to \$3,000 per month for the East Bank of Orleans Parish.

The forum at Café Istanbul provided community members the opportunity to question the candidates and to bring any concerns to the four of the five candidates on the ballot in attendance.

"The reason why I want to be a judge is because I feel like I have the judicial temperament and character to move this court forward," Harrison said. In response to a question based on modern technology in the First City Court, Harrison stated that if elected she would work with the clerk of courts to cre-



Orleans Parish First City Court, Section B judge candidates: Aylin Acikalin, Schalyece Harrison, Sara Lewis and Marissa A. Hutabarat speak at the candidate forum on March 3, 2020.

ate an easier process for citizens.

Residents also raised concerns about court efficiency, eviction procedures and how candidates will lobby for modern practices of judicial processes in the First City Court.


"We are public servants as judges, and I commit to being prepared, keeping things moving, and trying not to keep parties and attorneys waiting," Acikalin said when asked about court efficiency plans.

There was a consensus amongst the candidates in the forum that every case would require them to utilize their background as attorneys, and to apply fair judgment to provide citizens with a just trial.

"My vision is to promote an environment where citizens from all walks of life can come before the court, feel welcomed, feel respected, and feel like their voices are being heard by a fair and impartial judge," Hutabarat said. The position of Section B judge was held for 20 years by Judge Angelique Reed who died in November 2019 and was the first African American judge to serve the First City Court for Section B. Reed, who attended Xavier University and earned a law degree from Loyola University's Law school had been recognized for her contributions to the community.

One of the opening speakers of the forum was Darrin Browder, the Chapter Development Specialist for Court Watch NOLA. Court Watch NOLA is an organization whose mission is to promote a legal reform and to increase civic engagement through courtroom observation. Founded in 2007, the organization has trained over 1,000 volunteers to observe the courts' procedures and respond with data driven results to promote greater efficiency and transparency in the Orleans Parish Criminal Court System.

"There is a stigma on Tulane and Broad, by many Black men who feel that building is where we enter and do not make it out. If we do exit, a piece of us is missing," Browder said when explaining the importance of court watchers and the importance of electing the right judges.



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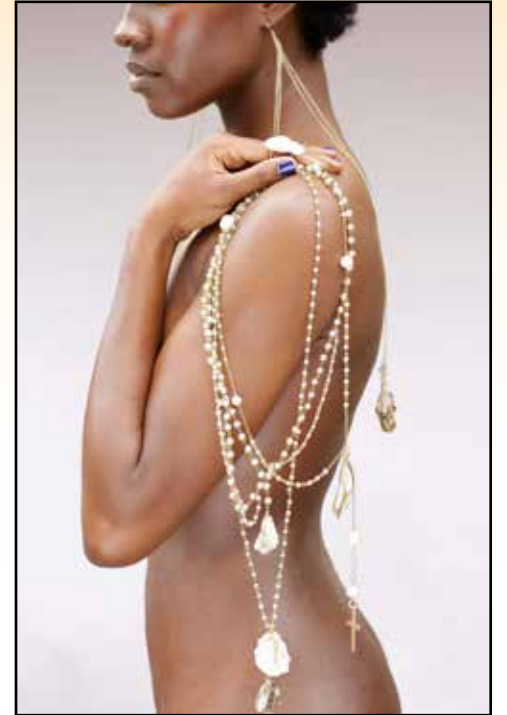
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Culture Shock
Tiffany Langlinais
BAR



Back View: Multi-strand gold and beaded body necklace from Od Aomo; Gold triangle earrings from Culture Shock



Re-purposed rosaries, beads and pearls with oyster and cross pendant necklaces and gold chain and oyster drop earrings all from designer Tiffany Langlinais

Left. For Your Eyes Only: Gold and citron ring; gold weave and rhinestone choker necklace, both from New Orleans Designer Jess Leigh



A Leg Up: Gold chain with turquoise agate pendant necklace, and gold link lariat necklace with diamond pendants both from Parker Madison Designs; Red beaded cuff bracelet from Od Aomo; Rings from designer Jess Leigh

Audubon Zoo Soulfest 2020

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Staff Photographer

It is that time again, this year's Annual Soul Fest in New Orleans is an African American Cultural Celebration held at the Audubon Zoo. The two-day engagement features authentic soul food from popular local restaurants and caterers as well as live musical performances by touring and homegrown acts in the genres of R&B, gospel and jazz music. A children's global playground and open zoo exhibits are among the additional attractions, and the event also recognizes the achievements of members of the NOLA African American community. It was an amazing event and Data News Weekly was there!!!



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Report: Companies Owned by Women of Color Account for 89 Percent of All New Women-Owned Businesses



Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

Crystal Etienne is a businesswoman, wife, and mother of two children.

She's also the founder of Ruby Love, a \$10 million personal care company that she built in just four years.

"My dream was to always work for myself," Etienne, a New York native, stated in an email to NNPA Newswire.

"However, I did have thoughts about going to law school. Understanding the political side of things, certain laws, and the rights of those around me always excited me, especially if I felt someone was wronged," she said.

"I ended up going a different route and landed a job in finance," Etienne continued. "Math, equations, and anything that had to do with business was something I was always good at. It was my strong suit, which is ironic because I disliked accounting and finance as a student."

But her dreams have come true, she said. "The end goal was to always work for myself," Etienne stated. "I am not in a position to make my own decisions and take control of my course in life."

Etienne's success helps to underscore a growing trend highlighted in the most recent State of Women-Owned Businesses Report, which noted that women of color account for 89 percent (1,625) of the new businesses opened every day over the past year.

The annual report, based on U.S. Census Bureau data adjusted by Gross Domestic Product data, found that women-owned businesses continue to trend above all others.

Over the past five years, the number of women-owned businesses increased by 21 percent, while all enterprises increased by only 9 percent.

Total employment by women-owned businesses rose 8 percent. At the same time, to all companies, the increase was far lower at 1.8 percent, and total revenue for women-owned businesses also rose slightly above all others: 21 percent compared to 20 percent, respectively.

The State of Women-Owned Businesses Report also found that as work has trended toward side hustles and the gig economy, so had female entrepreneurship.

Over the last five years, growth in the number of women "sidepreneurs" grew nearly twice as fast as the overall growth in female entrepreneurship: 39 percent to 21 percent.

Minority women are responsible for a large portion of that growth from 2014-2019, where "sidepreneurship" among minority women-owned businesses was two times higher than others: 65 percent com-



When looking at specific minority groups over the last five years, growth in sidepreneurship is up 99 percent among African American women, compared to 70 percent for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, 63 percent for Asian Americans, 46 percent for Latina/Hispanic women, and 36 percent among Native Americans/Alaska Native businesswomen.

pared to 32 percent.

When looking at specific minority groups over the last five years, growth in sidepreneurship is up 99 percent among African American women, compared to 70 percent for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, 63 percent for Asian Americans, 46 percent for Latina/Hispanic women, and 36 percent among Native Americans/Alaska Native businesswomen.

The report concluded that women of color are starting businesses at 4.5 times the average rate, and, in nearly every category, women of

collective powerhouse, CAP officials stated.

In CAP's "Women of Color: A Powerhouse in the U.S. Electorate," report, authors Danyelle Solomon and Connor Maxwell used new survey data to explore the voter eligibility, electoral participation, and distinct interracial and intraracial policy perspectives of women of color.

The report examined a host of issues from health care and economic inequality to public safety, racial and gender discrimination, and immigration.

"In the past decade, the voter-eligible population of women of color increased six times faster than that of white women, yet candidates, journalists, and policymakers rarely acknowledge their ability to affect elections," stated Solomon, the vice president of Race and Ethnicity Policy at the CAP, and co-author of the report.

"Women of color are the canaries in the coal mine. When you center them in your policymaking agenda, outcomes for all Americans will improve. Continuing to ignore the policy priorities of this powerhouse of voters will only further undermine the health of our democracy and further exacerbate racial and gender inequalities," Solomon stated.

"This report affirms what we already know: Women of color are an important – and growing – a catalyst for change in our democracy," said Aimee Allison, the founder and president of She the People.

Gov. Edwards, Continued from page 4.

the United States Coast Guard, 211, Louisiana State Police and other agencies as deemed appropriate.

As an initial step, the COVID-19 Task Force is recommending that all state agencies review and update their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) that were developed statewide in 2012 under GOHSEP direction to take coronavirus into account.

ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

State officials encourage Louisianans to take the following proactive steps to protect the health of

themselves and those around them:

- Cover your cough.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, or with a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Avoiding close contact (within six feet) with those who are sick.

Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. CDC believes at this time that symptoms of CO-

VID-19 may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

FOR INFORMATION

- For updates on the state's response to the coronavirus situation, visit LDH.louisiana.gov/Coronavirus.
- Members of the public with questions about coronavirus may call the coronavirus general information line at 1-855-523-2652 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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Mayor Cantrell Celebrates Opening of Central City Library in Allie Mae Williams Multi-Service Center

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Mayor LaToya Cantrell today joined other officials, community leaders and partners to celebrate the opening of the Central City Library location inside the Allie Mae Williams Multi-Service Center as well as to dedicate the Carolyn Green Ford Head Start Center as part of the Central City Economic Opportunity Corporation (EOC).

"The investment in our community, the investment in our families, our children, across the board, will continue even after this day, because we are on our way around here in Central City," said Mayor Cantrell.

The project featured a \$6.4 million renovation of the two-story,



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell was joined other officials, community leaders and partners to celebrate the opening of the Central City Library location inside the Allie Mae Williams Multi-Service Center.

24,000 square-foot facility to provide upgraded spaces to accommodate a daycare, the Central City EOC offices, a Head Start Nursery facility and the satellite branch for the New Orleans Public Library. The outdated building infrastructure was gutted and replaced to meet Life Safety and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance with new electrical and mechanical systems, elevators, stairways and interior finishes. The building facade has undergone a major upgrade with a covered canopy walkway and landscaping. Most of the budget came from FEMA funding, while \$211,000 was City funded through bonds.

This new facilities' features include:

- Increased hours of operation

- Dedicated areas for children and teens
- 2,500 more materials in the library collection
- Outdoor space for programs and events
- Two on-site parking lots

The City also was represented by Emily Wolff, Director, Mayor's Office of Youth & Families; Dr. Gabriel Morley, Executive Director/City Librarian, New Orleans Public Library; Vincent A. Smith, Director, Capital Projects Administration; and Jay H. Banks, City Councilman, District B. Vangie Moffett, Center Manager, Central City EOC, spoke on behalf of the organization, although many other community leaders stood with Mayor Cantrell, including retired City Councilmen Jim Singleton.

ALYSON, stroke survivor.

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Uptown Music Theatre (UMT) will Perform their Award Winning Production of Disney's Lion King, Jr. at Dillard University

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

Delfeayo Marsalis' Uptown Music Theatre (UMT) will perform their award winning production of Disney's Lion King, Jr. UMT's Competition Team won Outstanding Production for their rendition of the Lion King, Jr. at the 2020 Junior Theatre Festival (JTF) in Atlanta, GA. JTF consisted of 127 groups from 28 states and 6 countries including The United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England, and China.

The productions were judged by current Broadway professionals. UMT will stage four shows running Friday, March 20th - Sunday, March 22nd at Dillard University - Cook Theater. For ticket information go to Eventbrite.com and search Uptown Music Theatre.



Delfeayo Marsalis' Uptown Music Theatre (UMT) students holding one of their many awards they've won over the years in competitions featuring other companies from around the nation and world. They are the next generation of great talent coming from New Orleans.

Residents Respond, Continued from page 4.

has led to a shortage of face masks, hand sanitizers and household cleaning products at major retail outlets in the city, residents noted.

"The coronavirus is real and spreading, but I don't really know what more there is for me to do except playing my part by washing my hands and being mindful of my daily activity in terms of hygiene," said Shania Campbell, a Dillard University student. "People are afraid of this virus, but in reality, there are so many other dangers at hand. Everything needs awareness, not just this," Campbell said.

While some residents said they are taking new precautions, others said they are used to preparedness and disruptions to the routine that come with other hazards the city faces each year.

"Being the normally hygienically aware individual that I always am, any other efforts are speculative at best," said Percy Marchand, a Mid-City resident and business owner.



Percy Marchand, Mid-City resident

"Also, I am stocked up on goods just in case, but again, living in New Orleans, we are always stocked up and prepared for a disaster," Marchand said.

Residents said they felt some attention has been taken away from yearly viruses such as the flu, which is the more prominent virus of the two. For Louisiana, while there have not been any reported cases of the coronavirus, the virus is still being spread in the midst of



Shania Campbell, Dillard University student

influenza season, which runs from October to April. Last year, state officials reported that there were 14,000 hospitalizations and around 1,400 deaths from the flu.

"Honestly, I'm not really worried about the virus. To me, it's just another running case of something to be worried about," said Ernest Lumpkins, an Uptown New Orleans resident. "Every year, it's something different. Before it was the Swine Flu (H1N1), now it's



Tyler Townsend, Xavier University of Louisiana student

this. This doesn't bother me at all," Lumpkins added.

Still residents said they will continue to take steps to protect themselves and their families.

"All measures of safety are appreciated. This is a serious time and nothing to play with," said Marianne Alexis, a New Orleans East resident. "You can never be too safe. I take precautions every day by washing my hands and being aware of my surroundings," Alexis added.

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A Louisiana Girl with California Wine

Candace J. Semien
Jozef Syndicate Reporter

Dawna Jones, PhD., remembers having an amazing childhood in Opelousas with her parents, Randolph and Priscilla Darjean, and three siblings. But one distinct memory may have unintentionally guided the 43-year-old plant pathologist into the wine-making business.

"My mother dabbled in making various fruit wines when I was very young, but I do not remember assisting in the process aside from picking the fruit, usually pears, from the trees that grew in our backyard. I do distinctly remember the smell of the fermenting fruit. I loved that smell," she said.

That fermentation science would fascinate Jones who "loves science deeply" and has been interested in agriculture since she was a teenager in public school.

Today, Jones is a first-generation winemaker and owner of Darjean Jones Wines.

As a student, she researched plants and plant diseases at Southern University and A&M College, University of California – Davis, and the US Department of Agriculture. Her dissertation research focused on Pierce's Disease of grapevine, requiring her to spend countless hours in California vineyards.

"I kind of fell into wine gradually," she told HelloWoodlands. "I do remember tasting a Merlot grape one day while walking through the research vineyards and thinking that if wine tasted half this good, it must be fantastic."

Dawna Jones researcher (bold)

Dawna Jones studied plant science at the University of California Davis; following graduate school, she worked as a Diagnostic Plant Bacteriologist for the government while her husband, Chauncey, completed fellowships in Anesthesiology. (Dr. Chauncey Jones is also



Dawna Jones, vintner and plant scientist, poses with her Darjean Jones Wines which were featured in Tyler Perry's "Nobody's Fool"

an SU grad who studied animal science.)

While in Maryland, she tested plant material brought into the country, developed testing methods, and investigated outbreaks of plant disease. For seven years, she was a National Security Analyst. Then, his career required them to settle in Texas. That move nearly 10 years ago was the impetus for her career shift back to grapevines and a new adventure in wine-making. It was then that her husband asked, "What would you do if you could do anything you want?" and she answered, "I'd make wine!"

"Wine-making, for me, seemed a natural progression," said Jones who is now a mother of two with an International WSET Level 3 Certification for grape growing and wine-making. Through partnerships with six California vineyards, she has created and produced eight

boutique Darjean Jones Wines that are "spirited, adventurous and possess a charisma that will seduce wine lovers of all kinds."

Since 2010, her wines have won 34 competition metals and debuted in Tyler Perry's "Nobody's Fool." Darjean Jones Wines are served at top restaurants in Texas, sold at wine cellars in California, and have a National Wine Club following. The website features wines that are available for direct order and recipes perfect for pairing with her wines. "The love of good food and drink is coded in my DNA," Jones said.

When asked about the future of agriculture, Jones said, "I would like others to understand the limitless number of careers that fall under agriculture, including economics and technology. I would like more children to consider careers in agriculture. From organic farm-

ing to high tech laboratories, there is a place for all of us to assist in feeding our growing world."

"It is so important for our youth, SU students and alumni to see the homegrown talent and successes of Dawna and Chauncey who share their racial identity and are both graduates of the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family, and Consumer Science," said Renita Marshall, DVM, Associate Dean of the College. "Having Dawna as a role model is vital to signaling a sense of belonging for women of color. Her continued pursuit of excellence in Ag research and business are definitely not going unnoticed in the African American community nor the Southern University Ag community."

Jones said, "I hope that people remember me as a good friend. I am not looking for a spot in anyone's history book."

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