

Lighting The Road To The Future

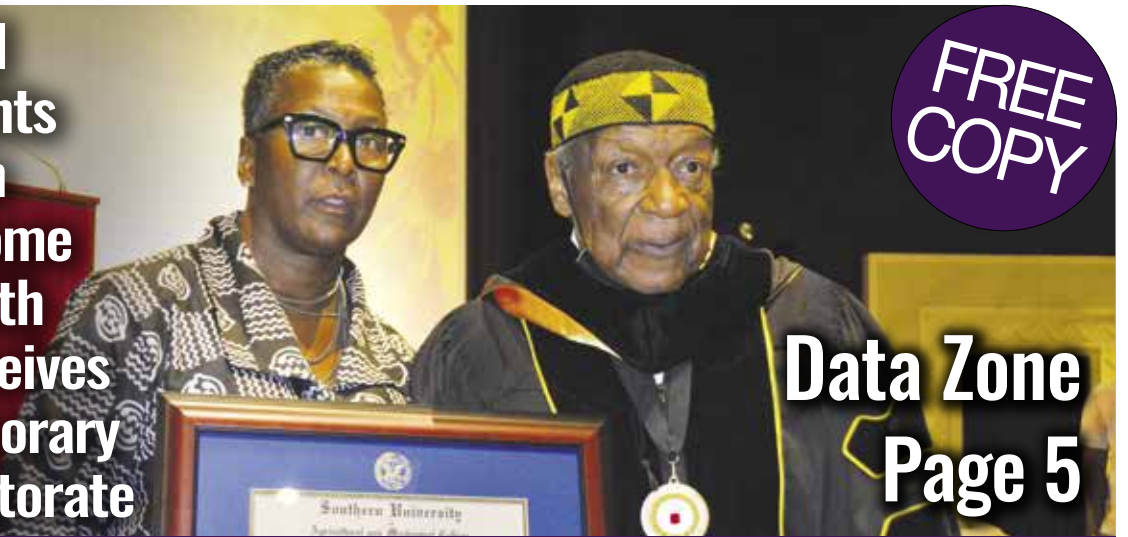
New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Civil Rights Icon
Jerome Smith
Receives Honorary Doctorate



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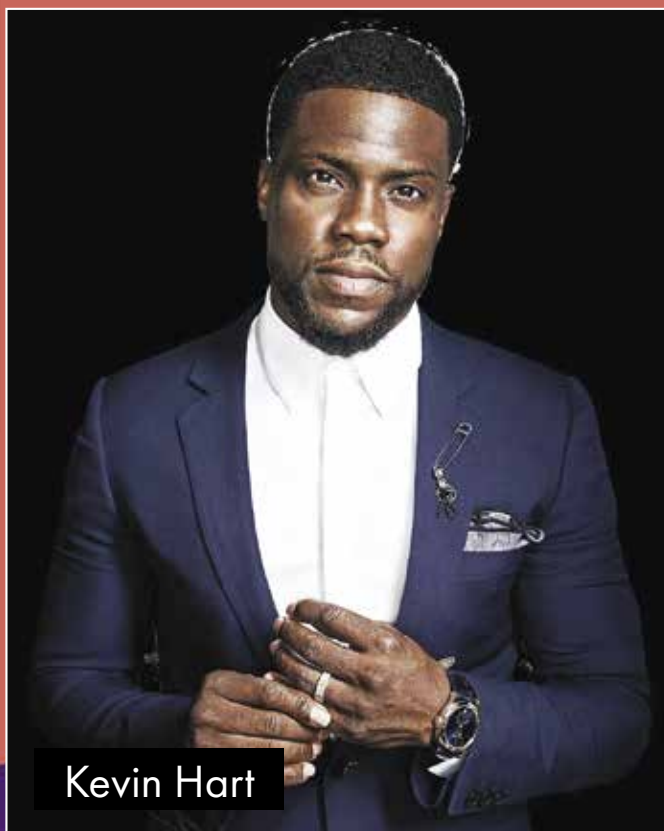
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Essence Fest is Back and Better than Ever



Janet Jackson



Kevin Hart



Lucky Daye



D-Nice



Nicki-Minaj

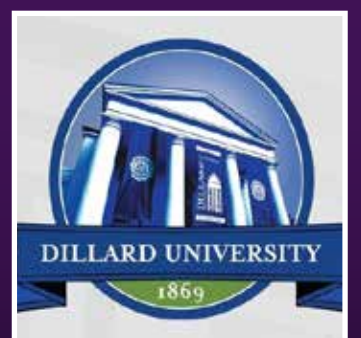
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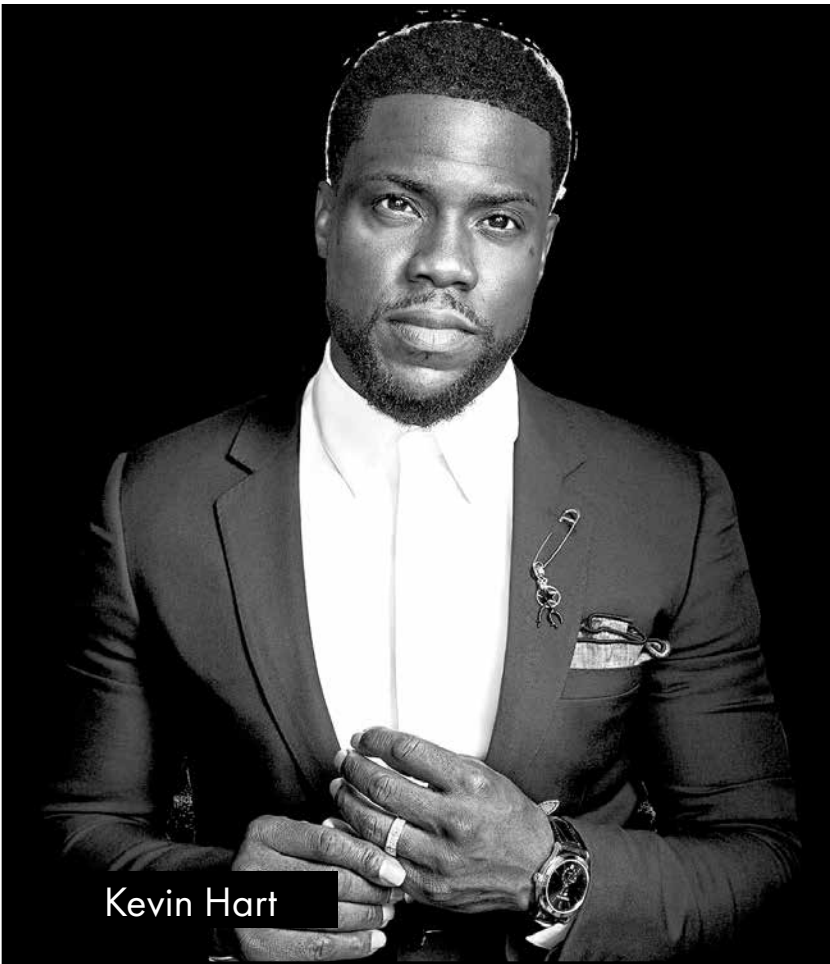
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Dillard University
Announces
Nursing Degree



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Essence Fest

is Back and Better than Ever



Kevin Hart



Ashanti

Data News Staff Edited Report

Essence Fest is Back and Better than Ever

Two years after COVID-19, the Essence Fest is back and better than ever. What began in 1995 as a one-time event to celebrate

Essence Magazine's 25th Anniversary has blossomed into an annual festival, which has welcomed hundreds of thousands of guests to the Crescent City each year over the past two decades. The Essence Festival of Culture promotes, celebrates, and explores health & wellness, spirituality, beauty & style, food, community & culture, entertainment, entrepreneurship, and

much more within the African American community. Attendees are invited to engage in panel discussions, shopping, meet and greets, activities, and of course, nonstop live music featuring some of the best in R&B, soul, funk, gospel, and hip-hop each and every Fourth of July weekend. Essence Fest returns June 30-July 3, 2022, with the

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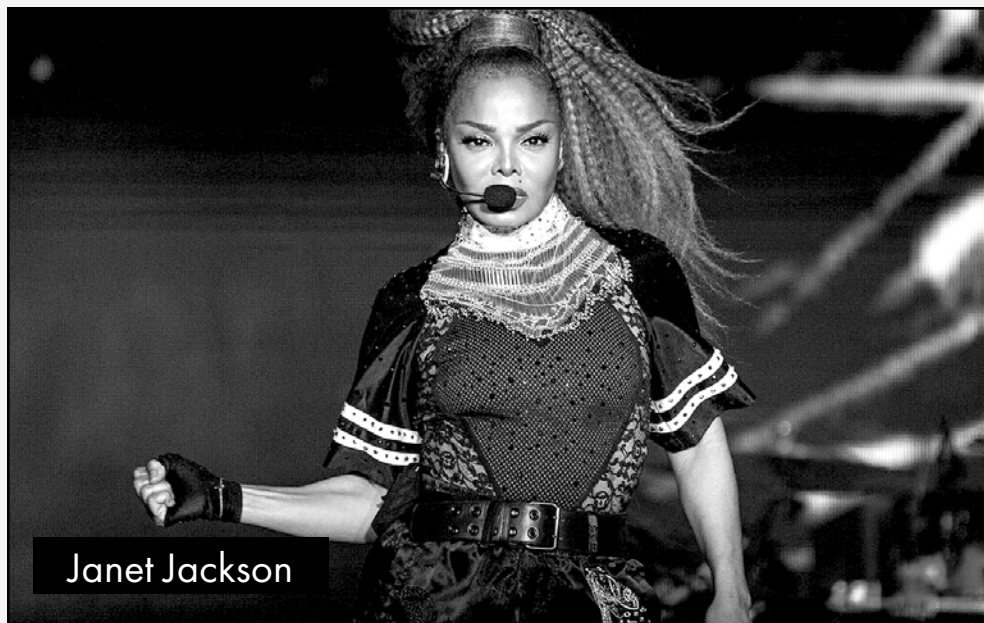
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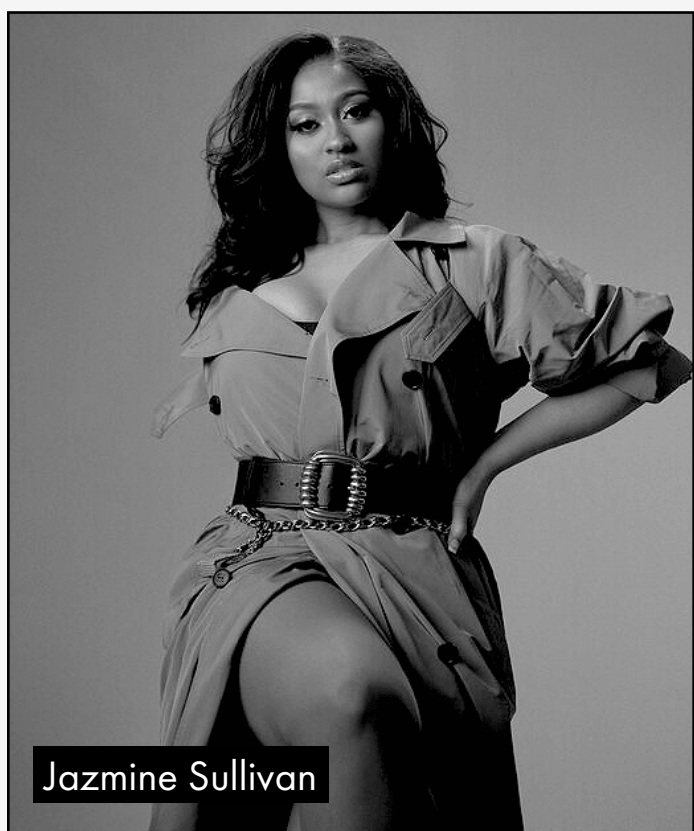
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Janet Jackson



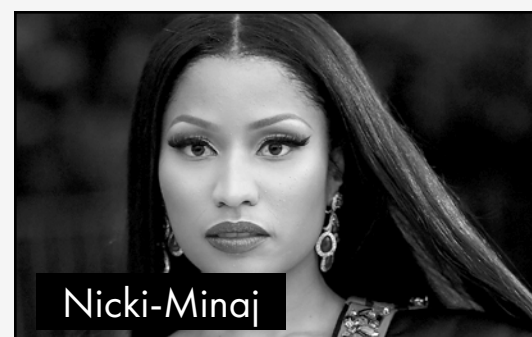
Lucky Daye



Jazmine Sullivan



D-Nice



Nicki-Minaj



New Edition

theme “It’s the Black Joy for Me!” Below is everything you need to know to plan an unforgettable Essence Fest getaway.

Event Details

When: June 30-July 3, 2022

Where: Citywide (with large events at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center & the Caesars Superdome)

Cost: Daytime events at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center are FREE. Concert tickets vary in price.

The 2022 Lineup Includes:

- Janet Jackson
- Nicki Minaj
- Kevin Hart
- New Edition

- The Isley Brothers
- The Roots & Friends
- Summer Walker
- Jazmine Sullivan
- D-Nice & Friends

The ESSENCE Festival of Culture is the country’s biggest celebration of all things Black and beautiful and as we all know, one of our favorite ways to celebrate our excellence is through music.

Join your favorite names in music, fashion, business, beauty, politics and more at the 2022 ESSENCE Festival of Culture!

With 2022 marking the return of the Festival to New Orleans in-person after a 2-year hiatus due to the Pandemic, you already know we had to do it big. How big, exactly, you ask?

We’ve got the reigning queen of Hip Hop Nicki Minaj making her ESSENCE Fest debut, entertainment icon Janet Jackson returning to bless the stage, R&B powerhouse Jazmine Sullivan bringing your Heaux Tales playlist to life, comedic superstar Kevin Hart is gearing up to bring all the laughs, New Edition ready to get us all on our feet to hit those signature dance moves, and so many more!

Essence Fest is back better than ever.

New things at the festival and things you need to know:

Though the COVID-19 Pandemic has eased enough for this year’s

Essence, the 27th overall, to be in-person, the festival’s producers are taking a cautious approach. Attendees are required to show proof of a COVID Vaccination, a requirement that has been dropped for most other large-scale events in New Orleans.

Other restrictions, including a clear-bag policy and limitations on the size of handbags, also apply.

Friday through Sunday, the “Essence After Dark: Music” concert series takes over Republic New Orleans from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

On those same three nights, the Joy Theatre is home to “Essence After Dark: Comedy” hosted by Guy Torry.

The “Essence Eats” food and wine festival is in session at the

Sugar Mill on those same dates.

The daytime programming at the Convention Center includes “In His Zone: Men’s Experience.” A discussion with actor, businessman and New Orleans native Wendell Pierce at 3 p.m. Saturday is part of the more male-centric “Men’s Experience.”

The “Essence Gets Lifted Gospel Celebration” runs all three days of the festival at the Convention Center. The “Wealth and Power” sessions are devoted to “global Black economic forum conversations.” The “Essence Health Club” covers fitness and health topics.

And the Essence Film Festival takes over part of the second floor of the convention center throughout the weekend.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association Celebrates its 195th Year of the Black Press in New Orleans

The National Newspaper Publishers Association celebrated their 195th Anniversary of the Black Press at its Annual June Convention held this year in New Orleans, LA with a record attendance. This was the first time that the NNPA met since the Pandemic two years ago. They were wined and dined by the local NNPA publishers, Beverly McKenna, Publisher, New Orleans Tribune, Renette Dejoie-Hall President and Publisher, Louisiana Weekly, and Terry Jones, Publisher, New Orleans Data News Weekly, NNPA's Convention Chairman, and Member of the NNPA Board of Directors. Entertained by local talents Sharon Martin and Michael Ward and World Famed Stephanie Mills.



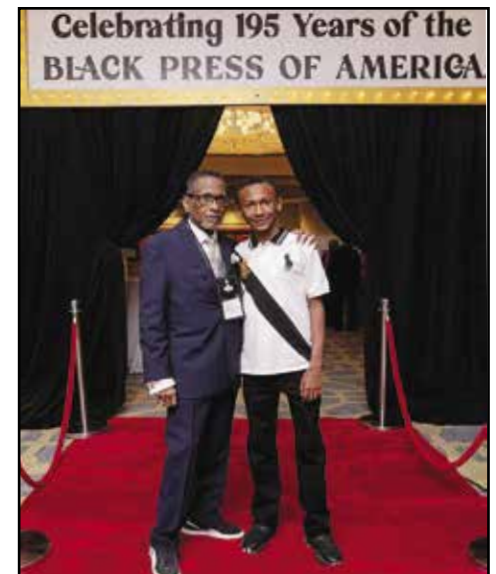
President Benjamin Chavis at the podium, with Chairman Karen Carter-Richardson, Terry Jones, Convention Chairman in background.



Chairman Karen Carter-Richardson at the podium with Terry Jones in background.



Pictured L-R - Royce Duplessis, Renette Dejoie-Hall, Karen Carter-Richardson, Helena Moreno, Benjamin Chavis, Oliver Thomas, and Terry Jones.



Terry B. Jones and son Gabriel Jones



Beverly McKenna, New Orleans Tribune and Dr. Dwight McKenna, N.O. Coroner



Terry Jones at the podium with Benjamin Chavis and Karen Carter-Richardson in background.



Reverend Fred Luter, Jr., Pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church



Terry Jones and his oldest son, Glenn Chayil Jones



Stephanie Mills



The Gumbolia Band performed with the Indians. Big Chief Honey, Golden Souix Tribe and Big Chief Kevin Goodman, Flaming Arrows Tribe



Father's Day Pre-Conference Event for the 11th Annual National Civil Rights Conference



Jerome Smith accompanied by his oldest daughter Farin Smith.



Reynard Sanders and Don Hubbard amongst other in attendance at the Pre-Conference event on Father's Day for the 11th Annual National Civil Rights Conference at the Carver Theatre.

Glenn Chayil Jones Data News Weekly Contributor

On Father's Day, June 19, 2022, something Unexpected and Special happened. Jerome "Big Duck" Smith showed up and received a well-earned accomplishment that will change his name! The now Dr. Jerome "Big Duck" Smith received his Doctorate at the Pre-Conference event for the 11th Annual National Civil Rights Conference that was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana hosted by Southern University (Law Center) and Miami University on June 20-21st, 2022.

The theme or slogan for this event was to engage, educate, and empower! Dr. Smith (Big Duck) absolutely embodied those principles to this day. As Dr. Jerome Smith stated he turned down Harvard for their Doctorate but accepted Southern University because of their work during the Civil Rights Movement. That is a man of conviction. For those that do not know, doctorates can be big business like receiving

a Grammy in academics, a Grammy from Harvard..... forget about it!

I joked earlier that Dr. Jerome "Big Duck" Smith showed up to an award ceremony because anyone in this city or nationally knows Big Duck will Duck any accolades that will not improve his community directly, which is why he is the Most Respected man in this city from the streets, City Hall to Corporate corridors.

The rest of the Honorees consisted of others who have made an impact as well, Virtual Hard Hitters and even a legendary Spy Boy in Fred Johnson. Along with Dr. Jerome "Big Duck" Smith, Fred Johnson were Robert Parris Moses (posthumously), Matt Suarez, Judge Calvin Johnson, Don Hubbard, Robert Jones and last but not least the youngest of them Kevin Griffin-Clark.

In proper fashion a second line proceeded as Dr. Jerome Smith was driven behind in an open float like the Pope but better. A triumphant King of the community celebrating his well-deserved Award.

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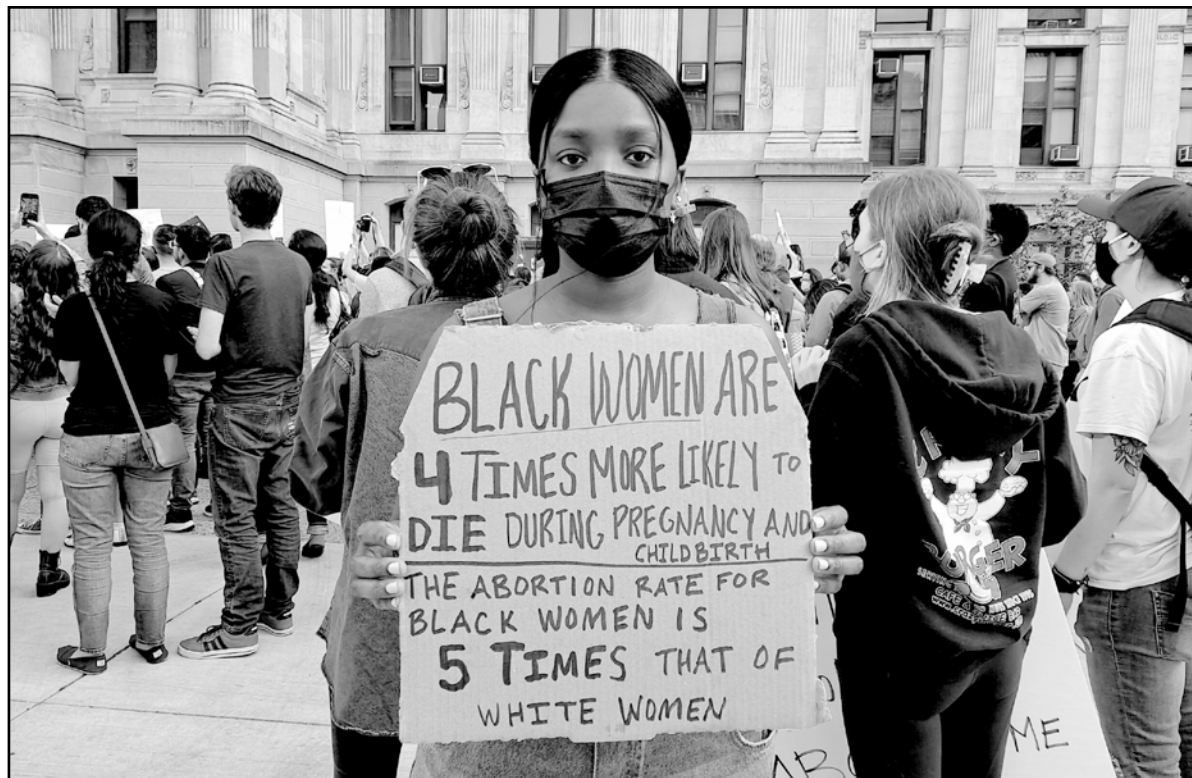
Black Women Will Bear the Brunt of SCOTUS Abortion Ruling

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO National Urban League

NEW YORK, June 25, 2022—National Urban League President Marc H. Morial today issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade:

"For nearly 50 years, American women have had the right to choose what to do with their own bodies. Today's devastating decision will reverberate for generations. For the first time in our history, the Supreme Court has snatched away a fundamental right from more than half our nation's citizens.

"This decision is a personal affront to the dignity and freedom of every woman in this country, and a violent intrusion into a personal decision that should be left to women



and their doctors. It will disproportionately harm women and children of color, those living on lower incomes, young people, immigrants, and members of the LGBTQI+ community and future generations of women and girls who would need access to such an essential service.

"In the thirteen states with so-called 'trigger laws,' abortion is effectively banned as of this moment or within the next 30 days, and another seven states are likely to enact bans in the coming weeks.

"Additionally, the Court's decision places other rights gained over the last century at risk – the rights to other personal decisions, contraception, LGBTQ rights, marriage rights, and so on. The National Urban League will continue to fight for the reproductive rights of women and the civil rights of all of us. The Urban League fights for you."

State & Local News

Dillard University Announces Plans to Offer Master of Science in Nursing

New Orleans Agenda

NEW ORLEANS — Dillard University has announced plans to offer a Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) in its College of Nursing. The degree will be offered in the fall 2023 semester pending approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Once approved, the M.S.N. will be the first master's degree in Dillard's 153-year history.

Dr. Yolanda W. Page, Vice President for Academic Affairs, says it is apropos that the nursing program is home to the University's first master's degree. "Our nursing program is our historical program; it is the program that is most synonymous with Dillard." Page also commented that this announcement is

an affirmation of the University's commitment to nursing education. "When I returned to Dillard in 2013, the nursing program was struggling. Now, nine years later, we are poised to offer a master's degree in nursing. I appreciate President Kimbrough and Dr. Hutchinson for joining me in seeing this vision through."

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing reports the need for registered nurses will increase to 1.1 million in 2025 with a growth rate of 7% until 2029, however, Dillard also recognizes the need for nurse educators and administrators.

"Directly aligned with the demand for more nurses is also the demand for nurse educators to prepare future nurses and nursing administrators to manage and lead staff nurses in their various roles and settings," said Dr. Sharon

Hutchinson, Dean of Dillard's College of Nursing. "This is an exciting time to enter the arena of graduate nursing education and produce graduates who will prepare future nurses, impact healthcare outcomes for consumers of health, and address health disparities for diverse peoples and communities."

The M.S.N. will be a 12-course, 36-39 credit hour hybrid degree program designed to be completed in four consecutive semesters for full time students; and six semesters for part time students. As part of the approval process, Dillard will request a level change according to the SACSCOC and ACEN process for establishing graduate programs. For more information about Dillard's undergraduate and graduate degrees in nursing, contact the College of Nursing at 504-816-4717 or nursing@dillard.edu.

AM I
OKAY
TO
DRIVE?
BUZZED DRIVING
IS DRUNK DRIVING

NNPA Wraps Historic 195th Anniversary Convention Galvanized for the Future

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the Black Press of America Trade Association, wrapped its 2022 Convention in New Orleans with a cruise along the Mississippi River aboard the Creole Queen Riverboat.

But the convention, which celebrated the 195th Anniversary of the Black Press in America, wasn't about smooth sailing – especially given the issues facing African Americans and other marginalized communities.

Following a first-day chairman's reception, Black Press publishers got down to business, officially kicking off the four-day conference by providing a platform for a new generation.

Mark Thompson, the decorated journalist and host of the podcast "Make It Plain," moderated the topic, "Amplifying Voices of Generation Z and Millennials Through the Black Press of America."

Electrifying the audience were on-air personality Jonita "Go JJ Go" Buchanan, DaNeshia Bell, Joshua McMillian, Lafayette Barnes, and Melanie Mainor.

The panel discussed how young African Americans view the importance of the Black Press's future, emphasizing the need for publishers to enhance their digital presence on platforms like Tik Tok and Instagram.

Erica Myles, the senior consultant and senior vice president of Diverse Segments, Representation, and Inclusion for Wells Fargo, discussed the topic, "Relationships and Resources: Tools to Move Black-owned Small Businesses from Surviving to Thriving."

A General Motors contingent spoke with NNPA President, and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. about "The Path to Inclusion is Electric: How GM is Building an All-Inclusive Workforce to Build an All-Electric Future."

Representatives from GM and Wells Fargo also sat for a live inter-



Pictured L-R - Royce Duplessis, Renette Dejoie-Hall, Karen Carter-Richardson, Helena Moreno, Benjamin Chavis, Oliver Thomas, and Terry Jones.

view on the NNPA's national news program, "Let It Be Known."

"The Google News Initiative Lab: Growing Digital Advertising Revenue" panel featured publishers James Washington of the Dallas Weekly, Janis Ware of the Atlanta Voice, Google News Initiative employees Eric Rosato and Casey Pallenik, and Association of Alternative Newsmedia Manager Todd Stauffer.

Munson Steed, the Rolling Out National Publications publisher, presented the topic: RIDE (Rolling Out Innovation Digital Entertainment) Lab for NNPA Publishers.

"I want NNPA Publishers to think digital," Steed exhorted as he led a discussion, "Steps to lead to making money; criteria for hiring the right people, OTT (Over the Top), changing the mindset to become a media mogul."

The Baltimore AFRO and The Final Call were big winners at the NNPA Fund Messenger Awards, which included the presentation of scholarships to underserved students.

Dr. John Warren, the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint publisher, spoke on the topic, "Public Policy and Media Income."

Dr. Warren remarked that public policy results from local issues

growing and becoming law. "Such laws become public policy and media, for a price, provides discussion," Dr. Warren related.

Transformative Justice Coalition Founder Barbara Arnwine and board member Daryl Jones joined Dr. Chavis and members of the NNPA board to announce a "votercade" aimed at registering 10 million new African American voters.

Arnwine told a captivated panel that their organization had recorded 72 voter suppression tactics to prevent a large population from casting ballots.

Among them are strict voter laws in many Republican-led states, deceptive practices like robocalls; early voting cuts; and voter intimidation.

"Black voters did our share in 2020," Arnwine remarked.

"Ninety-three percent of all eligible Black voters registered in Georgia. Yet, in the 2021 Georgia Senate run-off, 93 percent of all registered Black voters turned out. That's why people don't understand where the real power is."

Dr. David Childs, a professor of Black Studies, Education, and History at Northern Kentucky University, led a discussion on the "Black Press and the Antidote to Racism

in America" with the Houston Defender's ReShonda Tate-Billingsley and Aswad Walker.

Nissan joined NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards in a discussion about the automotive company's DEI and philanthropic initiatives and the importance of the Black Press in corporate America.

Zillow officials also hosted a presentation on "The State of Black Homeownership in the U.S."

Representatives from In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda hosted a panel entitled "Reproductive Justice."

At the same time, Reynolds tackled the topic, "Recognizing the Black Press and the Role it Plays in Black America."

Westside Gazette Publisher Bobby Henry received the NNPA 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award, while Rep. Maxine Waters and entertainer Stephanie Mills took home Legacy Awards.

Mills, who first gained fame as "Dorothy" in the Broadway hit "The Wiz," performed some of her most iconic hits, including "Home" and "I Never Knew Love Like This Before."

Many in attendance agreed the conference proved among the best in the NNPA's 82-year history.

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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 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 and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to
hear from you!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

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ladatanews.com - The People's Website



Care and Choice at the End of Life

A photograph of three people, two women and one man, sitting at a table and smiling. The woman on the left is older with grey hair, wearing a red and blue top. The woman in the middle has curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a light blue shirt. The man on the right is older with grey hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. They appear to be engaged in a pleasant conversation or activity at a table with various items on it.

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