



PRWeb: Society African American Interests





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Arrow Records Signs Popular Multi-Talent with Hip Hop Artist Shonlock

Arrow Records, an affiliate of Creflo Dollar Ministries, announces today the signing of multi-talented gospel hip-hop artist Deshon Bullock, known professionally as Shonlock. Having an artistry and range of talents that have taken him traveling around the country, he has worked with some of secular and Christian music's most popular acts, from Aaliyah, Arrested Development, Grammy-nominated duo Grits, Kierra "Kiki" Sheard and Trinitee 5:7 as a dancer, choreographer, and lyricist. Shonlock is currently touring with Grammy winner TobyMac.

Atlanta, GA (PRWEB) July 3, 2009 -- Arrow Records, an affiliate of Creflo Dollar Ministries, announces today the signing of multi-talented gospel hip-hop artist Deshon Bullock, known professionally as Shonlock. Having an artistry and range of talents that have taken him traveling around the country, he has worked with some of secular and Christian music's most popular acts, from Aaliyah, Arrested Development, Grammy-nominated duo Grits, Kierra "Kiki" Sheard and Trinitee 5:7 as a dancer, choreographer, and lyricist. Shonlock is currently touring with Grammy winner TobyMac.

The Illinois-bred Shonlock has grabbed attention everywhere he goes with his exhilarating stage presence and positive sounds from his self-made and hugely popular first hip hop project. Now based in Atlanta, Shonlock's study and hard work with Christian music's biggest stars have paid off with his highly anticipated new album for Arrow/Universal Records. Featuring 12 scorching tracks with Shonlock's creative blend of influences from soul, rock, and hip hop, his new album is sure to make waves in furthering the spiritually-conscious hip hop movement.

Following up on his first self-made and self-produced hip hop project, which he sold while on the road to the tune of more than 15,000 units, Shonlock is pulling out all the stops utilizing all his talents and experience on the recording of his new album. Grammy-nominated producers David "Da Monsta" Lynch and Ric "Form" Robbins oversee the 12 tracks on the new album, which includes appearances from The Katinas and Trinitee 5:7.

In the ever-growing spiritually-conscious hip hop movement, Shonlock's exuberant performances and passionate celebration of the awesome power and gifts from trusting God delivers a fresh positive energy to the music industry and fans. Offering solace, insight and empowerment through God's love, Shonlock's music and lyrics strengthen the bonds between fans and faith.

About Arrow Records:

Arrow Records, an affiliate of Creflo Dollar Ministries, is a Word-based record company located in College Park, Georgia. Established in 1998, our mission is to restore gospel music back to its original purpose--to usher in the power and presence of God in order to encourage the brokenhearted, heal the sick, deliver the captive and save the lost through the rhythm and beat of hip-hop, jazz, praise and worship, pop, urban, instrumental, inspirational, contemporary and traditional black gospel, and alternative sounds.

For More Information, please contact:

W&W Public Relations, Inc.



Lori McNeil/Patti Webster
732-469-5955
lori @ w-wpr.com / patti @ w-wpr.com

Arrow Records
Christopher Young
770-210-5796
cyoung @ arrow-records.com

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Contact Information

Patti Webster

Creflo Dollar Ministries

<http://www.creflodollarministries.org>

732-469-5955

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Creflo Dollar and Arrow Records Present ... 'Heart of God, CHANGE'

Creflo Dollar and Arrow Records present Heart of God, CHANGE. This eagerly anticipated album release is sure to wow audiences of all denominations, races, ethnic groups, and cultural backgrounds. Gospel recording artists featured on this project come together to combine very different styles of Gospel music. In the words of Dollar, this project "puts words to feelings that you want to express toward God in an extremely unique way."

(PRWEB) July 3, 2009 -- Creflo Dollar and Arrow Records present Heart of God, CHANGE. This eagerly anticipated album release is sure to wow audiences of all denominations, races, ethnic groups, and cultural backgrounds. Gospel recording artists featured on this project come together to combine very different styles of Gospel music. In the words of Dollar, this project "puts words to feelings that you want to express toward God in an extremely unique way."

With the Heart of God CD, Dollar says, "People can expect to experience a level of authentic, heartfelt praise and worship toward God, which will bring them into an experience of intimacy as they listen to the words." According to Dollar, "The music will produce a unique anointing that people can experience, whether it's soulful, gospel or contemporary. And bringing all these unique artists and sounds together will display a perfect picture of the Body of Christ."

Billed as the record label that produces "music that pierces the heart," Dollar says the Gospel artists and music featured on this newest release will do just that: pierce the hearts of millions globally. "Arrow artist, DeLeon, is a melodic worshipper," says Dollar. "Her unique delivery leads people into a place of seeking more of God."

Also featured on this CD is Arrow recording artist, Jonathan Phillips, whose unique sound Dollar describes as, "flavorful rhythm and praise," which is a unique combination of Christian rock and progressive pop. As Dollar explains it, "We're looking for more ways to get the Word out, and the diversity of these artists is such, that they can sing so differently and each style presents something any audience will be able to relate to."

Dollar says this CD, as a whole, is designed to impact lives and make music a tool whereby people will think about what they do. "They will listen to the words, which are the sword of the Spirit, and they will be encouraged, changed, and inspired." Dollar also adds, "While I do support the words going forth more than 'beats' per se, I recognize that by being sensitive to God, artists can draw the unsaved with their secular 'beats' and prepare their hearts to receive the preached Word."

Piercing the hearts of the unsaved and the youth; drawing them in with her eclectic, soulful sound has proven an easy assignment for Arrow's newest artist, Jordan Dollar, who appeals broadly to teens and young adults alike. "Jordan is a bridge for young people from traditional to contemporary worship and praise," says Creflo Dollar. "I call it 'life music.'"

Dollar's description of life music also extends to Arrow artist, Dorsey Hammond, a gifted pianist, songwriter, and also the Minister of Music at World Changers Church International. "Dorsey's music is a propelling force of rhythmic and harmonic freedom that excites and challenges listeners to come into deep fellowship with God. And



this is the goal of the Heart of God CD: to combine the various styles which will bring people to a level of authentic, heartfelt praise, and worship toward God."

In his quest to find more ways to get the Word out, Dollar also delivers an electrifying, piercing, anointed performance on the Heart of God release by Arrow Records. He ministers the Word of God "on top of music" as yet another way to inspire and draw people to God and to church. Dollar believes Gospel music lovers will be particularly moved by the track, "Oh Lord Most High," which he says sets a tone and atmosphere that ushers in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

As Dollar embarks on 2009 Change Experience tours around the United States next year, he affirms all who attend will get a taste of Heart of God "live," as various Arrow artists will perform, bringing the CD experience in the form of the Word, music, worship and their various styles of unity.

As with every previous CD released by Taffi Dollar, President and CEO of Arrow Records, this Heart of God, CHANGE album is guaranteed to break through traditional barriers of race, culture, and class with eclectic, soulful, contemporary, Christian pop, rock, and harmonic rhythms that combine these styles to reach a level of authentic worship and praise.

"I believe this is the best CD we have ever done," states Creflo Dollar. "When other ministries and churches sing our songs, that's when we have made an impact--when we've become 'anthems' in the lives of others by delivering music that pierces the heart and brings them into the presence of God."

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Contact Information

Patti Webster

Creflo Dollar Ministries

<http://www.creflodollarministries.org>

732-469-5955

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Have You or a Loved One Been Denied the Right to Vote? Contact the Ohio Election Justice Campaign

Citizens' group Ohio Election Justice Campaign (OEJC) invites all citizens denied or hindered in voting in any Ohio election from 2004 onwards to join class action lawsuit to seek truth, justice, and monetary damages. Ohio Election Justice Campaign points to alleged election fraud cover-up between Ohio politicians and local attorneys as prompting citizen class action. Act now as urgent legal deadline expires soon: e-mail Ohio.Voter.Class.Action@gmail.com or call OEJC Director Shaffer at 614-266-2391.

Columbus, Ohio (PRWEB) July 3, 2009 -- In celebration of our nation's birthday on July 4th and the freedom it signifies, the Ohio Election Justice Campaign (OEJC), a citizens' group, invites all citizens who have been denied or hindered in voting in Ohio to join a class action lawsuit to seek truth, justice, and monetary damages. [King-Lincoln v. Blackwell](#), 2:06-cv-00745 (S.D. Ohio).

Even citizens currently living overseas or in another state such as New York or California are invited by the Ohio Election Justice Campaign to join this class action lawsuit if they have been denied or hindered in voting in any Ohio election beginning with the 2004 presidential election and including the most recent election.

Citizens' group believes Ohio politicians and local attorneys have combined to throw out evidence showing election fraud, to sanction the ongoing destruction of evidence, and to miss crucial legal deadlines in this landmark lawsuit.

Eight OEJC members say citizen class action is needed because their motion for a special grand jury had been turned down in this lawsuit. They say the court denied a request to enforce its own order for criminal contempt charges for destruction of the 2004 election evidence. OEJC provided the court over 1400 pages of evidence they say prove that Ohio's 2004 election was fraudulent but the lead attorneys for the voters of Ohio had the evidence thrown out.

During a telephone conference on June 23, 2009, citizens from across the nation pressed one of the lawyers for the voters of Ohio on the issue of the lawsuit's apparent abandonment. OEJC members believe that "secret negotiations" are taking place on the destroyed alleged election fraud evidence, public records that belong to the American people.

Further, on June 29, 2009, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) was provided with the evidence the OEJC says proves Ohio's 2004 election was fraudulent, including the documents filed in court, at a citizens' meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Citizens present at the meeting believe the Columbus-based DOJ bureaucrats want to play it safe, the same dangerous strategy the government followed in delaying criminal action to end the Madoff investment fraud scheme.

Marlys Barbee of OEJC responded, "We will not allow this coup of the U.S. Constitution to continue. We are



citizens of the United State of America, and when we know our right to vote has been abridged in any way, it is our duty to take action."

Ms. Barbee added: "And we will not bow down to puppets or clowns. This is not Iran, Honduras, or North Korea."

In honor of the nation's independence, all United States citizens who think they or or people they know were denied or hindered in voting in any Ohio election beginning with the 2004 presidential election and including the most recent election are invited to contact [The Ohio Election Justice Campaign](#) or call OEJC Director Shaffer at 614-266-5283. All inquiries will be held confidential. Act now as urgent legal deadline expires soon.

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Contact Information

Timothy Kettler

The Ohio Election Justice Campaign

<http://electiondefensealliance.org/OEJC>

(740) 502-6453

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News Image





Moguldom Media Group Launches New Authority on Hip-Hop News and Culture

Moguldom Media, the makers of wildly popular Bossip.com, have launched the new definitive source for Hip-Hop news, entertainment, and politics.

Atlanta, GA (PRWEB) July 3, 2009 -- Moguldom Media Group has launched its latest Web property HipHopWired.com. HipHopWired includes ground breaking Hip-Hop news and features and will cover some of the hottest talent in R&B and cinema. Along with engaging interviews and discussions with some of today's most prolific leaders of African American politics, HipHopWired offers a slew of advanced music and videos and an outlet for trend setting artists and cultural motivators.

HipHopWired joins Moguldom Media Group's already vast list of successful sites including Bossip.com, F-Listed.com, LiveSteez.com and Lossip.com. "Our company is about building Website brands and being the home of the definitive sites for entertainment related genres," states, Marve Frazier, CEO, Moguldom Media Group. "HipHopWired is the next wave for us. Over the past few years, people have been saying Hip-Hop is dead but we're going to show and prove where it has been resurrected on the Web. We're really anticipating the success of our endeavor and we plan to be the CNN of Hip-Hop on the Internet."

Moguldom Media has hired Michael "Ice-Blue" Harris as Operations Manager for the burgeoning site who will oversee the development and strategic marketing in making HipHopWired the go-to site for Hip Hop culture on the Web. Harris brings over ten years of entertainment journalism experience to the position which has included tenures at Vibe (Assistant Online Editor) and The Source Magazine (Senior Music Editor) respectively as well as contributions to XXL, Upscale, Hip-Hop Weekly and countless national publications.

Harris stated, "HipHopWired's goal is to become the dominant cultural site on the Web providing up to the minute music industry and entertainment news relating to Hip-Hop and R&B along with insightful political content and commentary to fuel the thinking masses. We have a lot of refreshing ideas that we plan to unveil in the next few months with our Website and our mission at HipHopWired is to dictate the trends and not follow them."

HipHopWired will also take a look at what goes on behind the board room doors and studios as we'll highlight industry executives, producers and other shot callers running the game. Leaving no stones unturned, the site will offer editorial commentaries and debates about the current status of Hip-Hop culture and the direction in which the culture is progressing. In addition, the site aims to analyze Hip-Hop's role in politics and help re-launch its once mighty but now quiet activism voice. The second wave of Hip-Hop journalism on the Internet is now here.

For more information contact
Michael "Ice-Blue" Harris
Moguldom Media Group/ Operations Manager for Hip Hop Wired
Mharris(at)moguldom.com
(770) 804-9445



About Moguldom Media Group

Moguldom Media Group is a new media company with a portfolio that includes Bossip.com, the leading celebrity gossip Website serving African American consumers; Lossip.com, a similar Website serving Latin American consumers; Flisted.com, which covers general celebrity gossip with a unique edge and male sensibility; Livesteez, a video-oriented social networking Website geared towards urban consumers and MingXingYao.com, a Mandarin-language blog covering Chinese celebrities. All Moguldom Media Group properties benefit from a favorable online advertising environment, unique credibility within the communities it serves, and strong strategic relationships.

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**Contact Information****Michael Harris**

Moguldom Media Group

<http://www.hiphopwired.com>

(770) 804-9445

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Hampton, VA and Boo Williams Sportsplex Host 2009 AAU 12 and Under Boys National Championships July 16-23, 2009

This July 16-23, over 120 teams representing more than 20 states will compete in Hampton, Virginia at the Boo Williams Sportsplex during the 2009 AAU 12 and Under Boys Basketball National Championships.

Hampton, Va. (Vocus) July 1, 2009 -- This July 16-23, over 120 teams representing more than 20 states will compete in Hampton, Virginia at the [Boo Williams Sportsplex](#) during the 2009 AAU 12 and Under Boys Basketball National Championships. Showcasing some of the hottest young talent in the country, this tournament is a must for any hoops fan hoping to catch a glimpse of the next Chris Paul, Kobe Bryant, or Dwight Howard.

This year, the championships are expected to draw participants from over 20 states, including California, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Wisconsin, and West Virginia, among others.

****The first games begin on July 17. The final rounds (championships) will take place on Thursday, July 23 (9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) at the Boo Williams Sportsplex. The tournament winner will be crowned at the Sportsplex as well****

The Opening Ceremonies, one of the most anticipated activities of the tournament, will take place at Hampton University Convocation Center (700 Emancipation Drive) at 6:00 p.m. on July 16.

Admission Charges for this year's 2009 AAU 12 and Under Boys National Championships are as follows:

Age: 5 & Under
Weekly Pass: Free
Daily Pass: Free

Youth Pass
Age: 6-14
Weekly Pass: \$30
Daily Pass: \$8

Adult Pass
Age: 15 & Over
Weekly Pass: \$40
Daily Pass: \$10

****Tickets may be purchased on-site at each game or at the opening ceremonies on July 16.**

All Games:
Boo Williams Sportsplex
5 Armistead Pointe Parkway



Hampton, VA 23666
757/637-7300

For more information on the 2009 AAU 12 and Under Boys National Championships, interested parties are encouraged to call the Sportsplex at 757/637-7300.

For those who enjoy surfing the web, check out www.aauboysbasketball.org or www.aausports.org. Each web site will be maintained and updated throughout the duration of the championships.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the new 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center, is located in the center of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center and Riverside IMAX ® Theater, the Cousteau Society, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, Fort Monroe, award-winning Hampton Coliseum, The American Theatre, among others. Hampton was twice-named All-America City, the nation's oldest and most prominent community recognition award.

Contact:
Ryan LaFata, 757/728-5328

Boo Williams, 757/570-2385

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Contact Information

Ryan LaFata

City of Hampton

<http://www.boowilliamssportsplex.com>

757-728-5328

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U.S. African Chamber of Commerce Encourages the African Union to set Political Agenda for African Unity

U.S. African Chamber of Commerce Encourages the African Union to set a Political Agenda for African Unity, Integration and the creation of one Continent. The African Union (AU) holds its 13th semiannual summit Wednesday in Libya's coastal city, Sirte.

Washington, DC (Vocus) July 1, 2009 -- [U.S. African Chamber of Commerce](#) encourages the African Union to set a political agenda for African Unity, Integration and the creation of one Continent. The African Union (AU) holds its 13th semiannual summit Wednesday in Libya's coastal city, Sirte. Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, who is the current chairman of the continental body, is hosting the meeting. The conference theme is "investment in agriculture for economic growth".

Several African heads of state and governments have reportedly arrived and are ready to participate in today's session.

"What the African leadership is trying to do is to recommit themselves to a very fundamental, very crucial issue on the continent. An issue that affects the bulk of their citizenry is food security," said Andrew Kanyegirire, communications director of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Some African heads of state were reportedly boycotting the summit to protest the leadership of Gadhafi, who has been described as a dictator after coming to power through a bloodless coup d'état in 1969.

But Kanyegirire said there are no clear indications that the leaders were boycotting the summit because of Gadhafi's leadership.

"Those are things that I have possibly heard in corridors. There is no factual evidence to say that this particular leader stayed away because of the leadership of the host country," Kanyegirire said.

He said NEPAD encourages solidarity among countries on the continent.

"As an institution, we feel very strongly about issues to deal with unity and integration," he said.

Kanyegirire said it is unfortunate there are those who say the time is not ripe for the AU's agenda for politically integrating the continent.

"There are some civil society organizations, private sector elements... and even leaders who feel that maybe this process is going a bit too quickly in terms of integration," Kanyegirire said.

He said that there is unanimity, however, among many African leaders for unity and integration.



"I think there is continental commitment. The question is time processes and procedures. There is genuine commitment across the board," he said.

Kanyegirire said the African Union frowns upon coups d'etat, adding that the age of military takeovers are going out of style.

The USACC is the leading advocacy organization for [U.S. African relations](#) and emerging African markets. The USACC is the umbrella organization for African chambers of commerce and professional trade and business associations throughout the United States and abroad.

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Contact Information

Martin Mohammed

US African Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.usafricanchamber.com>

202-465-0778

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News Image





Special Celebrity Guests Set to Appear at the Shades of Our Community Tour in New Orleans, LA

The Shades of Our Community Tour comes to the Essence Music Festival 2009 (Marketplace and Art Expo), at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Hall B, on Friday - Sunday, July 3-5, from 9:30 AM - 6 PM daily. CNN correspondent Roland Martin and CNN expert on disaster preparedness General Russel Honore will make special appearances at the CNN booth on Friday, July 3, between NOON and 1PM. Soledad O'Brien will appear at the CNN booth on Saturday, July 4, at 2 PM. Tyler Perry's Meet the Brown stars, David Mann (Mr. Brown) and Tamela Mann (Cora Brown), will appear at the TBS booth on Friday, July 3 from 2 - 4 PM and Saturday, July 4, from 1 - 3 PM.

Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) July 2, 2009 -- Turner Network Sales (TNS), the distribution, sales and marketing arm of Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. (TBS, Inc.), and CNN, TBS, TNT and Cartoon Network join Cox Cable in presenting the Shades of Our Community tour in New Orleans, LA. The tour comes to the Essence Music Festival 2009 (Marketplace and Art Expo), at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Hall B, on Friday - Sunday, July 3-5, from 9:30 AM - 6 PM daily.

CNN correspondent Roland Martin and CNN expert on disaster preparedness General Russel Honore will make special appearances at the CNN booth on Friday, July 3, between NOON and 1PM. Soledad O'Brien will appear at the CNN booth on Saturday, July 4, at 2 PM. Tyler Perry's Meet the Brown stars, David Mann (Mr. Brown) and Tamela Mann (Cora Brown), will appear at the TBS booth on Friday, July 3 from 2 - 4 PM and Saturday, July 4, from 1 - 3 PM.

The Shades of Our Community tour is an unprecedented traveling "event within an event." Traversing the country throughout the summer, the tour will be featured at high-traffic community festivals and fairs and offers an array of activities, music, videos, health screenings, children's activities, and plenty of goodies and giveaways. From confronting health issues, to sharing the bonds of family, it provides the African American community, and the entire community, a chance to come together to live, laugh, and learn.

The 2,500-square-foot Shades of Our Community tour consists of five interactive tents that reflect the theme Live. Laugh. Learn. Central to all the fun will be the Cox Cable community tent. Attendees can enjoy continuous music, prizes for dance-offs, song-lyric and trivia contests and more. They can have their photo taken with cutout standees of their favorite TV characters. A face-painting artist for kids and lots of giveaways will also be featured. In addition, Cox Cable is donating \$1,000 to Cox Charities to honor their efforts in the community.

"The Shades of our Community tour reflects the first-rate upcoming programming on CNN, TBS, TNT and Cartoon Network and provides Cox Cable the opportunity to connect with current and potential consumers in a unique and unprecedented setting," said Gary Brockman, vice president of network marketing and operations, TNS. "Every attendee will be able to connect to the tour through entertaining and informative activities covering the bonds of family, joy of laughter, importance of good health and desire to have one's voice heard."

CNN's Black in America 2 Portrait Studio Tent will offer a complimentary professional photo taken with family



and friends and printed on-site. Also at the tent is the CNN iReport Kiosk, where attendees will have the opportunity to record and upload their thoughts and experiences to CNN's iReport.com website. *Black in America 2*, the sequel to CNN's *Black in America*, will premiere on July 22 and 23 on CNN and CNN HD. Anchor and special correspondent, Soledad O'Brien, takes viewers across America to meet people who are finding solutions to challenges facing the African American community, and others who are shattering stereotypes about the black experience.

New Orleans, *Shades of Our Community*, 2-2-2

The TBS Tyler Perry's *Meet the Browns* tent will offer a personalized photo button, pop-a-shot basketball contests, prizes and giveaways. Tyler Perry's *Meet the Browns* is the latest Perry incarnation, a spin-off of the equally popular Tyler Perry's *House of Payne*. Since January, it has been the #1 comedy among adults and the #1 scripted series among African American viewers, households and key adults.

The TNT HawthoRNe tent will offer free health screenings for common health concerns of the African American community, including glucose, blood pressure and healthy height-to-weight ratio screenings, all given by certified medical technicians. The TNT medical drama HawthoRNe premiered June 16 and stars Jada Pinkett Smith as a strong but caring director of nursing. Smith is one of the first African American women since the 1970s to play the title role in a television series.

The Cartoon Network *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* Video Arcade takes attendees to a galaxy far away by offering *Star Wars* Lightsaber Duels interactive gaming stations with prizes for kids of all ages. *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* is a CG-animated series from creator George Lucas and Lucasfilm Animation. It takes audiences on new and exciting adventures combining the legendary storytelling of Lucasfilm with innovative animation. In January, the show was #1 in its time period with boys ages 2-14 and is a great co-viewing franchise, especially between father and son. The second season is slated to premiere in the fall of 2009.

For more information on the *Essence Music Festival 2009*, visit www.essencemusicfestival.com

Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., a Time Warner company, creates and programs branded news, entertainment, animation and young adult media environments on television and other platforms for consumers around the world.

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Contact Information

Monica Gillen

714 271-4081

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Now in Session: The Library of Congress on iTunes U

Historic film clips, podcasts, courses among offerings

(Vocus) June 30, 2009 -- In an ongoing effort to make its digital educational, historical and cultural resources available to web users across a broad spectrum of platforms, the Library of Congress today launched "The Library of Congress on iTunes U."

At its inception, the Library's iTunes U site includes:

- Historical videos from the Library's moving-image collections such as original Edison films and a series of 1904 films from the Westinghouse Works;
- Original videos such as author presentations from the National Book Festival, the "Books and Beyond" series, lectures from the Kluge Center, and the "Journeys and Crossings" series of discussions with curators;
- Audio podcasts, including series such as "Music and the Brain," slave narratives from the American Folklife Center, and interviews with noted authors from the National Book Festival; and
- Classroom and educational materials, including 14 courses from the Catalogers' Learning Workshop.

Additional materials will be added, such as resources and professional-development modules for teachers.

All Library of Congress content is free and downloadable, and is also available at www.loc.gov.

iTunes U is an area of the iTunes Store offering free education audio and video content from many of the world's top universities and other institutions. The iTunes application is needed to access iTunes U, and is a free download from www.apple.com/itunes.

In addition to iTunes U, the Library of Congress is also connecting new audiences to its vast resources via the Library's blog, a Twitter feed and a YouTube channel, with more to come.

The Library of Congress, the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, is the world's preeminent reservoir of knowledge, providing unparalleled collections and integrated resources to Congress and the American people. Many of the Library's rich resources and treasures may be accessed through the Library's website, www.loc.gov, and via interactive exhibitions on myLOC.gov.

Contact:

Matt Raymond
(202) 707-0020

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Contact Information

Matt Raymond

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov>

202-707-0020

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African Strategist And Author Proposes A Bold Approach To Fixing Africa, Ahead Of African Union Summit This Week

The mental shift created by the election of Barack Obama provides a historic opportunity to rebuild Africa on solid foundations, according to a new e-book by a noted African strategist and author.

(Vocus) June 30, 2009 -- The mental shift created by the election of Barack Obama provides a historic opportunity to rebuild Africa on solid foundations, according to a new e-book by a noted African strategist and author.

T. Jeff Tall, [founder of the Fixing Africa Initiative](#), said that the gradual integration of weak and poorly governed countries into viable federal entities will ensure peace and security for the citizens and allow the emerging federal states to compete globally.

Many African countries are structurally weak and poorly governed. African heads of state are gathering in Libya on July 1-3 to discuss a way out of the continent's many challenges. The foreseeable outcome is a deadlock between the proponents of an immediate establishment of the United States of Africa (led by Libyan leader Gaddafi) and those who favor a slow pace of integration (led by South Africa).

A vision to reshape the continent from 53 struggling countries to four federal Super States by 2030 has been detailed in the seminal book "[Fixing Africa](#)."

"Because of the failure of decades of international aid and the growing despair of African youth, we must expand the debate beyond the usual suspects of World Bank, IMF, UN, African Union and a few western academics," said Tall. "[Fixing Africa](#)" is an Internet sensation with more than 100,000 readers in more than 30 countries within six weeks of release. The e-book is free and readers are encouraged to share and contribute ideas in the spirit of open source and Internet-enabled mass collaboration.

The book also portrays a positive side of Africa by highlighting success stories from Senegalese music superstar Akon to Sudanese telecoms billionaire Mo Ibrahim. A list of honorary Africans, who have made notable contributions to the continent, includes profiles as diverse as Oprah Winfrey and George W. Bush.

Tall, a dual national of Mali and France, is a global strategy and marketing expert who advises private and public sector organizations on being world-class. He is based in Dubai and works in more than 20 countries around the world. More information and the free e-book are available at www.fixingafrica.com.

Contact:

T. Jeff Tall

Phone: 916-560-6399

Website: <http://www.fixingafrica.com>



Jennifer Wezensky
JW Public Relations
269-274-4071

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Contact Information

Jennifer Wezensky

<http://www.fixingafrica.com>

269-274-4071

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Young Survivors of Sex Trafficking Inspire Beyonce, Halle Berry and More to Join 'Girls Are Not for Sale' Campaign

Inspired by the Showtime documentary 'Very Young Girls', about American girls fighting to overcome the trauma of child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, artists help mobilize women across America for national campaign featuring the film's July 7th debut on Netflix.

New York (PRWEB) June 30, 2009 -- GEMS: Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, the nation's largest survivor-led organization serving American girls and young women who have experienced sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, is joining forces with Beyoncé Knowles, Halle Berry, Demi Moore, Sinead O'Connor, Mary J Blige, Katie Ford and women across America for its [Girls Are Not for Sale](#) campaign. Kicking off July 7th with the Netflix debut of the critically acclaimed Showtime documentary 'Very Young Girls', the campaign will use e-activism, live events, all-star artist collaborations and other initiatives to promote girls empowerment and education as critical tools in the fight against child traffickers and pimps who victimize between 100,000 and 300,000 American children and teens each year.

"The girls of GEMS have emerged as powerful young leaders in this movement," says Rachel Lloyd, Founder and Executive Director of GEMS. "They have successfully advocated for groundbreaking legislation to protect young victims in New York State, challenged misperceptions of survivors through 'Very Young Girls' and other media work, and every day, serve as peer support for girls who walk through GEMS' doors. We are thrilled that they are gaining new allies in these smart and powerful women."

Grammy-winner Beyonce Knowles first learned about the girls of GEMS when she saw 'Very Young Girls' six months ago. "I don't know how anyone could see that documentary and not want to help those young women," says Knowles. "I didn't want to just donate money, I wanted them to know that someone really cared about them. My time, my heart, my ears, and my voice are the biggest gifts I could think to give."

Shortly after seeing the film, Knowles asked to meet the girls personally. "I was scheduled to visit for two hours but I ended up staying five hours," Knowles recalls. "I wanted to listen to every girl's story and the stories were all so different. Some had been kidnapped, some lured by love and the promise of protection, some were 11 years old. I listened and I cried with the young ladies. I watched them dance. I heard them sing. I asked lots of questions. They were so open and so brave. They were very beautiful girls and very articulate."

Knowles pledged to help the girls reach a larger audience, and on July 24th, will host dozens of GEMS' survivors at her concert at the IZOD Center in New Jersey. "I realized that they were no different than I am. If I grew up with some of the struggles and challenges they have had to deal with and live with every day, I could have possibly been them and vice versa. After hearing the shocking stories of what those young ladies have gone through, I want to use my voice to do what I can to bring awareness to this horrific sex trafficking that happens right here in America."



GEMS hopes many more women will join Knowles and other artists in spreading the girls' message. The organization has launched a national social network, The Council of Daughters, to empower women and girls to bring the needs of young survivors into local communities. Through its online hub - <http://www.councilofdaughters.ning.com> - Council members can meet, share news and ideas, plan campaign events, raise funds and introduce the needs of girls to their friends through a variety of social media tools.

Beginning July 7th, Council members across the country, in conjunction with Netflix, the world's largest online movie rental service, will host National Viewing Nights to celebrate the online and DVD premiere of 'Very Young Girls'. The film, which has been viewed by hundreds of thousands of people in the United States, UK, Canada, Australia and Israel since its international broadcast premiere on Showtime Networks in December 2008, profiles Lloyd's work with numerous girls as they struggle to heal from the trauma of their experiences. Kicking off in New York City, the viewing nights will travel across the country before arriving in Los Angeles on July 14th.

Also beginning July 7th, Netflix will offer its more than 10 million subscribers the opportunity to instantly watch 'Very Young Girls' on their computers or TVs via streaming from Netflix. The film can be instantly streamed on TVs through a variety of Netflix ready devices, including Blu-ray disc players and new Internet TVs from LG Electronics, Blu-ray disc players from Samsung, the Roku digital video player, Microsoft's Xbox 360 game console and through TiVo digital video recorders. The film can also be watched instantly on PCs and Macs with high-speed Internet access and can be received from Netflix on DVD as well. Netflix offers a two-week free trial subscription for those interested in trying the service.

Lloyd, named one of Ms. Magazines '50 Women Who Change the World', believes the Campaign and Netflix partnership will also correct the impressions many Americans have of trafficked and commercially sexually exploited youth. "So often our girls are viewed as 'teen prostitutes' when they are in fact children who are bought and sold by adults to adults. 'Girls Are Not for Sale' paves the way for women across the country to join survivors as we work to create a nation in which girls are celebrated, not sold."

A survivor of commercial sexual exploitation as a teen in Europe, Lloyd founded GEMS 11 years ago with a borrowed computer and \$30 when she saw American girls lured or abducted into the sex industry being ignored and stigmatized by traditional service providers. Over a decade later, the organization annually serves more than 275 survivors, and provides outreach and training to over 1,000 youth and more than 1,500 service providers, educators and law enforcement professionals. A leading voice in the field of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in America, Lloyd is the author of the upcoming book 'Acceptable Victims' (Harper Collins in 2010), the subject of a feature film currently in development at Participant Productions and Lifetime Networks, and a 2006 recipient of the Reebok Human Rights Award.

About Girls Are Not for Sale

Girls Are Not for Sale is a national campaign with one goal: to inspire one million Americans to take easy, effective actions to nurture and empower American girls who have become victims of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and, to protect all girls from the dangers of trafficking. Sparked by the overwhelming public response to the Showtime film 'Very Young Girls' and the survivors whose lives it chronicles, the Campaign brings the movement to protect and empower girls to cities across America through live



events, grassroots action, ad campaigns, fundraising drives, film premieres, music recordings and much more. For more information, visit <http://www.girlsarenotforsale.org> and <http://www.facebook.com/girlsarenotforsale>.

About GEMS

Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS) is the nation's largest non-profit organization specifically designed to empower American girls and young women, ages 12-21 who have experienced sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking to exit the commercial sex industry and develop to their full potential. GEMS is committed to ending commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking of children by changing individual lives, transforming public perception, and the systems and policies that impact sexually exploited youth. In 2008, GEMS provided counseling, job training, access to health care and crisis housing to more than 280 young women; provided outreach to more than 1,500 youth; and trained 1,000 youth service workers. Aside from these programs, GEMS also provides a continuum of services including Youth-led facility outreach, street outreach, court advocacy and an Alternatives to Incarceration program, case management, education, recreational and therapeutic groups, youth employment and leadership training, transitional & crisis housing, and referral services. For more information visit <http://www.gems-girls.org>.

About Netflix, Inc.

Netflix, Inc. is the world's largest online movie rental service, with more than 10 million subscribers. For one low monthly price, Netflix subscribers can get DVDs delivered to their homes and can instantly watch movies and TV episodes streamed to their TVs and computers, all in unlimited amounts. Subscribers can choose from over 100,000 DVD titles and a growing library of more than 12,000 choices that can be watched instantly. There are never any due dates or late fees. DVDs are delivered free to subscribers by first class mail, with a postage-paid return envelope, from 58 distribution centers. More than 97 percent of Netflix subscribers live in areas that generally receive shipments in one business day. Netflix has partnered with leading consumer electronics companies to offer a range of devices that can instantly stream movies and TV episodes to members' TVs from Netflix. For more information, visit <http://www.netflix.com/>.

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Contact Information

Bridgit Antoinette Evans

GEMS: Girls Educational and Mentoring Services

<http://www.girlsarenoforsale.org>

646 408 3428

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Dress For Success Philadelphia to Host Diamonds and Denim Summerfest at the Water Works Landmark -- Zales Donates Over \$30K in Diamonds

Not-for-profit promotes economic independence for disadvantaged women

Philadelphia, PA (Vocus) June 30, 2009 -- [Dress for Success Philadelphia](#) will hold its first annual Diamonds and Denim Summerfest benefit on July 16, 2009 in honor of its first year of operation in the Greater Philadelphia region. The celebration will be held at the Water Works Restaurant and Lounge, Philadelphia's Landmark Dining Experience. The highlight of the evening will be the legendary diamond dig with over \$30,000 in diamonds generously donated by Zale Corporation.

Marjorie Nightingale, executive director of Dress for Success Philadelphia, said, "This is the perfect time for us to reflect on all we have accomplished in our first year, recognize the success of our clients - the disadvantaged women in Philadelphia - and honor our volunteers and corporate and individual sponsors. While we are pleased with our achievements to date, our clients desperately need our help now more than ever. The need has never been greater."

"We are delighted that Zales has stepped forward as our brilliant sponsor and has donated the fabulous diamond pieces for our legendary diamond dig," noted Nightingale. Zales is providing a wide variety of diamond jewelry, including several pieces from their exclusive Celebration Diamond® and Shared Heart™ collections. For just \$25 a scoop, each guest will have the opportunity to dig in the sand box to find a numbered stone, which will correspond to the winning diamond gift. Any unclaimed diamonds will be included in the live auction, which will cap off the evening's event.

Zale Corporation President Theo Killion said, "We are proud to provide the diamonds for the Dress for Success Philadelphia Summerfest. Our hope is that the proceeds raised from the evening's activities will go a long way in supporting the women in the region who need a helping hand up in order to get a job and develop the skills required to lead productive lives. Dress for Success is an outstanding philanthropic brand and Zales is honored to be its partner in Philadelphia."

Nightingale added, "We are absolutely thrilled that the Water Works is partnering with us also and dedicating their entire property to our organization for the evening."

"In honor of our third anniversary, we are proud to support Dress for Success Philadelphia's Diamonds and Denim Summerfest, explains Anastasia S. Karloutsos, Partner of Water Works Restaurant and Lounge. "We are passionate about supporting organizations that benefit our employees and loyal guests and strive to play an active role in our community. We invite all of our guests to join us in celebrating our anniversary by attending the Diamonds and Denim Summerfest and supporting Dress for Success Philadelphia."

The evening's event begins at 5:30 p.m. and includes a silent auction, salsa dancing, the diamond dig, and a live auction. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and islands of elegant dining cuisine will be available throughout the evening.



Zales, The Water Works Restaurant and Lounge, WeaverWorks, UPS, Aramark, Stradley Ronon, CBiz, Coca Cola, and Bubbles Salons for Men and Women have signed on as sponsors to date. The auction will include fine apparel, travel and dining, entertainment venues and tickets, portraits, and internship opportunities, as well as many other interesting offerings. For tickets to Diamonds and Denim please visit www.dressforsuccess.org/philadelphia.

About Dress for Success Philadelphia:

Located at 1043 Spring Garden Street, [Dress for Success Philadelphia](http://www.dressforsuccess.org/philadelphia) opened its doors on July 1, 2008. In its first year of operation, it will have suited over 3,000 disadvantaged women in the Greater Philadelphia area. Dress for Success Philadelphia is part of a worldwide not-for-profit organization offering services designed to help its clients find jobs and remain employed. The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Since 1997, the Dress for Success organization has served more than 500,000 women around the world. Visit www.dressforsuccess.org/philadelphia for more information.

About Zale Corporation:

Zale Corporation is a leading specialty retailer of diamonds and other jewelry products in North America, operating more than 2,050 retail locations throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, as well as online. Zale Corporation's brands include Zales Jewelers, Zales Outlet, Gordon's Jewelers, Peoples Jewellers, Mappins Jewellers and Piercing Pagoda. Zale also operates online at www.zales.com and www.gordonsjewelers.com. Additional information on Zale Corporation and its brands is available at www.zalecorp.com.

About Water Works Restaurant and Lounge:

Built in 1812, the Fairmount Water Works was an engineering and architectural marvel, pumping fresh water for Philadelphians until 1860. Since July 2006, this National Historic Landmark is home to world-class cuisine and the magical dining experience that is the Water Works Restaurant and Lounge. Dine beneath the high barrel-vaulted ceiling of the Engine House or the glass enclosed Solarium. Relax with intimate dining in the Breezeway and cocktails in the Caretaker's Lounge. Our outdoor terrace offers cliff-side dining, as well as a riverside veranda overlooking the Schuylkill River and famed Boathouse Row. Experience the Water Works Restaurant and Lounge and discover that this enchanting place that once made history now makes unforgettable memories with a delectable diversity of dining styles and unsurpassed service. Call 215.236.9000 or visit www.thewaterworksrestaurant.com to make a reservation or plan a special occasion.

Media Contact: Donna Weaver, WeaverWorks, 917-301-3509, dbw (at) weaverworks (dot) us

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**Contact Information****Donna Weaver**

Dress for Success Philadelphia

<http://www.dressforsuccess.org/philadelphia>

917-301-3509

Online Web 2.0 VersionYou can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Bezos Scholars Program Sponsors Global Nomads Group Event @ Aspen Ideas Festival, Moderated by Anna Deavere Smith

What inspires a great idea? How does one young person spark life-enhancing change in a village, a country, the world? On July 3, at Hotel Jerome in Aspen, the Bezos Scholars Program will sponsor "Inspired to Action," to introduce five remarkable individuals who through innovation, purpose and great courage have become leaders of their generation.

Aspen, CO (PRWEB) June, 29, 2009 -- What inspires a great idea? Necessity? Extraordinary circumstances? Passion? What makes one person find hope and courage in circumstances that cause so many others to despair? How does one young person spark life-enhancing change in a village, a country, the world?

On July 3, at 8 p.m. at Hotel Jerome in Aspen, CO, the [Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute](#) will sponsor "Inspired to Action," a Global Nomads Group event that will introduce five remarkable individuals who through innovation, purpose and great courage have become leaders of their generation. Although their journeys and challenges are markedly different, they share many traits: determination, resilience, spirit and a great urgency for change.

Meet Ana Dodson, who at 11 founded Peruvian Hearts to provide a better life for child orphans in her native country. Meet William Kamkwamba, who at 14 harnessed the wind to power his village in Malawi. Meet Logan Smalley and Darius Weems, who are spreading the word--from a wheelchair that defines cool -- about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, the number one genetic killer of children in the U.S. Meet Palwasha Zarifi, who at 17 has courageously begun a women's movement in Afghanistan.

The panelists have been brought together through the work of the [Global Nomads Group](#), which uses interactive technologies to link young people around the world to share, face-to-face, the concerns, hopes, differences and similarities of their lives.

"Inspired to Action" is sponsored by the Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute. "This event is a natural sponsorship for us as we strive to cultivate learning as a lifelong process, while nurturing the leaders of tomorrow," explains Jackie Bezos, who together with her husband, Mike, founded the Bezos Family Foundation. "We are honored to share with Aspen the important work of the Global Nomads Group and introduce these five extraordinary young leaders."

"Inspired to Action" is part of the [2009 Aspen Ideas Festival](#) offerings that focus on "Ideas that Work." Anna Deavere Smith, acclaimed actor, playwright, teacher and author, will moderate the evening.

"Inspired to Action"

Friday, July 3, 2009, 8 P.M., Hotel Jerome, Aspen, CO

Tickets, \$20; available in advance @ Wheeler Opera House; @ Door, as available



Read the [entire release](#).

Read more about the recent work of the [Bezos Family Foundation](#).

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Contact Information

Linda Shockley

Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute

<http://www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org/scholars>

917-521-0711

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Innovations International Launches Its Online Fortune 500 Diversity Training Tool, Diversity - The Competitive Advantage

The interactive course valued at \$4,000 is available for free, online, for a limited time.

San Francisco, CA (PRWEB) June 28, 2009 -- Innovations International developed Diversity- The Competitive Advantage for businesses that recognize the importance of Diversity as a business objective. Since 1996, Fortune 500 companies like Texas Instruments, Amgen, Genentech and Toyota Financial Services have benefited by boosting worker morale, increasing productivity and impacting the bottom line.

"Diversity is a fact of life--both in the United States and globally. The challenge is to leverage the competitive advantage it provides."- Dr. William A. Guillory

Dr. William A. Guillory, founder of Innovations International created Diversity-The Competitive Advantage to help organizations identify and utilize differences to unleash human potential and tap wells of success. Innovations International is bringing this original and groundbreaking material to an online workshop. The first online diversity course of it's kind offers video scenarios, case studies, and exercises that an attendee would find at any live diversity workshop. The benefit is that the attendee can use it from their desktop, at their own pace and for free.

Human Resources professionals in today's market are all looking for cost-effective training that provides exponential value in the resources that attendees walk away with. Diversity--The Competitive Advantage is the perfect tool for anyone looking to provide quality training, regardless of your company or organization's size or structure, and at no cost.

Visit <http://www.innovint.com/online-diversity-training/> to take advantage of Innovations' free online diversity seminar.

Innovations International has been assisting Fortune 500 companies increase profitability for over 25 years by providing cutting edge education and services in organizational development.

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Contact Information

Daniel Guillory

Innovations International

<http://www.innovint.com>

800-693-3594

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

U.S. African Chamber of Commerce Encourages Better Organization Regarding African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

U.S. African Chamber of Commerce says that Africans can lose the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) if not better organized.

Washington, DC (Vocus) June 26, 2009 -- [U.S. African Chamber of Commerce](#) says that Africans can lose the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) if not better organized.

The staff of the Senate Finance Committee late last week continued its apparent preparation for a bill altering U.S. preference programs by discussing their importance and possible program changes with officials from Colombia, India, Brazil and Kenya, according to informed sources.

In the June 19 meeting, officials from these countries provided insights into different aspects of the programs, under which the United States provides duty-free access to developing countries' exports, sources said.

They were asked for their views on the importance of these programs for their respective economies, and for their development, but also about the potential impact of graduating products from the duty free access provided by the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), these sources said. The official representing Brazil made a PowerPoint presentation which showed that the percentage of exports from Brazil benefitting from GSP have fluctuated over the past 10 years from 16 to 9 percent. He told the staff that the Brazilian private sector believes these fluctuations are being caused by the uncertainty of the reauthorization of GSP.

He also emphasized the importance of GSP for the development of two poor regions of Brazil, but conceded there are no hard data to show the exact impact, according to sources.

The Brazilian official also made the case that whenever Brazilian products were graduated from the GSP because they met the competitiveness threshold, they lost their footing in the U.S. market and were replaced by products from China or developed countries.

He also argued that it would be a mistake to graduate products from GSP because they are not import-sensitive and 50 percent of the GSP imports are the result of intra-company trade between U.S. companies and their foreign subsidiaries.

In the meeting, India was also asked to comment on the issue of graduating products from the GSP, sources said.

Graduating products from India and Brazil from the GSP has been an important issue for Finance Committee Ranking Member Charles Grassley (R-IA). Last week, Grassley said there should be a "clear policy" for graduating advanced developing countries from the GSP, and said the benefits of the program should be spread more evenly between the more than 130 countries that currently receive GSP trade benefits.

Grassley also questioned whether the U.S. should provide benefits to countries that have not backed its demands in the stalled Doha round of negotiations in the World Trade Organization (Inside U.S. Trade, June 19).

In the June 19 meeting, the representative of Colombia focused on the importance of the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act in terms of job creation and exports from that country, but also emphasized that a temporary program is less attractive than the permanent market access that would be provided through the free trade agreement that the U.S. and Colombia have negotiated, according to informed sources.

The Colombian official also emphasized that even if that FTA were passed this year, Colombia would still need the ATPDEA preferences until the FTA were implemented, according to these sources. The official did not address whether the ATPDEA should continue once the FTA is implemented, which is the case with the Peru FTA. This allows Peru to take advantage of rules of origin for apparel that are more favorable than those under the FTA.

The ATPDEA is now scheduled to expire on Dec. 31, 2009, and Congress is expected to debate possible reforms to that program and the GSP this year. But congressional aides and other observers say they do not expect reform legislation to pass this year.

Kenya is a beneficiary of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and its representative requested that the AGOA preferences be extended at least 10 years beyond 2015 during the meeting with Finance staff.

He also told the Finance briefing that preference programs should not be extended uniformly to all least-developed countries, since it would give them an unfair advantage over AGOA countries, particularly in terms of apparel exports to the U.S., according to a Kenyan official.

He cited as such competitors Cambodia, Bangladesh and even some African countries, the official said. African countries often have higher production costs, due to factors such as infrastructure and supply-side capacities, than countries such as Bangladesh, the official said.

"If you look at textiles someone would rather go and invest in Bangladesh because the cost of production would be much lower in Bangladesh than it would be in Kenya," the official said.

The African push against uniform preferences for the world's poorest countries was publicly echoed by Stephen Hayes, president and CEO of the Corporate Council on Africa in his prepared testimony in a June 24 hearing on U.S.-Africa trade relations before the House subcommittee on Africa and global health and the subcommittee on commerce and consumer protection.

"(As) egalitarian as it may sound, we would caution against extending preferences to all LDC countries," Hayes said. "Many countries such as Bangladesh and Cambodia already have advantages, and preferences extended uniformly will undercut Africa's ability to manufacture textiles and apparel, an important core of AGOA thus far."

These demands run counter to a proposal by an informal group of business associations and non-governmental organizations that want to create one preference program in the United States, with a more generous level of



benefits for the world's poorest nations, and GSP like benefits for developing countries.

That proposal also foresees special treatment of AGOA countries through rules of origin and targeted capacity building.

But in order for it to be considered a viable option by policymakers, it has to have the support of AGOA countries (Inside U.S. Trade, April 10 & April 24).

The Finance Committee staff examination of preference programs is taking place at the request of Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT), and has taken place over a number of weeks involving various stakeholders (Inside U.S. Trade, June 19).

That process may lead to the introduction of a preference reform bill, if only to stimulate discussion on the issue for next year, sources said. Grassley last week said he would discuss his concrete ideas for preference reform in the summer with Baucus, and that the driver for such a bill should be changes to the GSP.

In the House, Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) has held off on introducing his version of a preference reform bill because he said he is now focused on the issues of climate change and health care reform. Ways and Means has discussed the possibility of a hearing on preference reform sometime this year.

The [USACC](#) is the leading advocacy organization for U.S. African relations and emerging African markets. The USACC is the umbrella organization for African chambers of commerce and professional trade and business associations throughout the United States and abroad.

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Contact Information

Martin Mohammed

U.S. African Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.usafricanchamber.com>

202-465-0778

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News Image



U.S. African Chamber of Commerce Asks White House to Honor Michael Jackson

The U.S. African Chamber of Commerce says The White House needs to honor Michael Jackson like other global leaders.

Washington, DC (Vocus) June 26, 2009 -- The [U.S. African Chamber of Commerce](#) says The White House needs to honor Michael Jackson like other global leaders. The USACC declared June 26 Entertainment Day of the World to honor Michael Jackson as a global humanitarian, entertainer. Michael Jackson was due to make his triumphant return to the stage in London next month -- but instead his sudden death has left millions of fans feeling they've lost a lifelong friend.

The dramatic death of the brilliant singer seemed to obscure his recent controversies and kindle warmer memories of Jackson the child star and Jackson the show-stopping, moonwalking headliner.

The worldwide chorus of grief united the famous -- statesmen and superstars alike -- and the legions of ordinary people who grew up with "Thriller" and "Beat It."

Word of Jackson's death jolted nearly everyone, from a young man in Colombia who was named after the King of Pop, to Malaysians who named a soy drink for him, to a generation of people around the world who have tried, in vain, to moonwalk.

"It's horrible news, so unexpected," the Italian actress Sophia Loren told The Associated Press by telephone. "The world has lost an icon and music has lost treasures. He wrote songs that generations of yesterday, today and tomorrow will all keep on singing. What he wrote was amazing."

Loren and her children had been frequent visitors to Jackson at his Neverland ranch in California, developing an enduring friendship.

"I hope that Michael will find that peace that maybe he did not have in the last 15 years."

In London, shocked fans gathered at the Lyric Theatre, where a live show based on Jackson's record-selling album "Thriller" is being performed, and waited for news about refunds for some 750,000 tickets to his sold-out, 50-night run.

A spokeswoman for AEG Live -- the promoters for the London concerts -- declined to say how ticket refunds would be handled. She spoke on condition of anonymity, saying she was not authorized to speak to the media.

There were poignant memories of his final public appearance when he came to London for a March news conference to announce his "This is it" concerts, which he said would mark his farewell to the London stage. A candlelight vigil at London's Trafalgar Square was planned to honor the singer.

Former South African President Nelson Mandela issued a message through his foundation saying Jackson's loss would be felt worldwide.

Jackson sang at a birthday concert for Mandela in 1998. In 1999, according to local media reports at the time, he lunched with Mandela at a small gathering at which the South African anti-apartheid leader celebrated both his 81st birthday and his and wife Graca Machel's first wedding anniversary.

The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, UNESCO and the Red Cross were given proceeds from a huge benefit concert in Germany in 1999 that featured Jackson and other international stars.

Former Beatle Paul McCartney, who recorded with Jackson before they had a falling out over ownership of the Beatles catalog, said his prayers went to Jackson's family and fans.

"It's so sad and shocking," he said. "I feel privileged to have hung out and worked with Michael. He was a massively talented boy-man with a gentle soul. His music will be remembered forever and my memories of our time together will be happy ones."

In Ireland, where Jackson made his temporary home in a castle south of Dublin in 2007, people remembered him as a kind and loving man. Eugene Lambert, Ireland's best-known puppeteer, recalled his son's puppet performance at a birthday party for Jackson attended by the singer's three children.

"Michael and the kids seemed to enjoy the show equally," he said. "My son sang happy birthday to Michael, who seemed genuinely touched by the attention. Michael rang me that night to thank me for the show. He said he hoped he'd be as happy at his work as I am at my age, and of course I'm 80."

In Paris, actress and singer Liza Minnelli told France-Info radio she would sing her "dear, dear friend," a tribute during a concert Saturday, but would not disclose which song. "I will miss him until the day I go," she said.

"He changed history. He changed musical history and he changed performing," Minnelli said, her voice strained.

Minnelli, herself the daughter of screen star Judy Garland and film director Vincente Minnelli, lamented Jackson's public childhood.

"Imagine, you grow up in public. From the time he could walk, they put him on stage. He had no childhood, none," she said.

Former British child star Mark Lester, who is godfather to Jackson's children, said he had visited with Jackson several weeks ago and believed the star was ready for the rigors of performing 50 live gigs.

"He was absolutely fine," said Lester. "I can't believe this, it's such a shock. I'll always remember him as being a very sweet, kind and loving man."

Rocker Lenny Kravitz recalled working with Jackson in the studio on an unreleased track and finding the man far different from the eccentric recluse often portrayed in the media.

"It was the most amazing experience I've had in the studio," Kravitz said. "He was funny. Very funny and we laughed the whole time. I also saw what a beautiful father he was. He was a beautiful human being. If not for him, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing. He gave me joy as a child and showed me the way to go."

Jackson's death prompted broadcasters from Sydney to Seoul -- where the news came early Friday -- to interrupt morning programs, while fans remembered a "tortured genius" whose squeals and sliding moves captivated a generation and who sparked global trends in music, dance and fashion.

Several world leaders weighed in.

Britain's prime minister Gordon Brown said his thoughts are with Jackson's family. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez called it "lamentable news," though he criticized the media for giving it so much attention. Former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who had met Jackson, said: "We lost a hero of the world."

"I don't think anyone can be indifferent to Michael Jackson, my husband included," French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy told RTL radio in France. "I will enormously miss his voice, his songs and his presence in our world," she said.

In Romania, where a tumultuous Jackson concert in 1992 helped mark the country's new freedoms after the fall of the Soviet bloc, singer Lucian Viziru said he was stunned by the tragedy.

"I feel like crying," he told the AP, rubbing his eyes. "I grew up with him, I learned his dances, his songs, everything. My first ever cassette was 'Thriller.'"

A condolence board went up in downtown Bucharest. Radio and TV stations played his music and broadcast clips from the concert.

"My heart is heavy because my idol died," said Byron Garcia, security consultant at a Philippine prison who organized the famous video of 1,500 inmates doing a synchronized dance to "Thriller." The video has had 23.4 million hits on YouTube.

Garcia said the inmates in Cebu will hold a tribute for Jackson on Saturday with their "Thriller" dance and a minute of prayer.

The flamboyant former Philippine first lady, Imelda Marcos, who cheered Jackson's acquittal on child molestation charges in 2005, said she cried on hearing the news.

"Michael Jackson enriched our lives, made us happy," she said. "The accusations, the persecution caused him so much financial and mental anguish. He was vindicated in court, but the battle took his life. There is probably a lesson here for all of us."



In Bogota, Colombia, a 24-year-old tattoo artist named Michael Tarquino said his parents named him after Jackson. He recalled growing up with electricity rationing for hours at a time and waiting for the power to return.

"When the light came back on I would play my Michael Jackson LP, and I'd stand at the window and sing along," he said.

Japanese fans were always among Jackson's most passionate supporters, and news of his death came as a huge shock. Michiko Suzuki, a music critic who met Jackson several times in the 1980s, said the country was likely to be mourning for some time.

"Everyone was imitating his 'moonwalk' when it was a hit. He was a true superstar," she said.

Jackson also had a huge fan base in Seoul, South Korea, where his style and dance moves were widely emulated by Korean pop stars.

"He is my master and the prime mover to make me dance," pop star Rain told the South Korean sports and entertainment daily Ilgan Sports. "Even though he is dead, he is an eternal performer."

Aaron Kwok, one of Chinese pop's most accomplished singer-dancers, said he was deeply saddened by the news.

"It's so sudden," Kwok said in a statement. "No one can replace Michael Jackson's contributions to pop music."

The [USACC](#) is the leading advocacy organization for U.S. African relations and emerging African markets. The USACC is the umbrella organization for African chambers of commerce and professional trade and business associations throughout the United States and abroad.

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Contact Information

Martin Mohammed

U.S. African Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.usafricanchamber.com>

202-465-0778

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image





NRPA Launches "Parks Build Community"

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has a vision for America's urban parks. The NRPA is launching a model for urban park revitalization that will be kicked off at DC's Marvin Gaye Park this summer. The model for this sustainable vision - called "Parks Build Community" - utilizes urban parks as a core component in the revitalization of underserved urban communities across the country.

Washington, DC (PRWEB) June 26, 2009 -- The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has a vision for America's urban parks. The model for this sustainable vision - called "Parks Build Community" - utilizes urban parks as a core component in the revitalization of underserved urban communities across the country. This initiative is intended to demonstrate the benefits that playgrounds and parks bring to the health of children and families in surrounding neighborhoods, with its first project being a playground in Northeast DC's Marvin Gaye Park.

"Quality urban parks are one of the most important components of livable, walkable, healthful cities," says Rich Dolesh, Public Policy Chief for NRPA, "but we have lost our national focus on how important they really are to our cities. Our nation's urban parks are an investment in the health of our children and the vitality of our urban communities."

Emphasizing that safe, clean parks are at the heart of any successful urban development program, NRPA's Parks Build Community initiative focuses on reviving inner-city communities through purposeful park restoration and sustainable development. In addition to creating a better environment in which children can play, urban parks promote improved citizen health, decreased obesity rates, job creation, reduced crime, environmental stewardship and sustainable landscapes.

"We aren't just putting up a new playground and then leaving," says Barbara Tulipane, NRPA CEO. "The purpose of our first Parks Build Community effort is to demonstrate how neglected urban parks can be rehabilitated and improve the lives and health of people who live around them."

NRPA's first Parks Build Community project is Northeast DC's Marvin Gaye Park. Once dubbed "Needle Park" due to rampant drug use, NRPA is joining the District of Columbia and a number of non-profit organizations in transforming the previously neglected park into place where children can play and experience their community like never before. Volunteers and city workers have removed over 3,500,000 pounds of trash and debris, and collected over 9,000 needles from the area so far.

"What's happening here at Marvin Gaye Park can really be a national model for how communities - locally and nationally - can pull together and reclaim and embrace their public parks and public spaces," says Neil Albert, City Administrator for the District of Columbia. "We certainly appreciate NRPA's work here and we look forward to their continued partnership."



DC's design for the revitalized Marvin Gaye Park focuses on the following overarching goals:

- Strengthen the community connections to the park and from neighborhood-to-neighborhood across the park
- Strengthen the park's connections to schools
- Celebrate the unique communities surrounding the park
- Recognize the cultural contributions of Marvin Gaye and other neighborhood and nationally known individuals

- Improve the health of the park and the community through the use of sustainable design practices

The revitalized park will feature new, state-of-the-art playground equipment, a Marvin Gaye Amphitheater, the restoration of Watts Branch stream and 1.6 miles of newly-rebuilt hiker/biker trails.

Working in cooperation with George Mason University and with the non-profit group Washington Parks & People - DC's award-winning grassroots alliance leading community revitalization of Marvin Gaye and other long-forgotten inner-city parks - NRPA will document how this playground and park improve the lives and health of children and adults in its surrounding communities.

"It is an honor for Washington Parks & People, the Marvin Gaye Park communities, and all of DC to be entering this long-term partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association and its vendors and partners in this national demonstration project," says Steve Coleman, Director of Washington Parks & People.

"The park has so much potential," says Tulipane of NRPA. "Through the generosity of our industry partners, we are contributing to the rebirth of this park, and we share the vision of a place where children and family members can gather to connect with each other and improve their health and well-being."

NRPA is supported by members and recreation industry partners dedicated to this effort. Playworld Systems, Kompan, Playcore Inc., and Surface America are among the businesses and suppliers that are working with NRPA and who will generously donate equipment and services valued at more than \$200,000 to make the Marvin Gaye Park project possible.

For more information about the Parks Build Community initiative at NRPA, contact Richard Dolesh at 202-887-0290.

To learn more, visit [Parks Build Community](#)

For more information about NRPA, visit www.NRPA.org

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of more than 21,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org.



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**Contact Information****Richard Dolesh**

National Recreation and Park Association

<http://www.nrpa.org>

202-887-0290

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The Savoy Group Intl' Presents the 1st Annual Liberia Music Festival, Bringing Together more than 13 of the Continent's Brightest Hip Hop and Reggae stars

This event celebrates this generation's musical accomplishments through the launch of e'Dijene Records; The Savoy Group Intl' Inc., presents the 1st Annual Liberia Music Festival, which will be taking place on the eighteenth of July (July 18, 2009) in Monrovia, Liberia. The festival showcases more than 13 of the best Hip Hop and Reggae artists from East and West Africa to celebrate music from this generation and launch of e'Dijene Records:

Liberia (PRWEB) June 26, 2009 -- The Savoy Group Intl' presents the 1st Annual Liberia Music Festival, bringing together more than 13 of the continent's brightest Hip Hop and Reggae stars

This event celebrates this generation's musical accomplishments through the launch of e'Dijene Records; The Savoy Group Intl' Inc., presents the 1st Annual Liberia Music Festival, which will be taking place on the eighteenth of July (July 18, 2009) in Monrovia, Liberia. The festival showcases more than 13 of the best Hip Hop and Reggae artists from East and West Africa to celebrate music from this generation and launch of e'Dijene Records:

The 2009 Liberia Music Festival will feature performances by Ghana's renowned artist, Ofori Amponsah, 2008 MTV Africa Music Award winners Wahu and Nameless from Kenya, 2008 Kisma Award Winner Amani, from Kenya, and some home-grown Liberian talent, namely Bawah, Mighty Mighty MVP, Detrench, J-UN, Seabreeze, Nasseman, Blue Jenky, Power, and Soul Mate. The Savoy Group Intl., Inc., is also pleased to announce a special appearance from AB Swaray, a renowned Liberian Raggae artist who broke into international stardom in the Ivory Coast.

The Savoy Group Intl' is also committed to supporting local causes in the arts, sports and education.

As such, the festival has pledged to assist the Liberia National Museum's in its work to educate Liberians through the preservation of our heritage. In addition, support will be provided for the training and athletic developments of Liberia's premiere female track star Cynthia Bee, to serve as an inspiration to young women throughout the nation and continent. We invite celebrities, national and community leaders to support these causes while enjoying in the festivities.

With the support from our dedicated partners and sponsors, The Savoy Group's Intl' Inc., 2009 Liberia Music Festival; will make "Savoy Intl' Supports The Arts" the nation's leading initiative in support of African artists.

Sponsors and contest winners of the Festival are welcome to participate in daytime activities in addition to the evening's concert. This includes the Savoy Group Intl' Inc., Marketplace, a distinctive exhibition of high quality African Art and Fine Crafts. It reflects the rich cultural heritage found throughout the African continent and Diaspora. The Marketplace will also include celebrity meet-and-greets, festival souvenirs and interactive sponsor presentations.

Tickets for the evening entertainment will be on sale July 1st at the following ticket outlets; Greenland Supermarket (UN Drive SuperMarket), Musu Spot, Saint George Group and Exclusive Supermarket (Sinkor),



Yalicom Gospel Music Center (Red Light), Lonestar Gas Station (Jacobs Town), CEMENCO Plant, Greystone Suites (Mamba Point), Sharks, Beauty Secrets, Dream Bar and Restaurant (Jallah Town Rd.), Twins Business Group.

Tickets range from \$5 - \$50USD. The Savoy Group Intl' Inc., Presents the 2009 Liberia Music Festival is produced by The Savoy Group Intl' Inc.,. Liberia Music Festivals is a division of the Savoy Group Intl' Inc.

Contact Info:%u2028 Sophia Johnson, Community Relations Manager (231) 6 694-873%u2028 sophiaakwere at yahoo dot com, www.savoygroupintl.com Thompson Solomon, (231) 77 005-452 or wolesolomon at yahoo dot com.

The Savoy Group Intl.
1 Greystone Access Road, Mamba Point
Monrovia, Liberia (West Africa)
info at savoygroupintl dot com
www.savoygroupintl.com
(231) 6 694-873

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Contact Information

Edith Bawn

The Savoy Group International

<http://www.savoygroupintl.com>

231 6 815 242

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



JustGetTested.com Offers Fast, Confidential HIV Testing to Mark National HIV Testing Day

Get a basic HIV test for half price -- only \$20 through June 30. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that one out of five people living with HIV in the U.S. are unaware of their HIV status. National HIV Testing Day, June 27, is an opportunity for people nationwide to gain knowledge to take control of their health and their lives.

Ft. Myers, FL (PRWEB) June 26, 2009 -- Self-service resource, JustGetTested.com, encourages people to learn their HIV status and is offering a basic HIV-1/2 Antibody test, normally priced at \$40 for just \$20 through June 30. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that one out of five people living with HIV in the U.S. are unaware of their HIV status. National HIV Testing Day, June 27, is an opportunity for people nationwide to gain knowledge to take control of their health and their lives.

"Taking time during National HIV Testing Day to take care of your health is a smart move," says Dr. Ed Salko, founder and medical director of Personalabs and JustGetTested.com. "We offer fast, convenient testing and results that come directly to you within just two to three days."

HIV is associated with AIDS. Early symptoms may include fever, rash, swollen lymph nodes, loss of appetite, sore throat, mouth sores, joint pain, diarrhea, fatigue, night sweats, nausea, headaches and genital sores. However, there may be no symptoms at all. Although there is no cure for HIV, early detection allows for treatment with anti-viral therapies.

To sign up for your test, go to www.justgettested.com.

About JustGetTested.com

JustGetTested.com is owned by Personalabs and is geared to consumers that want to actively participate in the management of their healthcare. It provides self-service medical testing and is easy to use, fast and confidential. Personalabs and JustGetTested.com are aligned with 1,700 LabCorp facilities around the country.

Contact: Bonnie Lieb
The Sage Agency
703-421-1905

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Contact Information

Bonnie Lieb

JustGetTested.com

<http://www.justgettested.com>

703-421-1905

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image





Monthly \$10,000 Scholarships Available For Minority and Female Students

DiversityScholarships.com is helping students with financial aid to pay for college and tuition.

Columbus, OH (PRWEB) June 26, 2009 -- DiversityScholarships.com is giving away a \$10,000 scholarship every single month to a high school or college student who is 18 years of age or older. The scholarship award can be used to pay for tuition, books, housing, and more. To apply, students simply have to register online, view free information from sponsor colleges and universities, and then confirm their registration.

Applicants must have at least one parent that is an African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, or Native American. Female students of all ethnicities are also eligible. In addition, applicants must be permanent residents of the United States, and must be planning to attend or are already enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at any college, university, or trade school.

At the end of the month, one random winner is selected from a drawing and the scholarship monies are paid in one lump sum directly to the winner upon verification. Typically, the drawing date is around the 30th or the 31st of the month.

The organization behind the web site that provides the scholarship funds is on a mission to help as many minority and female students as possible by offsetting their disadvantaged situation. A recent USA Today article revealed that minority enrollment in college lags disproportionately because of the lack of resources and financial aid being made available.

For more details, visit:

<http://www.DiversityScholarships.com>

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Contact Information

DANTE LEE

<http://www.DiversityScholarships.com>

614-595-6063

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



5th & 4th Annual 2008-09 All-Dunkadelic Teams for Pro and College, Says Dunkadelic TV and NBHHC.org

The Annual selection of the most artistic and prolific dunkers on the professional and college level for the 2008-09 season. Dwight Howard and Blake Griffin are named 2009 All-Dunkadelic Team MVP's. Shaq to Cleveland unites the past and present NBA/hip-hop baller icons during the 25th Anniversary of the hoops and hip-hop culture fusion born in 1984. Let the "LeBron-N-Shaq Dunkadelic Attack" era begin.

Baltimore, MD (PRWEB) June 26, 2009 -- www.NBHHC.org, The 5th & 4th Annual Pro and College All-Dunkadelic Team selections have been released each year the day after the NBA Draft since 2005.

For a player to be selected to the All-Dunkadelic Team he will be rated on his overall dunk total, highlight reel dunks, playoff dunks, and dunk contest participation. There is an All-Dunkadelic Team MVP selected for both Pro and College.

Pro Basketball

2008-09 All-Dunkadelic First Team:

Dwight Howard-Orlando, 2008-09 All-Dunkadelic Team Pro MVP (back-to-back 2007-08 and 2008-09).
LeBron James-Cleveland
Andre Iguodala-Philadelphia
Dwyane Wade-Miami
Kobe Bryant- LAL.

2008-09 All-Dunkadelic Second Team:

Josh Smith-Atlanta
Ronnie Brewer-Utah
Rudy Gay-Memphis
Nene-Denver
Nate Robinson- New York, 2009 NBA All-Star Slam Dunk Champion

2008-09 All-Dunkadelic Third Team:

Carmelo Anthony-Denver
Pau Gasol-LAL
Trevor Ariza-LAL
Chris Andersen-Denver
Shaquille O'Neal-Phoenix



College Basketball

2008-09 All-Dunkadelic First Team:

Blake Griffin-Oklahoma, 2008-09 All-Dunkadelic Team College MVP
Tony Danridge-New Mexico, 2009 College Slam Dunk Champion
DeMar DeRozan-USC, the next Vince Carter
Terrance Williams-Louisville
Jermaine Taylor-Central Florida

2008-09 All-Dunkadelic Second Team:

Gerald Henderson-Duke
Charlie Coley III-UNC Charlotte
Chase Buddinger-Arizona
Sam Young-Pittsburgh
Stanley Robinson-UConn

Shaquille O'Neal being traded to the Cleveland Cavaliers will unite the first NBA player to bring the hip-hop culture into the league with the current most popular player of the hip-hop culture LeBron James. The LeBron and Shaq combination comes during the 25th Anniversary (1984-2009) of the hoops and hip-hop culture fusion era born in 1984 that is known now as The "Dunkadelic-Era" In America. June 2009 is also the first year for the National Basketball & Hip-Hop Culture Month (www.NBHHCM.org) celebration.

Shaquille O'Neal entered the NBA in 1992 as the 1st overall pick and was considered the next great big-man in the NBA. 27,619 points later Shaq is a first ballot Hall-Of-Famer and 4-time NBA Champion. LeBron James in 2003 was the most hyped prep player since Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul Jabbar) 37 years earlier in 1966. James has become the NBA MVP at the young-age of 24. James has the potential to be the first player since Oscar Robertson to average a triple double for an entire season. Let the "LeBron-N-Shaq Dunkadelic Attack" era begin.

For more information on the All-Dunkadelic Teams, 25th Anniversary of The "Dunkadelic Era" In America, and National Basketball & Hip-Hop Culture Month please contact

Derrick E. Vaughan
Founder National Basketball & Hip-Hop Culture Month
NBHHCM
443-851-5244

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Contact Information

DERRICK E. VAUGHAN

National Basketball & Hip-Hop Culture Month

<http://www.NBHHCM.org>

443-851-5244

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People Media Launches Six New Niche Online Dating Communities For AOL Personals, Enhances All Existing Specialty Sites With New Matching and Community Features

As Online Dating Surges During Recession, Company Continues to Expand and Refine Its Tools for Helping Singles Connect and Build Relationships

Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) June 25, 2009 -- People Media, Inc., (<http://www.PeopleMedia.com>), the No. 1 provider of niche online dating communities, launched six new targeted dating sites for AOL Personals and re-launched all of its existing sites - completing an extensive enhancement of more than 30 tightly focused niche dating communities in all.

The company made the announcement today from iDate 2009, the leading business conference for the online dating industry, held at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills through Friday. People Media CEO Josh Meyers is speaking in Friday's session titled, "\$5 Billion and Beyond 2012."

The new People Media-powered AOL Personals communities (<http://personals.aol.com>) are designed expressly for niche audiences, such as BlackPeopleMeet.com for black singles. Additional sites are for singles seeking Jews, Catholics, Christians, single parents and seniors. The niche nature of the sites helps build tighter communities and makes it easier for people to find compatible matches. AOL users are able to register for People Media's online dating communities directly from AOL Personals.

People Media also completed several enhancements to its 27 existing online dating sites to improve members' ability to find meaningful relationships and connect with people online. The site upgrades include a quick and easy registration form, advanced search capabilities that make it easier to find and to be found, and new profile features encouraging members to share more information to help others get to know them better. For a list of all People Media niche dating sites, go to <http://www.PeopleMedia.com>.

User polls reveal that more than 60 percent of users prefer the new sites, with approximately 35 percent indicating they "love" the new site and find it to be a "huge improvement" compared to the prior site.

"All of our features and enhancements drive toward one goal - to help people connect with each other and build meaningful relationships," said Meyers. "Our niche dating approach focuses on critical relationship factors such as race, religion, and lifestyle, helping singles streamline their search from the beginning, and giving them vibrant communities of people who share the factors they consider most important in a partner. We're continually honing the way our members can search for and interact with each other. Equally important is making it easy for people to be found - giving them tools for adding content that helps make them visible to the right people. These latest enhancements represent a significant milestone for our members and for us. The timing is great, because we continue to see strong activity in the various communities."

People Media's communities reach nearly 4 million unique users per month, and six of the sites are ranked No. 1 in their respective categories - www.BlackPeopleMeet.com, www.SeniorPeopleMeet.com, www.BBPeopleMeet.com, www.LoveandSeek.com (for Christian singles), www.SingleParentMeet.com and



www.LDSplanet.com.

In February, The New York Times reported a surge in online dating activity due to the recession. People Media has experienced a 55 percent year-over-year increase in unique visitors, as reported by comScore in April 2009.

About People Media, Inc.:

People Media is the No. 1 provider of niche online dating communities for educated and affluent adults looking for serious relationships. The company operates 27 individual web properties reaching nearly 4 million unique users per month. Its portfolio includes six of the Top 50-ranked personals websites, as reported by comScore Media Metrix - more than any other company. People Media has partnered with the Steve Harvey Morning Show and exclusively powers multiple AOL Personals communities. People Media is a rapidly growing innovator in the online personals space, which is expected to reach \$1.2 billion in worldwide revenues by 2009 (Jupiter Research).

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Contact Information

KENNETH GREENBERG

People Media

<http://www.peoplemedia.com>

818-990-5001

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Urban Settlement Services Recognized for Unprecedented Growth: Named to Black Enterprise Magazine's Top 100 Black Owned Businesses Nationally

With continued increases in revenue and contract awards, Urban Settlement Services has grown to become of the largest providers of home retention services in addition to the title, appraisal and closing services they have offered for more than 10 years. The company, founded by Charles and Elisa Sanders, is the second largest black-owned company in Pennsylvania, with a staff of 125 and revenue of 50 million grossed in 2008. Growth in 2008 was largely due to early entry into home retention and loss mitigation

Pittsburgh, PA (PRWEB) June 25, 2009 -- Urban Settlement Services, LLC., the largest minority owned Settlement Service Company in the nation, has been selected by Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the top Black Businesses in the nation and is listed on the "2009 B.E.100s List."

With continued increases in revenue and contract awards, Urban Settlement Services has grown to become of the largest providers of home retention services in addition to the title, appraisal and closing services they have offered for more than 10 years. The company, founded by Charles and Elisa Sanders, is the second largest black-owned company in Pennsylvania, with a staff of 125 and revenue of 50 million grossed in 2008.

The company, with offices in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Colorado, processes and provides information regarding loan modifications, loss mitigation, predictive data analytics, title, title insurance and appraisal information. It is a leading supplier of real estate information products to mortgage lenders, servicers and government agencies. In 2008, the company processed approximately 600,000 loan work-outs that helped thousands of families to keep their homes.

Black Enterprise magazine, which recently released its 37th annual BE 100s report, ranked Urban Settlement Services, number 82 on the list in the Industrial /Service Companies category.

"This is the first year my company has made the list, and I am extremely proud to be listed among the country's most successful minority-owned businesses," said Charles Sanders, the company's CEO and Founder. "I consider Black Enterprise Magazine as the nation's premier source for news when it comes to Blacks and Economics."

To be eligible for the BE 100 list, a company must be at least 51% black-owned and have been fully operational for the previous calendar year. The company must manufacture or own the products it sells or provide industrial or consumer services. The listing is recognized as the most respected measure of black-owned business performance.

While it is important that Urban Settlement is a certified MBE, Sanders' success working in the mortgage industry comes from his company's consistent performance as a Teir-1, high scorecard vendor. It is also due to the company's advocacy position working with lenders to help American families achieve and protect the dream of homeownership.

About Urban Settlement Services



Urban Settlement Services was founded by CEO Charles Sanders, a nationally recognized vendor recruiter and provider of real estate information, technology, products and services. Chuck has helped build several of the nation's top vendor management captives and has managed hundreds of thousands of real estate transactions. Urban Settlement's technology, staff, vendor database and customer satisfaction has resulted in Urban Settlement becoming a preferred Tier 1 vendor for many of the nation's Top 20 lenders. For more information visit www.urbansettlement.com

To review Urban Settlements Services on the list, please click here:

<http://www.blackenterprise.com/be-100s/2009/industrial-service/2009/05/13/82-urban-settlement-service-llc>

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Contact Information

Frank Catanzano

Urban Settlement Services , LLC

<http://www.urbansettlement.com>

412-381-5400

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Ethiopian News, Jobs in Ethiopia, Ethiopia Real Estate, Classifieds, Ethiopian Music and Entertainment - All at Ezega.com

Ezega.com continues to serve the Ethiopian community as a one-stop source for Ethiopian News, Ethiopian Jobs, Ethiopia Real Estate, Ethiopian Classifieds, Ethiopian Music, Ethiopian Community, and much more. The site is one of the fastest growing sites in Ethiopia, with more than 500,000 page views per month and growing.

Santa Clara, CA (PRWEB) June 24, 2009 -- Ezega.com continues to serve the Ethiopian community as a one-stop source for [Ethiopian News](#), [Ethiopian Music](#), [Ethiopian Jobs](#), [Ethiopian Real Estate](#), Ethiopian Classifieds, Ethiopian Community, and much more. The site is one of the fastest growing sites in Ethiopia with more than 500,000 page views per month and growing. Hundreds of pieces of data and information are posted every day, covering Ethiopian news, entertainment, society, and business.

Ezega.com is a user-friendly, interactive site that lets users register and post data in a matter of minutes. In less than a year, thousands of users have registered and are enjoying Ezega services, including posting Ethiopian jobs and/or resumes at Ezega jobs, posting Ethiopian homes for sale and rent at Ezega Real Estate, advertising products and services at Ezega classifieds, and using entertainment and social networking at Ezega community.

Ezega News brings breaking news of interest to Ethiopians at home and abroad, covering breaking Ethiopian news, business, sports, entertainment, development, politics, etc. Latest news is posted throughout the day as it arrives. We cover all [Ethiopia News](#) as well as African and international news of relevance to Ethiopians. We present Ezega exclusive news stories regularly, including interviews with distinguished and/or unique personalities.

At Ezega Jobs, we post hundreds of current Ethiopian jobs everyday. Ezega Jobs is the largest database for [job vacancy in Ethiopia](#) anywhere. Companies can register for free at Ezega Jobs and create their profile. They can then post any job vacancy in Ethiopia, screen resumes of potential candidates, invite potential candidates to apply for their openings, and coordinate pre- and post-interview activities. Likewise, job seekers can view latest job openings, save their favorite Ethiopian job vacancies, create multiple resumes, edit/activate/deactivate their resumes, and apply for their favorite jobs online. Ezega's Private Message Board (PMB) allows employers and jobs seekers to communicate online quickly and effectively. Our latest feature is the Job Email Alert feature, which allows all registered users to get email alerts whenever new Ethiopian jobs are posted in their respective areas.

Ezega Real Estate lists hundreds of [Ethiopian homes](#) and properties for sale or rent throughout Ethiopia. The [Ethiopia real estate](#) home page is divided into two sections. The first section displays the latest 10 properties for sale, and the second section displays the latest 10 properties for rent. For more complete listing of homes and properties for sale or rent in Ethiopia, one can click the Properties tab. This will list all of the real estate in Ethiopia in the database with the most recent ones listed first. Anyone can register at Ezega.com and post real estate for sale or rent free of charge. Ezega encourages users to include a few pictures of their real estate properties so interested parties have a better idea of their listings. Users can browse our Ethiopia real estate database and search for properties using various filter parameters. Using Ezega's Private Message Board (PMB),



registered users can communicate with property sellers/renters to get more details, arrange for site visits, etc.

Ezega Classifieds enables users to browse classifieds listings on various topics, including merchandize for sale or rent, service offerings, special event notices, entertainment leads, hotel and hospitality services, tenders, etc. Any registered user can post [Ethiopian classifieds](#) ads at Ezega.com. Users can bookmark an ad, forward ads to friends, or respond to ads online which will trigger email message to the person who posted the ad. The Location filter or switch allows users to display ads for a particular location only, such as all classifieds ads for [Addis Ababa Ethiopia](#) only. Ezega Ethiopian Classifieds also includes other search features that make it easy to find ads by location, type, dates and/or prices. Ads can include up to five multiple images and url link of the seller website, if any.

Ezega Community includes various tools for Ethiopian music, entertainment and social networking. It includes a very large collection of [Ethiopian videos](#), including videos for [Ethiopia music](#), comedy and drama. Anyone can view these Ethiopian music videos and others anytime. Among other features, in Ethiopia Blogs, registered users can write blogs on various topics for which other community members can subscribe. Using the Events page, users can publicize their upcoming events. In the Links section, users can post links of their favorite sites. In Galleries, users can post pictures for public or private viewing. Using Greeting Cards, registered users can create and send ecards to their friends and loved ones. They can use forums and chats to discuss issues and communicate with one another. Users can search members using various filter parameters such as sex, age, etc., and invite people of interest to them to form friendships, groups, etc.

Ezega's Ethiopian Online Shopping displays various merchandises for sale, including Ethiopian books, Ethiopian music, Ethiopian Videos, gift items, apparel, and electronics. Ezega.com provides these Ethiopia related merchandises in partnership with Amazon.com, the world's largest and one of the most price-competitive online retailers anywhere. Any items ordered from our Ethiopian online shopping will be shipped from Amazon.com directly and will reach the customer in a matter of days.

About Ezega Engineering PLC: Ezega Engineering PLC is one of the leading IT companies in Ethiopia. Formed in 2007, it provides the Ethiopian public web and custom software services. The head office is located in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. The company has established alliances with several foreign companies that allow it to run projects quickly and effectively. The company can be reached in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by telephone at 011-251-116-616943.

###

**Contact Information**

Eyerusalem Tsegaye

Ezega Engineering PLC

<http://www.Ezega.com>

251-116-616943

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Agoda Shines in Shanghai during a Total Solar Eclipse

On July 22nd, Shanghai moves to the shadows and becomes one of the best places on the planet to view the longest total solar eclipse of the 21st Century. To assist travelers in experiencing this amazing natural phenomenon, Agoda.com has secured the best-guaranteed prices on hotels in the Shanghai metropolitan area. Travelers should reserve increasingly affordable hotels in Shanghai via Agoda.com, and find the perfect spot to take in one of nature's mystical displays.

Bangkok, Thailand (PRWEB) June 24, 2009 -- On July 22nd, Shanghai moves to the shadows and becomes one of the best places on the planet to view the longest total solar eclipse of the 21st Century. To assist travelers in experiencing this amazing natural phenomenon, Agoda.com has secured the best-guaranteed prices on hotels in the Shanghai metropolitan area. Travelers should reserve increasingly affordable hotels in Shanghai via Agoda.com, and find the perfect spot to take in one of nature's mystical displays.

The eclipse is predicted to begin with a partial eclipse at 8:23 am. According to the ever-popular Wikipedia.com, the totality of the eclipse (complete darkness) will last for 6 minutes and 39 seconds. During an eclipse the sky changes shade to a deep purple as the horizon is bathed in shades of orange and red. Then the moon completely obstructs the sun causing the sky to fall into darkness essentially turning day into night. The only light is that coming from the sun's corona (the outer most part of the sun) faintly glowing around the circumference of the moon.

Mr. Wilfred Fan, Agoda's Vice President of Business Development, said, "This is such a rare astronomical phenomenon, and one which travelers from around the world are looking forward to. Shanghai will be ready for the spotlight as stargazers from around the world will travel to witness the eclipse firsthand. Agoda.com's dedicated Shanghai team has pre-negotiated an amazing set of deals at many hotels to help our customers get the most out of this trip."

"For first time travelers, Shanghai is a unique city with an amazing combination of modern and post-modern architecture mixed with the rich history and culture China is so well-known for. Travelers should take the opportunity to experience the diversity of this cosmopolitan city, indulge in the shopping of Nanjing Road and tour the wealth attractions Shanghai has to offer," added Mr. Fan.

Blindness is a possibility when staring directly at an eclipse without taking the proper precautions. Therefore, travelers should take note and ensure they wear specifically designed sunglasses with special lenses made for viewing the eclipse and strictly adhere to viewing instructions in order to keep eyes safe.

With nearly 300 hotels in Shanghai, travelers are encouraged to visit Agoda.com to find the best deals available in 21 languages.

Agoda's special deals and promotions for Shanghai's total solar eclipse include;

[Shanghai Howard Johnson All Suites Hotel](#) 5 Star (Deluxe Suite), rate starting at USD36 (normally USD78)
Promotion: Stay 2 nights to enjoy the 3rd night free

[Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel](#) 5 Star (Superior), rate starting at USD75 (normally USD145)
Promotion: Stay 3 nights to enjoy 30% discount

[Hengsheng Peninsula Int'L Hotel](#) 4 Star (Superior), rate starting at USD38 (normally USD72)
Promotion: Stay 4 nights to enjoy 25% discount, Book 21 days in advance, get 25% discount

[Rayfont Shanghai Xuhui Hotel](#) 4 Star (Superior-King size bed), rate starting at USD43 (normally USD75)
Promotion: Stay 3 nights to enjoy 30% discount

[Shanghai JC Mandarin Hotel](#) 5 Star (Deluxe), rate starting at USD93 (normally USD160)
Promotion: Stay 3 nights to enjoy 30% discount

[Swissotel Grand Shanghai](#) 5 Star (Classic), rate starting at USD99 (normally USD171)
Promotion: Stay 2 nights to enjoy 30% discount

[The Longemont Shanghai Hotel](#) 5 Star (Deluxe), rate starting at USD98 (normally USD170)
Promotion: Book 14 days in advance 10% discount

[Charms Hotel](#) 3 Star (Deluxe-King size bed), rate starting at USD57 (normally USD98)
Promotion: Stay 3 nights to enjoy 30% discount

For more information regarding Agoda Company Pte Ltd., please go to the website at www.agoda.com or contact the Agoda customer service team via telephone at +66 2 625 9100 or e-mail at [info @ agoda.com](mailto:info@agoda.com)

Note to Editors

About Agoda Company Pte., Ltd.:

Agoda Company Pte., Ltd. (www.agoda.com) is an online hotel reservations service, which specializes in securing the lowest discount hotel prices in Asia. Agoda.com is part of Priceline.com (Nasdaq:PCLN). Agoda's network includes over 9,000 hotels in Asia and more than 90,000 worldwide. The staff of over 300 professionals, located throughout Asia, provides a first-rate reservation service that uniquely combines local knowledge and local connections to provide the best hotel deals to both business and leisure travelers.

In addition, Agoda customers participate in the Agoda Rewards Program, earning further discounts and free stays. Unlike programs that limit travelers to a single chain, the Agoda Rewards Program allows customers to redeem Rewards Points at thousands of hotels around the globe, at any time. A member of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Agoda's aim is to promote travel by making it more affordable and more accessible to more people.

###

Contact Information

P. KULLAMA

Agoda Company Pte Ltd

<http://www.agoda.com/>

662-625-9200

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image



Black Superman the Acclaimed Book That Predicted and Explained Jamaica's Extraordinary Olympic Performance is Back in Print

Black Superman: A Cultural and Biological History of the People Who Became the World's Greatest Athletes was written to extol the genes and genius of African and African-descended populations, to comprehensively explain the disproportionate athletic power of genes designed in Africa, and to forcefully expose and debunk the myths and lies that undergird the historic slander of black intellectual inferiority. Despite its title, it is not a paean to black racial superiority, but rather a confirmation of the essential equality of the entire human race.

Austin, Texas (PRWEB) June 23, 2009 -- It has been almost five years since [Black Superman](#) was first published. Since then, time and events have lent credibility to some of the book's most important claims. One such claim--that the athletic superiority of men and women of West African descent in athletic activities involving speed and power is genetically based--has been highlighted by results from a lab in Scotland. In addition, the recently concluded Beijing Olympics shone the spotlight on the extraordinary success of the Jamaican sprinters, led by the remarkable Usain Bolt.

After more than ten years of research, the book's author, Patrick Desmond Cooper, had concluded that the disproportionate success of West African-descended athletes was due to (1) biomechanical and biochemical differences between themselves and White and Asian athletes, and (2) biochemical differences between themselves and all other Africans. He explained that the biochemical differences--essentially differences in glucose conversion rates--between West Africans and all other populations, including other black Africans, was linked to their development of biological defenses against falciparum malaria. In the uniquely lethal West African malarial environment, individuals with sickle cell trait (those with one sickle gene) possessed a significant selective advantage.

[Black Superman](#) explained that although sickling is caused by a single amino acid substitution on the beta chain of the hemoglobin molecule, the mutation had triggered a series of physiological adjustments which, incidentally, had favorable athletic consequences. That the adjustments or compensatory mechanisms, all of which have been scientifically tested and evaluated, include a higher percentage of fast-twitch muscle fibers; greater activity in the phosphagenic, glycolytic, and lactate dehydrogenase metabolic pathways; and a greater rate of ventilation. That they altered how the affected individuals process, store, and utilize energy for skeletal muscle contraction, and enhanced their ability to build lean muscle mass. The book also explained that the sickle cell trait and the biological adaptations it set in motion would have considerable medical and physiological consequences. And it detailed those consequences. Following the publication of *Black Superman*, the author invited his friend of several decades, Professor Errol Morrison (who also wrote the foreword to this book) to co-author the article, "[Some bio-medical mechanisms in athletic prowess](#)", which was published in the [West Indian Medical Journal](#) in 2006. These two publications triggered a major research project by the International Center for East African Running Science, Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow; the School of Graduate Studies and Research, The University of West Indies, Mona Campus; and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney, Australia. Their study, titled "Can genetics explain the dominance of athletes of West African ancestry in



international sprint events," collected saliva samples from more than 200 national standard Jamaican athletes. The early results indicate that the fast-twitch muscle fibers of more than 70% of the Jamaicans, as compared to 30% of elite Australian athletes, contain the Actinen A protein, which significantly improves the performance of those fibers.

Black Superman :A Cultural and Biological History of the Peoples Who Became the World's Greatest Athletes is not just about sports and science. It is, as the full title implies, a cultural and biological history of the West African peoples. It covers a wide range of subjects, including history, biology, anthropology, and linguistics, which are not usually found in a single book and with very little fanfare it has found its way into libraries and onto bookshelves around the world.

About the author:

Patrick Desmond Cooper a native Jamaican, has been a writer his entire adult life. Mr. Cooper began his professional career as a journalist on the sports desk of the [Gleaner](#), the oldest and largest newspaper in the British Caribbean. His long and varied career also includes stints in advertising, business and politics. In 1968 he was hired as the first fulltime Public Relations Director of the People's National Party (PNP), which has governed Jamaica for much of the last thirty-six years. He also served as a top aide and speechwriter to Michael Manley, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica . He was the first Editor of the People National Party's then startup newspaper, The New Nation. Mr. Cooper spent the final two months of the 1968 Presidential Election Campaign in Washington, working with the speechwriting team of the Democratic Party's Vice-Presidential candidate, Edmund Muskie. He later went on to represent Jamaica at the United Nation and in Africa.

For more information or to purchase this book and view Mr. Cooper's other works please visit <http://www.patrickdesmondcooper.com>

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Contact Information

Patrick Cooper

First Sahara Enterprises

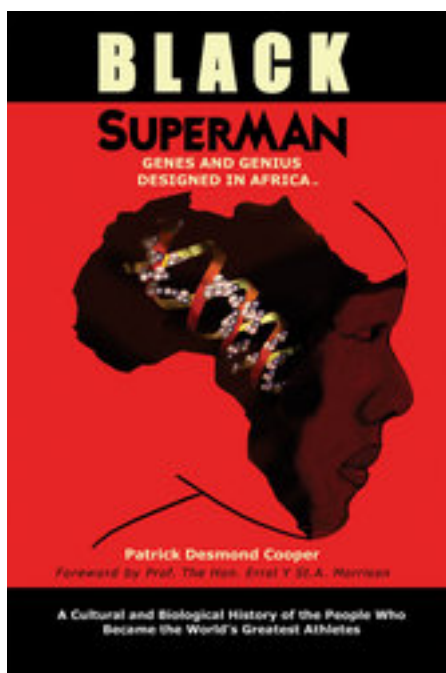
<http://www.patrickdesmondcooper.com>

512-906-0449

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News Image





EUR World Exclusive: Janet 'Aunt Viv' Hubert Speaks Out About Her New Book on Will Smith (Pt. 1)

'Fresh Prince' Co-star's Revealing Memoir Puts Stain on Superstar's Nice Guy Image

Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) June 23, 2009 -- It may be nearly 20 years since Janet Hubert-Whitten co-starred with Will Smith on the hit NBC sitcom "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air" -- but in her new book, "Perfection Is Not a Sitcom Mom," her recollections of working alongside a young Smith is anything but good.

On Monday, June 22, her story unfolds in the [EURweb \(www.eurweb.com\)](http://www.eurweb.com) article EUR WORLD EXCLUSIVE: Janet 'Aunt Viv' Hubert speaks out about her new book on Will Smith (Pt. 1)

Based on an exclusive interview with EURweb publisher Lee Bailey, Janet Hubert, who originated the role of "Aunt Viv" aka "Vivian Banks" before she was dropped from the cast amidst a shroud of mystery in the third season; and replaced by Daphne Maxwell-Reid, gives readers an earful as she describes Smith as more of an egotistical tyrant than the sweet, loving, family man and movie star audiences have come to know and love. At one point in the interview she tells Bailey:

"Quincy (Jones) called me. He (Smith) doesn't know this but I asked Quincy: 'Quincy, why is this happening?'" Quincy said, 'Lord, lord, I told him not to do this ... The karma on the show is going to be terrible.'" -- Janet Hubert

The two-part article includes audio excerpts from the actual interview, and will conclude on Wednesday, June 24th. Journalist DeBorah B. Pryor, who penned the feature, writes:

"Without so much as a stutter, Hubert, who at times seemed to be near tears, uses the one-hour, eight minutes and fifteen seconds telephone interview to reveal vivid details of her claims against Smith; which include verbal and mental abuse on the set, hypocrisy, excessive egoism, blatant resentment, the insensitive spewing of 'your mama's so black' jokes, and ultimately, public slander - which Hubert says kept her from getting projects green-lighted and has banned her from work in the field she used to love."

The baritone-voiced Bailey, who audiences know from the long running "RadioScope: The Entertainment Magazine on the Air" program comments, "I didn't have to ask many questions at all. It was like she had all this pinned-up inside of her; just waiting for an ear to receive it. I was amazed at the bombshells she kept dropping. Really, it was fascinating. I could've listened for hours."

Contact:

Lee Bailey

editorial (at) eurweb (dot) com

323.254.9599

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Contact Information

Lee Bailey

Rabercom Enterprises

<http://www.EURweb.com>

323-254-9599

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Positive Music Aims to Bring Hope and Build Resilience for the Children of South Africa

Through a partnership with Bridge to Cross, organizers of South Africa's National Youth Day, Children, Inc.'s Music Director, David Kisor, will bring his songs of hope and resilience to an area troubled by poverty and disease. David has played his original songs for thousands of young children throughout Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati. These songs build social and emotional skills such as attachment, initiative and self control.

Covington, KY (PRWEB) June 19, 2009 -- Growing Sound is a social venture of Children, Inc., a thirty year old non-profit based in Covington, Kentucky. David Kisor is currently touring the South African township of Mamelodi. Kisor was featured on National Youth Day in an effort to bring hope to the area through his [positive children's music](#). Growing Sound produces music based on recent research that is designed to build social and emotional skills in young children. Growing Sound was approached by Bridge to Cross to participate in the National Youth Day and to share the positive messages in Kisor's music. Mamelodi is a large township of over 1 million people outside of Pretoria in South Africa. Leading up to the trip Kisor worked with Willis Music to purchase penny whistles and harmonicas that he will be giving to the children of Mamelodi in order to share the joy of making music.

In addition to the Youth Day concert, Kisor will visit schools, make music with children, provide music lessons and explore ways in which Growing Sound and its resilience curriculum could benefit the children of Mamelodi and other South African townships. The risk factors are very real for Mamelodi's children with HIV/AIDS and extreme poverty taking their toll on the community. These make the Songs of Resilience's internal protective factors of attachment, initiative and self-control very important to the children of Mamelodi in coping with these serious stressors. The joy of music is a wonderful antidote to poverty and illness. Growing Sound is grateful to have the opportunity to bring our [developmental music](#) to the children of Mamelodi.

"Growing Sound provides high quality research based teaching tools to parents and teachers. These musical tools are based in recent research in Positive Psychology and help to develop social emotional skills like attachment, initiative and self control" stated Growing Sound director Tom Lottman.

Kisor will be posting regular updates to his video blog located at <http://shop.childreninc.org> for visitors to follow on his journey abroad. Upon his return Kisor will also be sharing what he learned about South Africa with the children he works with every day in Children, Inc. child development centers. Visit <http://shop.childreninc.org> for more information on David and his Songs of Resilience.

Growing Sound

Growing Sound is an on-going celebration of positive growth through songs, books and videos. Children have fun singing while parents help their children develop skills that make them ready for school and ready for life. Childhood educators and researchers participate and observe as the latest findings in child development and brain research are practiced in school and at home. Growing Sound enhances every child's natural growth and development. The materials stimulate growth in all areas of the child's life; including social-emotional skills, learning skills, and literacy.



Growing Sound songs, books and videos are available in traditional formats as well as electronic down-loads, making them easy to use at home, in the car and at school. The Growing Sound songs can be purchased and downloaded immediately from <http://shop.childreninc.org>. Or, if you prefer, a CD will be mailed to you. Growing Sound is a social enterprise that supports the mission and vision of Children, Inc.

Contact:

Thomas Lottman, Deputy Director

Children, Inc.

859.431.2075

<http://www.childreninc.org>

Visit us online to learn more about Growing Sound and our [educational songs](#).

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Contact Information

Jordan Huizenga

Children, Inc.

<http://www.childreninc.org>

8594312075

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Barack Obama, Thomas Blackshear and Lenox China™... Together We Can

Lookin' good, Mr. President ... Life-like figurine of Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States of America. So realistic you wouldn't be surprised to see the Secret Service lurking about.

Ripon, CA (PRWEB) June 19, 2009 -- Just a few months ago, America witnessed a groundbreaking day in history when the first African-American was sworn into the White House to stand as leader of the free world. Today, we observe an innovative initiative by another African-American, Thomas Blackshear, as he unveils this exquisite life-like figurine of Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States of America. To create this extraordinary rendering, Blackshear partnered with Lenox, now celebrating its 120 year anniversary, because of the company's dedication to the perfection of America's porcelain. This awe-inspiring piece is now available for pre-order through [Blackshear Online](#), the internet's pre-eminent gathering place for fans and collectors of internationally acclaimed artist Thomas Blackshear.

"It's no surprise that Blackshear chose Lenox to produce his presidential masterpiece, because they've been making porcelain for the nation's presidents since 1918, when President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson commissioned an official state service of 1700 pieces, making Lenox the first American china to grace a president's table," reports Lorraine Covington, Community Director for Blackshear Online. Since its first debut, Lenox china has "set the tables" of Presidents F. D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton.

An American china company, founded in 1889, the Lenox name is synonymous with quality and perfection. Teamed with the talent of Thomas Blackshear II, one of the hottest contemporary collectible artists in the world, Thomas has helped bring the African-American experience to life in a way that has never been conceived of before. A touring exhibit of his Black Heritage works premiered at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. He has been honored with the coveted International Collectible Artist award. He has also been featured on The 700 Club, Ebony/Jet Showcase, and in The Saturday Evening Post. Blackshear has created works for Disney, Coca-Cola, National Geographic, the United States Postal Service and Universal Studios, just to name a few. His most beloved works have been his [Thomas Blackshear's Ebony Visions™](#) designs, featuring elegant and compelling depictions of African-Americans caught in the emotions that we all share.

"One of the driving forces that make Mr. Blackshear's art so attractive to collectors is its constantly escalating value on the secondary market," exclaims Covington. "The Storyteller, one of the most sought-after pieces of all time from the Ebony Visions™ collection, has been sold out since 1996. It originally sold for \$410 in 1995, and is currently trading on the secondary market for up to \$5000." Lorraine should know, as Blackshear Online recently released a [handbook](#) of many of Thomas Blackshear's works that includes vivid illustrations and current market values on Blackshear collectibles, artwork and home decor.

"The Blackshear community has been waiting patiently in anticipation that Thomas might create a rendition of this nation's unprecedented president," adds Covington. "The result is a [figurine](#) that stands for hope, change and the willingness of a nation to see beyond race or color to elect the man most fitting to lead our country into the next decade." A significant addition to the Ebony Visions™ collection, this limited edition piece is sure to be a



collector's dream. A wise investment and a wonderful way to add a historical icon to your home.

Join Blackshear Online as we celebrate the man, the strength and the ideals--Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States of America.

About Blackshear Online -- Established in 2001, our goal is to continue to be the most comprehensive Thomas Blackshear community by providing the essential link collectors need to interact and share ideas and information, and conveniently and confidently purchase Thomas Blackshear products online. Visit our web site at www.BlackshearOnline.com or call us at (209) 599-8599.

All trademarks and brands are the property of their respective owners.

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Contact Information

LARRAINE COVINGTON

Blackshear Online

<http://www.blackshearonline.com>

2095998599

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Former World War I Segregated Company Housing Facility Holds Grand Opening

NFL head coach, Jim Caldwell, helps mark 1917 Fairbanks Flats Rowhomes' rebirth and redevelopment into affordable townhouses.

Beloit, Wis (PRWEB) June 19, 2009 -- Today Gorman & Company, a national affordable housing development firm based in Madison, Wis, held the grand opening of Fairbanks Flats Rowhomes. Originally built in 1917 during World War I as segregated workforce housing, Gorman & Company redeveloped the original 24 units into 16 rent-to-own, affordable townhouses for low-to-moderate income families and people with disabilities. The four original buildings maintain the look and feel of the historic design and feature two- and three-bedroom homes ranging in size from 1,288 to 1,787 square feet.

National Football League head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, Jim Caldwell, was on hand for the ceremony and spoke of Fairbanks Flats' historic significance and the impact it has made on the greater community. Caldwell is from Beloit, Wis and grew up in the Fairbanks Flats area.

Listed on both the National Register of Historical Places and the Wisconsin State Register, the original four buildings at Fairbanks Flats were built by Fairbanks Morse, an engine manufacturer and Beloit's largest employer at the time. Fairbanks Morse recruited African-Americans from the South to replace the white labor force that had left to serve in World War I. A handful of African-American families had lived in Beloit since the mid-1800s, but the population grew immensely with Fairbanks Flats serving as a gateway to the city, "an Ellis Island," as one past resident called it. Within a decade, nearly 1,000 African-Americans called Beloit home.

"The redevelopment and rebirth of Fairbanks Flats is symbolic of positive change," said Gary Gorman, president of Gorman & Company. "A place which once represented division and separation, now offers new opportunity and reflects community. The city of Beloit, Wis, the Fairbanks Flats Revitalization Group, community supporters, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), our project partners and dedicated employees were all integral parts in accomplishing this transformation."

WHEDA provided nearly \$2 million in affordable housing tax credits to the project. Gorman & Company, utilizing the Emerging Business Enterprise Program, exceeded WHEDA's goal of 25%, with 33% minority business participation on the development. The City of Beloit donated the property and contributed a \$150,000 interest-free loan to help finance the project.

"WHEDA is a proud partner with Gorman & Company on the Fairbanks Flats development," said WHEDA Executive Director Antonio Riley. "These redeveloped homes are a testament to Beloit's past, present and future. The future residents of Fairbanks can enjoy a piece of the City's history and at the same time, create roots of their own as future homeowners."

Residents at Fairbanks Flats will have an opportunity to purchase their homes after 15 years. This rent-to-own



feature provides an opportunity for residents to benefit from financial tools designed into the program and to own a piece of Beloit's history. At the end of 15 years, the property will be conveyed to a nonprofit organization that will sell the homes at a discounted price equal to a low outstanding loan balance plus the costs to administer the program.

"This celebration, a long time coming, is important for historical preservation, the City of Beloit and those African Americans whose roots are grounded in the Beloit experience," said Wanda Sloan, a founding member of the Fairbanks Flats Revitalization Committee.

"Fairbanks Flats Rowhomes provides much needed affordable housing in Beloit," said Miles Cary, Bank of America Community Development Banking Senior Vice President. "We are pleased to be able to provide the tax credit equity investment for this important development."

Project partners in Fairbank Flats include Alliant Capital, which provided the low income housing tax credit investment; Bank of America, which provided the historic tax credit investment; and US Bank, which provided construction and permanent project lending.

Gorman & Company, Inc., headquartered in Oregon, Wis, began in 1984 with a mission to create high-quality housing opportunities. Working with both public and private partners, Gorman & Company specializes in the renovation of historic buildings and renaissance of traditional urban neighborhoods. The company is renowned for its quality craftsmanship, dependability, and sensitivity to building communities. For more information or to view our portfolio, please visit www.GormanUSA.com.

For more information:
David Koziol - Hook, LLC
W - 414-226-4444
M -414-333-0607

###

Contact Information

David Koziol

Hook, LLC

<http://www.gormanusa.com>

414-333.0607

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image





Warning: Collision Ahead for Jazz and Hip-Hop

Enter: The Karriem Riggins Virtuoso Experience

Seattle, WA (PRWEB) June 16, 2009 -- Detroit native Karriem Riggins will give fans a glimpse into the future of jazz and hip-hop. Vtech presents "The Karriem Riggins Virtuoso Experience" a unique and imaginative live event for the 21st century.

June 22nd at Seattle's premiere venue Triple Door, two worlds will collide in a spectacular musical event. Featured guests include Mulgrew Miller, Warren Wolf, Joe Sanders and DJ Dummy.

June 24th and 25th at Yoshi's Oakland, the collision continues with a live taping of event. Featured guests include Mulgrew Miller, Warren Wolf, Joe Sanders, Pete Rock and DJ Dummy.

DJ Dummy will be replacing Pete Rock for the June 25th performance at Yoshi's/Oakland.

June 28th at Dakota Bar & Grill in Minneapolis the venue of choice among top notch musicians, featured guests will include Mulgrew Miller, Warren Wolf, Joe Sanders and DJ Dummy.

The Karriem Riggins Virtuoso Experience presented by Vtech, featuring Mulgrew Miller and Pete Rock, is far more than another jazz or hip-hop show. Fans will have an opportunity to experience a 21st century virtuoso, a man Common calls "one of the greatest musicians that I have ever come across. Anytime I hear Karriem create music or hear him play, I am reminded of how wonderful music can be."

The evening begins with an explosive drum and DJ showcase pairing Riggins and legendary hip-hop producer Pete Rock, as they weave a mix of soul, hip-hop and jazz. Next, a special premiere of the Karriem Riggins Quartet featuring master musician Mulgrew Miller on piano and rhodes. In a 1995 New York Times poll consisting of his peers, Miller was voted the most in demand pianist. Miller is credited with over 400 recordings as a leader and sideman.

Riggins has played in the past with a dizzying cross-section of artists spanning the hip-hop and jazz worlds: Herbie Hancock, Diana Krall, Roy Hargrove, J Dilla, Madlib, Ray Brown, Oscar Peterson, Milt Jackson, Erykah Badu on her New Amerykah (4th World War) CD, as well as countless other jazz, future soul & hip hop releases, including work with Common and The Roots. This series of shows will be Riggins' first as a leader and will feature material from his upcoming 2010 release. Riggins says, "I'm incorporating elements from various genres and fusing them together in a way that's thought-provoking."

About Vtech:

Music has been a part of the [VTech](#) brand for many years. The company has combined its wireless innovation with an understanding of consumer music tastes gleaned through sponsorship of a variety of concerts, music events and festivals nationwide. To promote the coming launch of the IS9181, VTech recently presented the



"Timeless Concert Series" in conjunction with music production company Mochilla.

The three-part series in Los Angeles paid homage to arrangers and composers from around the world such as Mulatu Astatke and Arthur Verocai who have influenced hip-hop since the 1970s. VTech has also sponsored special events at the annual South by Southwest Music (SXSW) Conference in Austin and the Winter Music Conference (WMC) in Miami.

Okayplayer: Media sponsor for "The Karriem Riggins Virtuoso Experience" www.okayplayer.com

Advance tickets for these historic shows are available now at The Triple Door box office (206) 838-4333 and online at thetripledoor.net, Yoshi's box office (510-238-9200) and online at yoshis.com/oakland, Dakota Bar & Grill box office (612) 332-5299 and online at dakotacooks.com

For more information about The Karriem Riggins Virtuoso Experience, visit music.vtechphones.com, karriemriggins.com.

Contact:

THE JAE.B GROUP

Artist Relations Agency

310-929-7062

jae (at) karriemrigginsl (dot) com

###

Contact Information

Artist Relations Agency

THE JAE.B GROUP

<http://music.vtechphones.com/>

310-929-7062

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News Image





New Website Explores Multi-Ethnic/Multi-Faith Family Dynamic

New website, lovesmanycolors.com debuts with a goal to expose, educate and celebrate diversity in multi-ethnic and multi-faith families, and children. The site provides articles, advice, and an open forum to support interracial and interfaith family parenting, and strengthening the family unit.

Indianapolis, IN (PRWEB) June 18, 2009 -- In an ever changing world, embracing multicultural differences, acceptance, assumptions and curiosity continue to be bridges uncrossed. However, a new website, lovesmanycolors.com debuts with a goal to expose, educate and celebrate diversity in families, children, and faiths.

Lovesmanycolors.com was founded and based in Indianapolis by Andre Moore. Moore describes lovesmanycolors.com as a website filled with information and resources for multicultural/interfaith families, couples and children seeking advice and answers without limitations or hesitation. The website also allows visitors to create a profile to share photos, information, questions and concerns with each other, as well as an open forum for dialogue. Those seeking advice can send questions to the "[No Bull Zone.](#)" an advice column featuring licensed clinical social worker Barbara Bullock, LCSW, who will provide straight talk and answers about cultural diversity and relationships. Moore adds that by encouraging the participation and perspective of parents of multicultural/interfaith children and adult multicultural/interfaith children, lovesmanycolors.com will provide insight into strengthening the family unit.

Moore wants to point out that lovesmanycolors.com is not an interracial dating website. The inspiration behind lovesmanycolors.com is the ever-changing world where cultural diversity is no longer limited to visual and performance arts or scarce media depictions of what interracial love is - which is usually seen in Black and White. The number of interracial marriages registered by the United States Census Bureau has continued to steadily increase since the Supreme Court's 1967 ruling in *Loving v. Virginia*. In 2006, there were an estimated 6.1 million Americans of multicultural backgrounds. And the recent election of President Barack Obama, whose multicultural background of African and Caucasian heritages has undeniably thrust diversity into a national spotlight.

Moore's family is also an example of a multicultural environment. Moore is an African American male with a Caucasian wife and interracial children. "My website is a place to find answers to questions that are particular to my family and children, which I find to be commonplace within the [multi-ethnic family](#) dynamic. I hope lovesmanycolors.com can "bridge that gap" and provide the insight and understanding one might seek of another person's culture, whether it be in a marriage or the workplace or in one's own neighborhood. Sure there are differences, but we encourage people to embrace the differences," says Moore.

All are encouraged to visit lovesmanycolors.com, create a login and help to celebrate love's many colors.

Contact information: [andre @ lovesmanycolors.com](mailto:andre@lovesmanycolors.com)
317-614-7411

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Contact Information

Andre Moore

<http://lovesmanycolors.com>

3176147411

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan Praises 100 Black Men of America, Inc. for Educational Initiatives, Outreach to Youth

In an interview with CNN's T.J. Holmes, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan praised the mentoring and community outreach efforts of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. as an effective tool in building the quality of education in the country. "This is why I am such a big fan of what the 100 Black Men are doing around the country," said Secretary Duncan during the interview. "When our children have the opportunity to be surrounded by adults that care passionately about them and stick with them for the long haul, they will do fantastic."

New York, NY (PRWEB) June 17, 2009 -- In an interview with CNN's T.J. Holmes, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan praised the mentoring and community outreach efforts of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. as an effective tool in building the quality of education in the country.

During the interview that addressed the quality of education in the United States, Secretary Duncan highlighted the need for children to be exposed to positive influences coupled with high standards in education as a way to produce the best and brightest students in the world.

"This is why I am such a big fan of what the 100 Black Men are doing around the country," said Secretary Duncan during the interview. "When our children have the opportunity to be surrounded by adults that care passionately about them and stick with them for the long haul, they will do fantastic."

Following the interview, Secretary Duncan led a discussion on education during the 100 Black Men of America's 23rd Annual Conference titled "Education on the Frontline". Secretary Duncan highlighted federal education priorities; including the importance of early childhood education, appropriate funding for teachers and the support of historically black colleges and universities (HBCU).

"There are enormous disparities that exist among African-American youth as it relates to grade-level education, higher education opportunities and the digital divide. This year's conference focused on tackling those issues from a global perspective and finding solutions to educating our young men and women," said Chairman of the 100 Black Men of America Inc., Albert Dotson Jr., Esq. "We look forward to engaging in continued dialogue with Secretary Duncan and others as we work towards finding solutions for problems in education."

View the interview by clicking link below.

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/politics/2009/06/13/holmes.duncan.school.cnn>

About the 23rd Annual 100 Black Men of America Conference (June 10-14)

Community leaders, decision makers and celebrities participated in the four-day conference that included interactive workshops, thought-provoking panel discussions and various plenary sessions for more than 3,000 attendees. This year's theme, "Education on the Frontline," explored issues concerning education in the African American community during various breakout sessions and roundtable discussions in the host city where the



concept for the 46-year-old organization was developed-New York.

About 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

100 Black Men was founded as an organization in New York City in 1963. The national organization, 100 Black Men of America, Inc. began with nine chapters in 1986 as a national alliance of leading African American men of business, public affairs and government with a mission to improve the quality of life for African Americans, particularly African American youth. Today, under the direction of Albert E. Dotson, Jr., the organization has 116 chapters in the United States, England and the Caribbean. The 100 serves as an international coalition focused on creating educational opportunities, promoting economic empowerment, addressing health disparities and creating positive mentoring relationships.

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Contact Information

Erik Burton

100 Black Men of America

<http://www.100blackmen.org>

770-294-8475

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Essence National Bestselling Author, Daniel Whyte III Honors Black Fathers Who Stay with New Book, "God Has Smiled On Me"

It's not easy being a father, because with fatherhood comes responsibility, dedication, obligation, and commitment. 'God Has Smiled On Me', by Daniel Whyte III, is a tribute to his father, Daniel White Jr., who did the mature and right thing by accepting the responsibilities of fatherhood, and dedicated himself to staying with his family, through thick and thin. It was not easy, as Daniel White, Jr. shares in a special interview that Daniel Whyte III conducted with his father before he died. He credits his father's staying for making him a great father today to his children.

Dallas, TX (PRWEB) June 17, 2009 -- It's not easy being a father, because with fatherhood comes responsibility, dedication, obligation, and commitment. 'God Has Smiled On Me', by Daniel Whyte III, is a tribute to his father, Daniel White Jr., who did the mature and right thing by accepting the responsibilities of fatherhood, and dedicated himself to staying with his family, through thick and thin. It was not easy, as Daniel White, Jr. shares in a special interview that Daniel Whyte III conducted with his father before he died. He credits his father's staying for making him a great father today to his children.

'God Has Smiled On Me' is also a tribute to all black fathers who have chosen to stay and not shun their responsibility to be there for their sons and daughters. In a speech that he made on Father's Day 2008, President Barack Obama said this about the absence of fathers: "If we are honest with ourselves, we'll admit that what too many fathers also are is missing--missing from too many lives and too many homes. They have abandoned their responsibilities, acting like boys instead of men. And the foundations of our families are weaker because of it."

Daniel Whyte III states in the introduction of 'God Has Smiled On Me': "Even though I had a few holes in my soul that needed to be filled while growing up, thankfully, the painful hole that could have been caused by divorce was filled by a loving dad who did the responsible and right thing and who, quite frankly, put up with a lot of disrespect and foolishness to stay with his family."

Throughout the pages of 'God Has Smiled On Me', Whyte discusses what his father's staying meant to him, positive and negative lessons he learned from his father staying, early memories of his father, and special moments he shared with his father. The chapters below will inspire you to be the best father that you can be:

The Importance of Fathers Staying
What Great Men Have Said About Their Fathers
Great Black Fathers Besides My Own Father
A Tribute to My Father's Legacy...and much more

The ultimate aim of 'God Has Smiled On Me' is to help turn the hearts of all fathers--black, white, red, and yellow--to their children, and to encourage fathers to stay with the children they have and raise them for the glory of God. The Black Fatherhood Foundation (www.blackfatherhoodfoundation.org), which Daniel Whyte III is the president of, aims to help black fathers do this. The Foundation's mission is to encourage black fathers to stay with their children and raise them effectively. It is also the parent organization of the Black Fatherhood Today Magazine (www.blackfatherhoodtoday.com) and the Black Fathers Hall of Fame (



www.blackfathershalloffame.com). This Father's Day week, Black Father's Hall of Fame is holding an essay contest in which people can write an essay about their father, submit it online, and have a chance to win great prizes. The winners will be announced on Friday, June 19, 2009 at 4:00 PM, Eastern time, on BCNN1.com, UrbanChristianNews.com, and BlackFathersHallofFame.com. You can submit an essay or place your father in the hall of fame by visiting blackfathershalloffame.com.

Daniel Whyte III has spoken in meetings across the United States and in twenty-three foreign countries. He is the author of ten books. He is the President of Torch Ministries International, which publishes a magazine called The Torch Leader. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Bethany Divinity College and a degree in Religion from Texas Wesleyan University. He is married to the former Meriqua Althea Dixon, of Christiana, Jamaica. God has blessed their union with seven children.

For more information about 'God Has Smiled On Me' visit: www.GodHasSmiledonMe.com.

'God Has Smiled On Me' is available wherever fine books are sold including: Amazon.com (for overnight or 2-day shipping), Target.com, BlackCBC.com, GospelLightBookstore.com, StPaulChristianBookstore.com, and TorchLegacy.com.

Also, Daniel Whyte III's seven children have put together a book for Father's Day titled, Dear Papa: Letters to My Father. This book seeks to encourage children to honor their fathers and also to write letters of appreciation to their fathers. This book is available at Amazon.com (for overnight or 2-day shipping). Find out more at DearPapa.org.

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**Contact Information**

Vision Christian Newswire

VCN

<http://www.GodHasSmiledonMe.com>

678-367-3696

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

The Inconvenient Child, a New Book, Reveals the Shocking Truth of a Secret Australian Child's Struggle to Survive and Find Her American Family

An unacceptable liaison, a secret birth, a mother's silence, and her black child's journey to discover the truth. In 1948 Sydney Australia, pretty, blond Grace discovered she was pregnant to an African American merchant marine who had sailed back to America. The White Australia Policy was in place and society's judgment mattered; so what did Grace do with this secret, Inconvenient Child?

Sydney, AUS (PRWEB) June 16, 2009 -- The Inconvenient Child, a compelling new book, reveals the shocking true story of a secret Australian child's struggle to survive childhood and find her African American family, after a search spanning two continents and 48 years.

Sharyn Killens is better known as Sharyn Crystal, a successful Australian singer and entertainer. But her life wasn't always glamorous and her childhood was at times, a living hell. [The Inconvenient Child](#) is the true account of her extraordinary journey to success and her quest to discover her identity.

"This is not your usual celebrity biography. It is a gritty, honest and confronting account of an abandoned Australian black child's struggle to survive in a white society and find her African American father on the other side of the world," says Lindsay Lewis, co-author.

The story begins when the baby Sharyn, is rescued from squalid foster care by visiting champion African American boxer Freddie Dawson and taken to live in a party house in Sydney's red light district of Kings Cross. But her absent, elegant mother then abandoned her in a convent-orphanage at age five, where she suffered abuse at the hands of a cruel nun for seven years.

At fifteen, after clashes over her father's undisclosed identity, the troubled teenager was arrested, back in Kings Cross. Sharyn had committed no crime. She was a runaway - a disillusioned black kid who was begging her white Australian mother for love and for the identity of her African American father. But the Courts did not agree. They deemed her 'uncontrollable' and in 1964, she was sentenced to notorious juvenile detention centers of [Parramatta Girls Home](#) then Hay Girls Institution, where she was stripped of her dignity and programmed into submission.

Sharyn's first hand account of this shameful treatment is already prompting outraged readers to send her emails and messages of support and indignation.

Her solace was her love of music but how could she realize her dream of becoming a singer if by twenty-four, she was still caught up in the Kings Cross lifestyle as an exotic dancer?

But the story is not all heartbreak and misery.

Through courage and perseverance, Sharyn achieved that dream as [Sharyn Crystal](#) but her problematical

relationship with her aloof mother was exacerbated by the other secret her mother kept and would not reveal; the identity of Sharyn's African American father.

When that secret was finally revealed, determined to find him, Sharyn set out in search of her roots; a quest taking her eight more years and a journey across the world, first to New York, then Los Angeles and eventually to America's Deep South.

Readers say they are applauding, as the outcome of this [Inconvenient Child's](#) search to find the loving family and belonging she has yearned for, is revealed.

About the book:

The true story of a secret abandoned Australian child's struggle to survive childhood and find her African American father.

The Inconvenient Child

By Sharyn Killens and Lindsay Lewis

Miracle Publishing, Australia

Pub Date: May, 2009

ISBN: 978-0-646-48782-3

About the authors:

Sharyn Killens' driving ambition to become a singer entertainer enabled her to fulfill her dream of singing on stages and cruise ships around the world as Sharyn Crystal. She has also worked as an Australian publicist, entertainment booking agent and manager, and she teaches stage presentation and produces children's theatre shows.

Lindsay Lewis began her career in a major record company in Sydney before running her own businesses. In 1992, after many years working in key Australian advertising agencies, she moved into publicity then began her own successful textile design and manufacturing company. Lindsay also spent many years as a professional singer and entertainer.

Sharyn and Lindsay have been close friends for twenty years and [The Inconvenient Child](#) is the result of their close collaboration.

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Contact Information

Lindsay Lewis

Miracle Publishing, Australia

<http://www.TheInconvenientChild.com>

+612-9406-8050

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



"Fairways & Highways" Celebrity Golf and Motorcycle Bike Weekend Launches in Atlanta in support of the fight to End Domestic Violence

Celebrities including Actress Lisa Raye, Chrisette Michele, Chef G. Garvin and Former NFL Pro Bowler Terance Mathis headlines "Fairways & Highways" Celebrity Golf and (Motorcycle) Bike Weekend in support of the fight to End Domestic Violence sponsored by American Family Insurance

Atlanta, Georgia (PRWEB) June 16, 2009 -- Fairways and Highways Three (3) Day Celebrity Golf and Motorcycle Weekend today announces its title sponsor as American Family Insurance. Supporting a stand against domestic violence, executive producers ShockTheory Interactive plans a series of celebrity drenched events taking place in Atlanta, Georgia from June 25 - 27, 2009. Using star power to bring awareness to the domestic violence epidemic, the series of events align the most unlikely demographics that include merging the greens with the pavement with a side twist of luxury.

Hosted by R&B Songstress Chrisette Michelle and national TV and radio personality Jacque Reid, the weekend is kicked off with a VIP Celebrity Pairing Reception and takes place at the W Hotel in Buckhead. The series of events then rolls into the Terance Mathis Celebrity Golf Outing being held at Stone Mountain Golf Club in Stone Mountain, Georgia. The outing includes TV One's Chef G. Garvin cooking on the fairways and allows participating consumers and supporters to play and mingle as each sponsored team is paired with a celebrity. Partial proceeds from the overall weekend will go to support the selected 2009 charitable organization - Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence. Donations and tickets can be purchased online and starts at \$20.00.

Fairways and Highways continues with their signature red carpet affair Summer - tour de luxe, a dramatic mix of arts and entertainment embedded into a sea of people, music and alluring atmosphere. Hosted by Professional Sports Wives Magazine, Hall of Famer, Kellen Winslow, Sr., NFL Pro Bowler Terance Mathis and community figures, the highly anticipated event gives consumers the opportunity to network with the crème de la crème of Atlanta and other participating celebrities that are chauffeured in over the three-day weekend.

"We've had an amazing and overwhelming outpouring of support from the community. We wanted to do something different and ensure that people remembered why we are doing it," said Sonja Williams, Chief Creative Officer of ShockTheory. "My own family has been impacted by domestic violence and I'm sure there are a number of other untold stories that affect women, children and even men. I felt it was my responsibility to be a part of the solution and use my talents and resources to bring awareness and education about this epidemic." concluded Sonja.

Ending the weekend and hosted by actress LisaRaye McCoy-Misick, Fairways and Highways introduces Atlanta's largest police escorted community motorcycle ride titled White Glove Charity Bike Ride being held at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center. The bike ride will consist of more than 400 expected participates on show bikes, sports bikes and cruisers. Bikers will all wear white gloves signifying their commitment to stand against domestic violence and to salute those women, children and men whom fallen victim to the epidemic.



Sponsors include American Family Insurance, Wrigley, Alliance Asset Management, Traklogg Systems, Fortune One Group, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Professional Sports Wives Magazine, The Return of the Lady and SuperFruitTV.com. For more information on partnership alignment, ticket purchase, golf outing or motorcycle ride registration visit www.FairwaysandHighways.com. To schedule interviews with participating celebrities and/or inquire about media credentials, please call (877) 747-4625 ext. 1120.

About Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence

Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence (WRC) has worked since 1986 to provide supportive services for survivors of domestic violence in Atlanta, while changing community attitudes that violence is acceptable. Services provided by the Center include emergency shelter, a 24-hour hotline, legal advocacy, children's programming, emergency financial assistance, support groups, supervised visitation, and community education. Each year, more than 12,000 women and children turn to Women's Resource Center for aid. To learn more, please visit www.wrcdv.org.

About Fairways & Highways

A ShockTheory Interactive property, Fairways and Highways is a three-day affair inclusive of high-energy, high-end celebrity and consumer events that capitalize on an experiential format. Fusing luxury living, exclusivity and viral platforms as an effort to raise awareness about domestic violence, the organization plans to move the property from city to city within the United States to raise awareness and give financial support to charitable organizations designed to educate and support abused women and children as a result of domestic violence.

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Contact Information

Taylor Varese

Fairways and Highways

<http://www.fairwaysandhighways.com>

(877) 747-4625

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



TheLoop21.com Teams up With the Magic Johnson Foundation and Hip Hop Sites to Launch a National AIDS Prevention Campaign on the Internet

Now the leading cause of death among black females age 25-34, TheLoop21.com leads the black online community to address the threat of AIDS to black families.

Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) -- Major Black websites and bloggers are coming together this summer to combat the AIDS epidemic that is devastating the black community. Organized by the TheLoop21.com www.theloop21.com and the Magic Johnson Foundation, representatives of BET.com, Essence.com, AllHipHop.com, and others kicked off the summer 2009 "Stop Black AIDS" internet prevention campaign with a panel discussion during New York's Internet Week. This campaign marks the first time that the black online community has come together to collectively tackle the AIDS issue.

Highlights of the summer 2009 campaign include two Internet AIDS Action weeks on June 21-27 and July 19-25 when bloggers, major web sites, and internet users all across the country will read, write, and comment on the Black AIDS epidemic in order to raise awareness. The campaign also features videos and celebrity PSA's that can be downloaded from TheLoop21.com for free use by radio stations, podcasts, and websites.

"The HIV/AIDS virus does not discriminate -- we do, and people need to fully understand that this disease is spreading among the young, old, and women and men regardless of sexual orientation within the Black Community," says Dr. Aletha Maybank, a participant in the June 3 panel discussion. "Everybody needs to know their HIV/AIDS status. It is vital that our community becomes involved with HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns that promote candid, frank conversations along with testing in order to help prevent the spread of this very preventable disease."

According to the organizers, the "Stop Black AIDS" internet campaign is a critical addition to broader, offline awareness and prevention efforts in the country, because young blacks are being disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and the internet is the preferred media among 18-34 year olds, or Generation Y.

"A key strategic advantage of an internet prevention campaign is that it is interactive so we don't need to be a part of every conversation and we don't want to be. Our goal is to ignite thousands of conversations among friends across the web and all across the country about the causes and consequences AIDS in the black community," said Darrell L. Williams, a Ph.D. economist and founder of TheLoop21.com.

"AIDS has become a 'black' disease. Black Americans account for more new HIV infections, more AIDS cases, more people living with AIDS, and more HIV-related deaths than any other ethnic group," said Williams said. "For the Black community, AIDS is now much bigger than a public health issue. It threatens the social and economic progress of an entire generation."

About TheLoop21.com

Based in Los Angeles, Calif., TheLoop21.com www.theloop21.com is a digital news community devoted to leading the debate on social and economic progress for people of color. TheLoop21.com is the place for up-to-date information about current events and hot topics that the mainstream media won't touch, where you



can share and publish your opinions about progress for people of color and learn to empower yourself economically.

About the Magic Johnson Foundation

The MAGICJOHNSON FOUNDATION was founded in December 1991 by Earvin "Magic" Johnson following his retirement from the Los Angeles Lakers. The mission of the foundation is to identify and support community-based organizations that address the educational, health, and social needs of children, young adults and inner-city communities throughout the nation. MJF also donates needed funds to organizations that provide HIV/AIDS prevention and healthcare education to the minority community.

Call to Action for all Media

Help us to raise awareness by doing the following:

Run the audio PSA's on your radio or internet properties

Encourage your audience to "raise the volume" of this discussion during June 21-27 internet AIDS Action week

Produce your own content--e.g., interview, story, or just a mention--during the June 21-27 AIDS Action week in order to help raise awareness

Media Contact:

Jasmin Barba (310) 300-2123 or jbarba at lecg dot com

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**Contact Information**

Darrell Williams

TheLoop21.com

<http://www.theloop21.com/stopblackaids>

310 300 2121

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Aperion Audio Announces New Surround Sound Speaker

The New Intimus 4BP Bipole Surround Sound Speaker Provides a Rich Surround Sound Experience at an Entry Level Price

Portland, OR (PRWEB) June 16, 2009 -- Aperion Audio, a direct-to-consumer manufacturer of award-winning home audio and home theater speakers, announced the latest in a series of new product releases this spring, the Intimus 4BP Bipole Surround Speaker at a price of \$199, making dedicated surround sound more accessible to entry level home theater system buyers.

"In response to customer demand, we've introduced the Intimus 4BP to provide home theater and music enthusiasts with greater options in surround sound and affordability," stated Mike Hopkins, Aperion's Product Development Lead. "The Intimus 4BP offers flexibility in room placement while supplying wide sound dispersion and an impressive soundstage, all at a great price to our customers."

"The objective of a surround speaker is to create an enveloping, non-localized sound field. The 4BP's do this by using a bipole tweeter configuration that spreads the sound over a wide area -- all in an affordable, small, easy to mount package," said Ken Humphreys, Aperion's Lead Audio Speaker Engineer.

The Aperion Audio Intimus 4BP Bipole Surround Speaker

The Intimus 4BP includes a pair of 1" audiophile grade silk-dome tweeters positioned at opposing angles for maximum sound dispersion, the same high quality 4" woven-fiberglass woofer used in the popular and award-winning Aperion Intimus 4T Tower Speaker, a newly designed seamless magnetic grill, an anti-resonant cabinet, wall mounting brackets, and is available in furniture-grade cherry wood or high gloss piano black.

Key Features:

- Dual 1" audiophile grade silk-dome tweeters
- 4" Woven-fiberglass woofer
- Seamless magnetic grill
- Wall mounting brackets
- Anti-resonant cabinet
- Furniture-grade finish in cherry wood or high gloss piano black
- Ten Year Warranty
- 30-Day No-Risk In-Home Audition™
- FREE SHIPPING BOTH WAYS
- FREE lifetime customer support
- Retail for \$199 and shipping now

New Magnetic Grill

The Intimus 4BP sports a new seamless magnetic grill. The new grill maintains the clean flow and beautiful finish of the speaker by eliminating the holes of a traditional tree lock grill mounting system. The powerful neodymium magnets are recessed into the cabinet from the inside to preserve the smooth look on the finished surface. Each grill itself has recessed metal connection points for the magnets that are covered in black felt in



order to both eliminate any vibrations while in use and to preserve the furniture-grade finish and elegant appearance.

Mounting Hardware Included for Easy, Do-It-Yourself Setup

The Intimus 4BP includes wall mounting brackets, at no additional cost, for easy DIY home theater system installation. As with all Aperion speakers, the Intimus 4BP comes with an instruction manual and access to the much acclaimed Aperion Home Theater Gurus who are always ready to help with their audio wisdom and advice - both before and after purchase. Any Aperion Audio 5.1 or larger speaker system includes a free Aperion Audio SPL Meter for detailed acoustic calibration.

Professional Installation

For those without the time or desire to perform their own installation, Aperion Audio has partnered with nationally known [Zip Express Installation](#) for a reasonably priced, expert job.

New 5.1 Systems Featuring the Intimus 4BP Bipole Surround Speaker

For buyer convenience, Aperion has created two preconfigured 5.1 home theater speaker systems that feature popular customer picks plus the Intimus 4BP. The Intimus 4T-CB Hybrid SD system (retailing at \$1,897) blends popular 4 and 5 series speakers by including two Intimus 4T Tower Speakers, an Intimus 5C Center Channel, two Intimus 4BP's and a Bravus 8D Powered Subwoofer. The Intimus 4B-BP Fusion SA system (\$1,137) features two Intimus 4B Bookshelf Speakers, an Intimus 4C Center Channel Speaker, two Intimus 4BP's and a Bravus 8A Powered Subwoofer.

Pricing and Availability

The Aperion Intimus 4BP Bipole Surround Speaker is now available at [AperionAudio.com](#), or at Aperion's showroom at 18151 SW Boones Ferry Road in Portland, Oregon, and retails for \$199. (Prices always include free shipping.)

[Aperion Intimus 4BP Bipole Surround Speaker](#) details,

[Aperion Intimus 4T-CB Hybrid SD Home Theater Speaker System](#) details.

[Aperion Intimus 4B-BP Fusion SA Home Theater Speaker System](#) details.

[High resolution press images](#)

Five New Aperion Products This Spring

The Intimus 4BP Bipole Surround Speaker is one of five new Aperion Audio speakers that have been released this spring. The value-priced Bravus 8A Subwoofer (\$319) launched in April and was featured as part of the \$999 Intimus 4B Harmony SA 5.1 Home Theater Speaker System. The newly redesigned Intimus 6-IW In-Wall, and Intimus 6-IC In-Ceiling speakers (\$149 each) began shipping in May, and were joined this month by the Intimus 6-LCR In-Wall Home Theater Speaker (\$225) which can be used as a left, center or right channel and rounds out Aperion's new line of architectural speakers. Expected this summer, Aperion will announce the new Intimus Outdoor Speaker.

The Aperion Advantage

Aperion was the first in their industry to offer free shipping both ways with their Risk Free 30-Day In-Home Audition™, a One-Year Full-Price Trade-Up Program, and an unmatched 10-Year Warranty (3 years on



amplifiers). Aperion's "Home Theater Gurus" are available to assist those in the market for audio speakers from the decision making process through lifetime technical support. Plus, because Aperion is headquartered in Oregon, there is never any sales tax.

About Aperion Audio

Based in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, Aperion Audio is an award-winning direct-to-consumer speaker manufacturer for smart shoppers who are frustrated with the retail experience, and the only speaker company to deliver an honest and completely Risk-Free 30-Day In-Home Audition™. The company's primary storefront, AperionAudio.com, is a fun and informative speaker shopping destination which is supported by "Home Theater Gurus" who supply generous support before and after the sale. At AperionAudio.com, everyone from the newbie to the audiophile is able to find the information they need to research and build an exceptional home theater speaker system or upgrade their audio environment. For more information, visit AperionAudio.com or call 888-880-8992.

CONTACTS:

Heidi Jeanfreau, Public Relations
Mike Hopkins, Product Development
Aperion Audio
18151 SW Boones Ferry Road
Portland, OR 97224
888-880-8992
www.aperionaudio.com

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Contact Information

Heidi Jeanfreau

Aperion Audio

<http://www.aperionaudio.com>

503.598.8815

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Penn & Paper's New Admissions Essay Site Helps Applicants Return to Grad School in Tough Economy

Hit by recession woes, adults are turning to admissions experts for advice about applying to college or graduate school, and for [application essay help](#). Penn & Paper, an admissions consulting firm, is targeting its services to these applicants, through its newly redesigned website.

(Vocus) June 16, 2009 -- What's the best strategy for self-improvement when the economy slows? Return to graduate school, of course. That's what a large portion of today's workforce is doing, in hopes that the job environment will improve when they graduate. Penn & Paper, a serious admissions consulting firm, has redesigned its website to attract both college graduates returning to graduate school, and high school graduates applying to college.

The admissions firm, which was founded by a journalist and Ivy League expert, China Okasi, can be found online at PennandPaper.com. The company offers counseling to undergraduate and graduate applicants who need [personal statement help](#). They say they want to ensure that both young people and adult applicants who have been out of school for a while, can reap the benefits of admissions help from consultants with extensive experience.

According to the CEO, who has three Ivy League degrees herself, "Penn & Paper provides admissions consulting to anyone who understands that competition is about standing out from the crowd." The company advises applicants not to shy away from the uniqueness they bring to their application pool. "If you have worked at a newspaper for 12 years, and you're thinking of applying to business school or law school, for example, we'll help you communicate to admissions officers that your background is special..." Okasi said.

Several reports show that the value of Penn & Paper's services is well worth the consumer expense. The company's [application essay help](#), along with premium access to an admissions consultant, can run less than \$200, which is an impressive deal, considering the quality of assistance that Penn & Paper provides. The company uses a dynamic strategy in helping applicants: it identifies problems with their personal statements, provides the creative help needed for stronger essays, and then sends back essay edits that increase their chances of acceptance into many competitive colleges, universities or graduate school programs. Overall, Penn & Paper's admissions counseling service tends to be personal and focused, which can be valuable when the world seems to be bombarding admissions offices with their applications.

ABOUT PENN & PAPER

Penn & Paper (PennandPaper.com) provides individualized counseling to applicants of all levels who seek admission into competitive academic programs. The company's admissions consulting services strengthen an applicant's chances of getting admitted to college, business school, graduate school, law school, med school and various fellowships/scholarships. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.pennandpaper.com> or click here to: [BECOME A FACEBOOK FAN](#), or call us at (888) 653-0222.

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Contact Information

Admissions Consultant (ask by name)

Penn & Paper

<http://www.pennandpaper.com>

(888) 653-0222

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News Image





Jami Jackson's Inspirational Hit, "Keep Walkin' On", Becomes the Theme Song for the USTA Eastern's First Ever Charity Tennis 5K Walk

Gifted Singer/Songwriter Scheduled to Perform the National Anthem in the Opening Ceremony on June 20th at 8:00AM

Flushing, New York (PRWEB) June 16, 2009 -- Jami Jackson, ([Jami Jackson's Official Website](#)) 24 year old, native of North Carolina, media darling (featured and profiled in New York Times, Seventeen, NY Daily News, MTV, BET) came to New York City with a mission. Be purposeful. Stand up for a cause. And, live life. Jackson's new internet sensation single, "Keep Walkin' On", from the indie Blacque Records label, will be the feature song for the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Eastern's first ever Charity Tennis 5K Walk for the Father's Day Family Grassroots Challenge. The 8th Annual Family Grassroots Challenge is a Parent/Child tournament that will be held at the famous USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. USTA Eastern is a not-for-profit community service organization that boasts over 48,000 members throughout all of New York, Northern New Jersey and Greenwich, Connecticut. The uplifting message in "Keep Walkin' On" will give encouragement to others while money is raised to support the USTA Eastern organization.

"Keep Walkin' On" is an anthem for those who dare to hope through difficult times and it has a catchy and infectious hook. "It sends a clear message to keep chasing your dreams and 'live strong,'" says Jami Jackson. Jackson flexed her muscle as co-writer/composer, with songwriter, Sandra Carr Jackson, and producer, Tommy Faragher, the celebrated Grammy nominated producer who worked with such artists such as Al Green, The O'Jays, and Taylor Dayne. The song delivers a new 'peppered' sound and direction by Jackson and was named "Keep Walkin' On," as a tribute to the AIDS Walk New York (NY) fundraising event. Jackson kicked off the entertainment portion of AIDS Walk NY in May with her "Keep Walkin' On" release at Central Park. As a member of the LIFEbeat team (an HIV/AIDS advocacy group), Jackson used her song to help create awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic while raising money and donating all of her proceeds from the song to the AIDS Walk fundraiser.

Jackson is now sharing her singing and songwriting talents with USTA Eastern's latest fundraising event. "Keep Walkin' On" will be the featured theme song and Jackson will perform the beloved "National Anthem" during the Opening Ceremony of the Father's Day Family Grassroots Challenge at 8 a.m. at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Michelle Blake, Managing Director of USTA Eastern says, "We are very excited to have Jami grace us with her heavenly voice. She is amazing and I absolutely love the 'Keep Walkin' On' song!"

From the Internet to the television airwaves, and a variety of New York City venues, Jackson is strategically carving out a musical path of passion and relevance. "Nothing can compare to singing and performing, to writing songs. I love using my voice to connect with people. I live to sing " says Jackson.

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Contact Information

Caesar Jackson

Jami Jackson's Official Website

<http://www.blacquerecords.com>

(919) 806-4203

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image



DNA Diagnostics Center Offers Father's Day DNA Testing

DNA Diagnostics Center is offering special discounts on several DNA tests, including paternity and ancestry testing, this week through Father's Day.

Fairfield, OH (PRWEB) June 16, 2009 -- Throughout the week leading up to Father's Day, June 21, DNA Diagnostics Center is offering discounts on DNA tests that reveal the truth about paternity--and more.

Father's Day can take on a whole new meaning when you're finding out if you're really a child's biological father. DNA testing can reveal many truths, and with the peace of mind and certainty that comes from DNA testing, more and more fathers are learning the truth every day.

DNA Diagnostics Center also offers Y-chromosome testing that can answer the question, "Where did my dad's ancestors begin?" DNA can trace male lineage back tens of thousands of years, and any man can find out where his paternal ancestors started--was it the foothills of the Himalayas, or Sub-Saharan Africa? The Emerald Island of Ireland, or the Asian mainland?

"[Ancestry DNA testing](#) is a great way to take a long look back at your family tree," said company spokesman Jim Hanigan. "Just by swabbing your cheek, you're stepping back into time. It's great fun--and for some, a great surprise."

Mr. Hanigan found that his paternal ancestors are from the Western European region--probably Ireland. No surprise to him, but now he's even more secure in his heritage.

"Some people find just what they expected and hoped for, and others find a few surprises. It's always great to get people's reactions to their results."

DNA Diagnostics Center is offering Father's Day discounts on its paternity testing services, as well as its Y-chromosome ancestry test. For more information, visit <http://www.dnacenter.com>.

About DDC

DNA Diagnostics Center (DDC) is the world's largest provider of private DNA tests. Since 1995, DDC has performed genetic tests for over 1 million clients around the world. DDC offers comprehensive DNA testing services in several specialty areas: family relationship testing, forensics, and veterinary DNA testing. As the leading force in the private DNA paternity testing industry, DDC was one of the first to adopt robotics technology in its laboratory processes for stringent and efficient handling of DNA samples. DDC's unique Dual Process™ for family relationship testing ensures results of unmatched quality and reliability.

DDC's quality DNA testing services are nationally and internationally recognized by a number of professional accrediting organizations such as ACLASS (for ISO/IEC-17025), the AABB, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB-International), and the College of American Pathologists (CAP).



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**Contact Information****Jim Hanigan**

DNA Diagnostics Center

<http://www.dnacenter.com>

513-881-4078

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