

## Catholic Charities Graduates Seven From Workforce Program



*Catholic Charities of Baltimore and its St. Edward's Workforce Development Center (SEWDC) automotive training program graduated seven participants from a 12-week program this month, helping to secure a future for those who may have doubted they had a chance. (Photo, left to right): Carlton Boyce (graduate, black shirt with aqua tie), Antwan Crawford, an alumni of the program who graduated in December 2016, Anita Donaldson, the program manager, and Jeffrey Brandon (graduate, pink shirt). (See article on page 10)    Courtesy Photo*

# Back-to-school immunizations are for parents too

By Stacy M. Brown

National Immunization Awareness Month naturally coincides with the back-to-school season for Maryland children and throughout August, health officials are stressing the need for students to have their shots updated.

However, Maryland doctors at MedChi, the state's Medical Society, say vaccines are not just for children, they are a lifelong public safety necessity and are urging all residents to have a conversation with their healthcare provider about the most appropriate vaccine schedule for the entire family.

They say this will help to protect against a broad range of dangerous and potentially deadly illnesses like the flu, measles, whooping cough, meningitis, and pneumococcal disease.

"Vaccines are one of our greatest public health tools. They were created to protect us from dangerous and often fatal disease," said Gene Ransom, president and CEO of MedChi. "When kids go back to school, they are back on that



**Gene Ransom**  
President and CEO of MedChi.  
Courtesy Photo

schedule of interacting with other kids on a daily basis; playing outside during recess; or sharing space inside while in class or during snack time."

Children today are exposed to more germs, and there is a need to make sure they're protected.

"If your child is not vaccinated, they are more susceptible to disease. Additionally, unimmunized children can readily transmit vaccine-preventable illnesses to other kids in their class," Ransom said. "As parents, it is critical to make sure that you are protecting your child and other children in the classroom."

However, as important as it is for children to have their shots, Ransom says adults need them as well. They are a lifelong, year-round medical necessity, and a critical public health tool for protecting against a broad range of dangerous and potentially deadly illnesses.

Further, as individuals grow older, the immune system changes and requires additional protection. College age students, for example, and anyone living in close quarters, such as dorms, are more susceptible to the spread of meningitis and vaccines now exist for all strains of the meningococcal disease, according to Ransom.

"Adults need a booster shot every 10 years to help protect against tetanus and diphtheria. All adults over the age of 65 and those with chronic conditions such as heart disease, asthma and lung disease, and liver disease should be vaccinated

against the spread of pneumococcal disease," he said.

It should be noted that there is no typical amount of time that a vaccine lasts as it varies depending on which vaccine an individual receives; a health professional has said.

"Many last for about five to 10 years," Ransom said, adding that no vaccine lasts a lifetime and oftentimes a booster shot is required to make sure it's still effective.

Patients should also speak with their primary care doctor about the duration of any vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has alerted the public of the re-emergence of several childhood diseases that were once thought to be extinct, and should be more impetus to keep up with vaccination.

"The reemergence is mostly due to people not vaccinating their children. If a child is not vaccinated and is exposed to one of these illnesses and brings it into the school, it will become an epidemic," Ransom said. "That is why it is so critical that parents vaccinate their children, and that we continue to stay on a vaccine schedule throughout our lives. Vaccines are safe and a critical public health tool. When we get vaccinated, we not only protect ourselves, but those around us,"



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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## When you educate a girl, you educate a nation

By Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.)

As I write this, I am preparing to travel with my colleagues to Nigeria, where I will have the honor of meeting some of the Chibok girls who were released after two waves of negotiations between Boko Haram and Nigerian government officials. It is my fourth trip to Nigeria since April 14, 2014, when the terrorist group shocked the world by abducting nearly 300 schoolgirls from their dormitory rooms. More than three years later, 113 of the original 276 Chibok girls are still being held captive.

Many of the girls who escaped their kidnappers on that fateful night or have since been released have remarkably not allowed this hugely traumatic ordeal to diminish their determination to pursue an education. It is my mission to help ensure that they, and indeed every girl in Nigeria, have the opportunity to go as far as their desire to learn will take them.

Before Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari was sworn into office, the president-elect wrote in a New York Times op-ed about the urgent necessity to educate girls so that "they will grow up to be empowered through learning to play their full part as citizens of Nigeria and pull themselves up and out of poverty." He rightly surmised that the country owed at least that much to the Chibok schoolgirls, whose fate at that time was gravely uncertain. I look forward to working with the nation's activists and government leaders to examine ways to help Buhari keep that pledge.

There is an African proverb that says, "If we educate a boy, we educate one person. If we educate a girl, we educate a family— and a whole nation." Fifty percent of Nigeria's population is female, so it borders on the absurd to not push for them to receive the "best possible education" that Buhari promised in his opinion piece.

They will in turn ensure that their children— boys and girls— are educated, which as the proverb suggests will greatly benefit both their families and ultimately the nation by equipping it with a workforce that is prepared to help undo the extensive damage that has occurred during Boko Haram's reign of terror.

A lack of education has been a key factor in Boko Haram's ongoing ability to successfully recruit young men and boys and continue to replenish losses incurred in battle with the Multinational Joint Task Force. While the insurgents teach boys, that "Western education is sinful," educated mothers are living examples of the critical role education plays in determining one's future success. Those boys grow up viewing a world full of possibility and opportunities and are therefore extremely unlikely to see the appeal of becoming a terrorist.

Girls can change the world and there is no better example of that than the young Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, who was famously shot in the head at age 16 for daring to question the Taliban's efforts to deny her right to an education. In addition to becoming the first recipient of her country's peace prize, being named one of Time magazine's most influential people, and receiving the United Nations Human Rights Award, she is the world's youngest Nobel laureate. Malala has earned global acclaim for championing education for girls around the world, including Nigeria, and after completing her studies at Oxford University will return to her native Pakistan to continue those efforts.

It is my hope that the Chibok girls, some of whom met with Malala this summer, will be inspired to follow her path, one on which tragedy is turned into triumph.

*Frederica Wilson represents Florida's 24th congressional district, including parts of Miami-Dade and Broward counties. You can follow Rep. Wilson on Twitter @RepWilson.*



## Community Affairs

### NNPA issues call to support Gulf area residents impacted by historic floods

Washington, D.C.— The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) issued an urgent national call for support for all people, who are being impacted by the devastating flood waters from Hurricane Harvey in Texas, especially now in Houston.

In addition to the many thousands of Texas and other Gulf area residents living in uncertainty and crisis as a result of the impact of Hurricane Harvey, we have learned that one of our own NNPA member publishers, Sonny Messiah-Jiles, the publisher of the Houston Defender, along with her family, were rescued by boat from their home on Sunday, August 27, 2017.

The NNPA has several other member publishers in the area and we are attempting to get an update on the status of fellow publishers Karen Carter Richards of the Houston Forward Times, and Francis Page of the Houston Style



Magazine and their families. We are also asking that all of our member publishers— and everyone of us as Americans— remember and support those affected by the crisis in Texas in our concerned hearts and fervent prayers.

Direct support and donations can be made through the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS or online at <http://www.redcross.org>.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association is a trade group that represents more than 200 black-owned media companies. The NNPA promotes the profession of journalism and the business of publishing, while celebrating the evolution of the Black Press in America. Learn more about the NNPA at [NNPA.org](http://www.nnpa.org).

## Harvey, Katrina's big brother has arrived

By Harry C. Alford

It has been a good span of fair weather in the Gulf Coast of the United States. However, that lull has ended. After 12 years, a major hurricane has landed on the shorelines. Hurricane Harvey has swept through the southeast coast of Texas including metropolitan Houston. It appears that a continuation of the storm will rebuild off shore and then move on into Louisiana. Prudently, the Governor of Louisiana has declared an emergency and was quickly approved by President Trump. In contrast to Katrina, local, state and federal governments seem to have their act together.

When this is over, the rebuilding will begin. Billions of dollars will be involved in the process. Contractors from all over the nation and perhaps some international firms will be coming in to compete for the myriad of contracts. Every home with water damage will have to be "gutted" and retrofitted with new wirings, drywall, roofing, plumbing, etc. Warehouses, department stores, schools, etc. will need the same makeovers. From our lessons from

Katrina we must be organized, vigilant and unrelenting in making sure our businesses will receive their share of opportunity.

There will be excellent opportunities for apprentice programs to train people who are unemployed to enter the workplace. Both Texas and Louisiana are right to work states so therefore we don't have to worry about racist construction unions trying to apply their Project Labor Agreements. They are going

in a very vulnerable place when it comes to flooding. History shows that political leaders will protect the commerce of the French Quarter of the city at any costs. Back in the 1930's when there was a great flood flowing down the Mississippi River and heading to New Orleans the government decided to use dynamite to blow up a levy and redirect the flooding waters through Plaquemines Parish to save the New Orleans French Quarter.

major contracts. All they were doing was fronting for the major construction companies who were passing out the subcontracting to their "friends."

We protested loudly. Soon, President George W. Bush received two sincere letters. One was from Congressman Al Wynn and the other was from Congressman Ed Towns. They both pleaded for the President to work with the National Black Chamber of Commerce to ensure adequate diversity in the rebuilding. During that time President Bush would have bi-monthly meetings with business associations—large and small. The NBCC was invited to one and I was given a "say" as to the status of my constituency. I was very frank and yet mannerly. The President who was waiting for this said, "Harry, tell your contractors to go back to those same doors that would not open and try again. If they don't open this time get back with Karl Rove immediately. Wait three weeks and then do it."

We started sending out our contractors and low and behold, the world changed. We started getting contracts like crazy. FEMA would keep an updated report for black participation and send it to me weekly. I could verify the numbers with the actual black contractors. It was real! HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson let out \$1.5 billion in contracts within a year. In all, black contractors received over \$3.2 billion in three years. This was the NBCC's finest hour!

I am confident that we are going to have similar success this time. My Board of Directors is planning a new program. Stay tuned!

*Harry Alford is the Co-Founder, President and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce® For more information, visit the website: [www.nationalbcc.org](http://www.nationalbcc.org). To contact Harry Alford, email: [halford@nationalbcc.org](mailto:halford@nationalbcc.org)*

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***"From our lessons from Katrina we must be organized, vigilant and unrelenting in making sure our businesses will receive their share of opportunity. There will be excellent opportunities for apprentice programs to train people who are unemployed to enter the workplace. Both Texas and Louisiana are right to work states so therefore we don't have to worry about racist construction unions trying to apply their Project Labor Agreements."***

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to try but no one in Texas and Louisiana is going to give them the time of day. My phone is ringing off the hook already—people want to know what the process is. That is to be determined and from our experiences with Katrina we are going to do this with precision. Let's hope!

It would be helpful to reflect on the Katrina process. First, the local officials of Louisiana were in disbelief about the magnitude of Katrina. It was doing a "bee line" straight to New Orleans and the local officials would not sound the alarm. There was no evacuation order given in time for the city to mobilize. There were hundreds of school buses that could be used to form an organized evacuation heading north to higher land. Unfortunately, the order was not given and the storm hit the city with full flurry. What were they thinking!

History has shown that New Orleans is

During Katrina, when the levy broke and diverted the deluge into the 9th Ward, many believed it was a similar process and mindset. That is still being debated.

Fortunately, we will not have that type of decision to make this time. During the Katrina clean up black voices and concerns were not heard. In the beginning, the Army Corps of Engineers started slinging major contracts without a fair bidding process. They were handing them out to some of the largest companies in the world like they were dealing them out at a card table. When Congresswoman Barbara Lee, representing the Congressional Black Caucus, demanded to see a minority participation report the Corps sent a report that showed plenty of minority participation. I studied this and concluded it was a sham. They grabbed some Alaska Native Corporations to front on some of the

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# Wells Fargo has a new region leader

By Stacy M. Brown

Wells Fargo has a new area leader for the Maryland and D.C. area who has vowed to make building a team in the Greater Baltimore area a top priority.

Darrel German has been tasked with helping to maintain the banks' reported \$31.9 billion in metro-area deposits, which puts Wells Fargo well ahead of the competition in the region.

"Philadelphia and Baltimore are sister cities, there's a lot of parity between them," said German, whose official title is senior vice president, Business Banking Area Manager.

"I'm excited ... when I look at where we are going, having a military background has allowed me to plan forward and to be strategic and to really look at where we have success and where we can shape the geography."

Although German has more than 25 years of banking experience, he also served 32 years in the U.S. Army.

Before his stint at Wells Fargo, German served as senior vice president at TD Bank in Philadelphia where he joined the company as a commercial lender through the Commerce Bank acquisition in 2007. That year, German was awarded Commercial Lender of the Year. Before that tenure, he served as executive vice president and chief financial officer at Mikissack & Mikissack LLC, the oldest African-American owned architectural firm in the country.

German, who holds the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army, served a tour in Iraq in 2002 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He returned overseas again in 2003 to begin a mission in civil military operations.



*Darrel German, senior vice president, Business Banking Area Manager for Wells Fargo. The new area leader for Maryland and the District of Columbia is tasked with helping to maintain the banks' reported \$31.9 billion in metro-area deposits and to grow the Wells Fargo brand awareness in the Greater Baltimore area.*

Courtesy Photo

"My military background helps in a lot of things I do," he said.

In his most recent assignment at Wells Fargo, German wants to grow the com-

pany's brand awareness in the Greater Baltimore area.

"I want my bankers to be known as the go-to bankers and to help everyone real-

ize their financial needs," he said.

While the change of scenery and hiring an all-new team might present challenges to some, German brushes it off as a small task that will lead to big gains for Wells Fargo.

"I don't see challenges," he said. "I see opportunity. When you frame things as challenges, you automatically are impeding progress. If you look at the opportunity to excel and navigate around speed bumps, you're continually making [progress]. When I talk to my team, the glass is always half-full, never is it half-empty."

While in Philadelphia, German sat on various boards throughout the community and remains active in his military service.

"My first priority is to build a team that will be aggressive, and I'm just really starting the process where I want to lend my skills in this area," he said.

A graduate of Historically Black Cheyney University in Philadelphia, German also matriculated from the Combined Arms Staff Service and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

He serves as a board member for the Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA; the Southeastern Red Cross; the Arden Theater; and the Philadelphia Police Foundation.

All his work has served as motivation to remain positive about helping others and in team building, German said.

"During my days in Philadelphia, when I walked down the street, people knew me as the Wells Fargo guy," he said.

"They knew me as Darrell but they also knew my brand because we were able to get things done."

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# Nominations for inaugural Maryland Black Business Awards underway

By Andrea Blackstone

According to a U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners, from 2002 to 2007, the number of black-owned businesses increased by 60.5 percent to 1.9 million, more than triple the national rate of 18.0 percent. Nevertheless, increasing community support for minority and black owned business can be vital to their success.

March 22, 2018 will mark the date that the Maryland Black Business Network will host its First Annual Maryland Black Business Awards at The La Fontaine Bleue at 7514 Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The celebration will combine a gala, buffet, entertainment and networking and people from all races and nationalities are welcome to attend.

The mission of the Maryland Black Business Awards is not only to promote and support black-owned and minority businesses, including: women and other ethnic minority groups but also to recognize African American entrepreneurs and professionals who have made a significant impact in Maryland and in their communities.

The co-founder of the awards, Octavia Brown wants to draw attention to the existence of minority and black-owned businesses while moving away from stereotypes that these businesses possess terrible customer service and are poorly run.

"We wanted to create the Maryland Black Business Awards to show that this is not always the case [and] that there are lots of black businesses that are run very successfully," Brown said. "There are lots of black businesses that have made tremendous impacts on their

neighborhoods, and there are lots of black entrepreneurs who have not only done very well for themselves, they're paving the way for other young African-American entrepreneurs. We just want to pay homage to those black businesses who have been out there and really just doing a fantastic job— thriving in their field and just doing wonderful things in the community."

Octavia runs Brown Multimedia with her husband, Devon Brown. The couple who resides in Arnold, Md. offers website design and development, video production, and social media maintenance through their business. Octavia explained that she began to realize how underutilized and under supported black and minority-owned businesses, were a few years ago. She didn't know where to begin to look for these businesses in Anne Arundel County, and the Annapolis area, so that she could support them. Her search led her to post on Facebook asking black and minority business owners to tag themselves so she would know who they are.

"To my surprise, I got lots of comments

on black businesses that I never even knew existed, and so I created what is still called the Black Business Network of Anne Arundel County, a Facebook group where black businesses in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County could come together [and] put it out there that they are in business and offer these services," Octavia said. "It was amazing to see that the group quickly grew to over 1000 members."

Octavia's previous findings connect with the Brown's current mission to bring attention to thriving businesses that are responsible, illustrate integrity, and have a social impact.

The Maryland Black Business Awards will celebrate individuals who are leading in the following industries: Food and Beverage; Health and Beauty; Consumer and Retail; Arts and Media; Financial

Services; and the Non-Profit Sector. A Top Entrepreneur of The Year, and the Top Youth Entrepreneur of The Year, will also be selected.

Members of the community may nominate themselves or others online at: [www.Mdblackbusinessawards.com](http://www.Mdblackbusinessawards.com) until September 30, 2017. A team will research individuals to compile final nominees.

"We want innovators— entrepreneurs truly innovative in their field out there promoting professionalism," Octavia said, when describing the kinds of prospective black and minority owned businesses that will appeal to them.

Another goal is for the annual event to assist a startup black-owned business, by awarding a grant from a portion of event proceeds. Candidates seeking assistance will be required to pitch their ideas at a later date. Devon explained that attending the event on March 22 will afford Marylanders with an opportunity to not only support the mission of the awards, but also to learn and be inspired.

"We will have an influential (keynote) speaker who pretty much represents what our mission is. We are still trying to nail down a guest speaker," Devon said. "The whole goal is for people to walk away empowered."

To nominate candidates who fit the aforementioned criterion, to learn more about the awards, or to purchase tickets, visit: [www.marylandblackbusinessawards.com](http://www.marylandblackbusinessawards.com).





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Go Further

## Maryland Schools Ready to Open for 2017/18 Academic Year

Baltimore— Maryland public school systems began re-opening on Monday, August 28, 2017. However, most Maryland schools are opening after Labor Day for the first time in more than two decades, following Governor Larry Hogan's executive order requiring a post-Labor Day start to the new school year for most schools and systems.

Another new record number of students is expected to fill classrooms for the 2017-18 academic year.

"This first day of school is an exciting time for students, parents and teachers," said Governor Hogan. "Our administration remains committed to ensuring that every Maryland student has access to a world-class education, and we wish everyone a safe and productive school year."

Maryland school enrollment hit a record 886,221 students in 2016-17, with another 250,000 children involved in some form of pre-kindergarten, Head Start or licensed childcare program. Those numbers are expected to continue to rise.

Schools this fall begin the fourth full year of implementation of the stronger academic standards designed to better prepare students for life after graduation. Assessment data released earlier this week found progress being made, particularly in English language arts.

"Our ultimate goal is to provide students with a foundation for success in college or career," said Dr. Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools. "Maryland high school graduates must be ready for today's jobs and those that will be created down the road."

The latest revision of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act was signed into law in 2015. The new law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), provides a long-term, stable federal policy that gives states additional flexibility and encourages innova-

tion in states, local school systems and schools, while at the same time holding all entities accountable for results. The Maryland State Department of Education spent more than a year working with the broad-based ESSA Stakeholder Committee, posting two on-line surveys and holding listening sessions throughout the State. The final plan is scheduled to be sent to the U.S. Department of Education for its approval next month, following its approval by the Maryland State Board of Education this week. More on ESSA can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2b1FN1q>.

Maryland's Department of Health requires new immunizations this year, and all Maryland schools are required to stock the anti-overdose drug, Naloxone.

All students entering kindergarten, first, second and third grade must have had two varicella vaccinations before the first day of school. All students entering seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grades must have had one Tdap vaccination and one meningococcal (MCV4) vaccination before the first day of school.

For more information, see the Department of Health's immunization page: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIODEOR/IMMUN/Pages/back-to-school-immunization-requirements.aspx>

All Maryland schools this fall are required to stock Naloxone— commonly known by its prescription name, Narcan— the overdose reversal medication. Staff are being trained how to administer the drug, all thanks to the Start Talking Maryland Act. A new law, known as the Start Talking Maryland Act, also requires schools to begin instructing students in the dangers of drugs starting in grade three.

All counties schools, except Garret and Allegany along with the statewide SEED School, open on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Please note that some individual schools and grades have different start dates. Please check with your local school system for more information.

MSDE's round-up of school openings and closings can be found here: <http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/School-Systems/Open-Closing-Dates.aspx>

# Catholic Charities Graduates Seven From Workforce Program

By Stacy M. Brown

Catholic Charities of Baltimore and its St. Edward's Workforce Development Center (SEWDC) automotive training program graduated seven participants from a 12-week program this month, helping to secure a future for those who may have doubted they had a chance.

"With the seven individuals who graduated from the automotive technician training program, we have now graduated 64 people and 81 percent of past graduates are employed in the automotive field, and four of the seven new graduates already have job offers," said Bob Keenan, the director of media relations for Catholic Charities of Baltimore.

The graduation ceremony was held in the gymnasium of the former St. Edward's School on West Lafayette Avenue on August 24, 2017 for participants who faced barriers to employment, including: homelessness, incarceration, and a general lack of education and work experience. Now, with their matriculation, most will go on to begin careers in the automotive field.

In December 2015, Catholic Charities of Baltimore started SEWDC to provide greater opportunities in West Baltimore, according to Keenan.

The program provides classroom and hands-on training for citywide residents who have struggled with barriers to employment and who are interested in pursuing an automotive technician career. Once completed, the program assists in securing employment for graduates.

Since its inception, 64 individuals have graduated from the SEWDC program, which is operated in partnership with the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives and the One Baltimore for Jobs initiative.

"The automotive technician training program lasts 12 weeks, and is a combination of hands-on training on vehicles and classroom training that prepares individuals for the workplace including soft skills and interviewing preparation," Keenan said. "The Center is operated by Catholic Charities, and also offers job readiness preparation classes and referrals to other service providers and benefits."

St. Edward's Workforce Development Center was started as part of series of Catholic Charities' initiatives in West Baltimore in the aftermath of the unrest in April 2015, following the death of Freddie Gray.

In addition to the Center, Catholic Charities also began working with five churches to either begin or expand food pantries, and in April of 2016 the organization began operating a "Safe Streets" program in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood.

"The feedback from the program graduates has been outstanding. The participants appreciate not only the



*Walter Billups of NCLA (National Center on Institutions and Alternatives) presents Carlton Boyce with his graduate t certification. Courtesy Photos*

preparation for the workforce, but also the support they receive from the program staff during the class and after graduation," Keenan said. "Many of the graduates remain involved after leaving the program, coming back to provide encouragement to the new class members. The staff works with a number of potential employers throughout the Baltimore region, helping to not only train but also to assist in job placement."

The ceremony itself has proved memorable, Keenan said.

"The graduation is a celebration of the individuals who have completed the 12-week course. All of the graduates receive Automotive Service Excellence certifications, and many receive multiple certifications like refrigerant or other specific work certifications, Keenan said. "Families are invited to celebrate the achievements of the graduates, and food is served to make sure everyone has a good time at the graduation party."

Anyone interested in learning more about the program, visit: [www.cc-md.org/sewdc](http://www.cc-md.org/sewdc) or contact the program manager, Anita Donaldson, at 443-885-9054.



*Walter Billups of NCLA (National Center on Institutions and Alternatives) presents Jeffrey Brandon with his graduate certification.*

# Baltimore resident won't let cancer change her life

By Stacy M. Brown

Cancer has had a huge effect on the life of Brina Furman.

The Baltimore native who is an associate producer at Feats, an August Jackson Company that is nationally recognized for its event strategy, design and production work specializing in higher education engagement says she could list a plethora of negative components that has resulted from her diagnosis.

"But, right now, I'm focused on the community of support it's given me," she said.

"Without cancer, I would never have found the incredible extended family that I've found at the Ulman Cancer Fund (UCF). It's given me something to be passionate about outside of my professional work life," she said about the Baltimore-based UCF, a nonprofit that helps cancer patients in various ways, including connecting survivors with others.

Furman plans to participate in 24 Baltimore, a cycling and walking cancer awareness event by the 24 Foundation, which hosts over 400 riders and 200 walkers. This year's 24-hour event takes place from 2 p.m. September 23 to 2 p.m. September 24 where participants will trek through Johns Hopkins University's Homewood campus.

Diagnosed with melanoma at 18, Furman, now 26, says UCF is one way she gives back.

She has put together a bike and walk team for the upcoming event and says she is anxious to participate.

"I've been a spectator a few times for 24 Baltimore and cheered on fellow UCF friends," she said. "This is my first time having the opportunity to be a participant and I'm beyond excited."

Still, Furman will never forget when she received the sobering diagnosis of cancer.

"The immediate reaction? It sounds strange, but I laughed," she said. "I distinctly remember looking at my mom and just laughing as if someone had just told a joke. It actually wasn't until I was through treatment that I fully understood what impact cancer had and would have on my life," Furman said.

A noted jetsetter who travels often for work, advocacy and pleasure, Furman says as soon as she processed what her cancer diagnosis meant, she sought out peers to help her emotionally.

"That's how I stumbled upon UCF. I was just looking for a few people who truly understood when I said I was upset to miss class for an oncology appointment or understood how frustrating it was to not [be able to] attend a frat party because I was in too much pain to stand that long," Furman said.

"I didn't want pity or sympathy. I just wanted someone to get it," she said.

"When I found UCF, I found those people. And, I decided I didn't want anyone to feel like they had to go at a diagnosis, treatment or survivorship alone. That's why I'm so involved in the community and that's what keeps me coming back."

Young adults diagnosed with cancer are in a unique situation, according to Furman.

"Many of us are just starting our lives and our true independence. Cancer can be a huge set back to that. I'd love young adults faced with the big "C" to know that there is a community out there where you can come [to] talk as much or as little about what's going on right now," she said. "You can cry about cancer to someone that understands what it's like to be in your place or you can come bowling with us and pretend for an hour that the oncology appointment that morning doesn't exist. Support groups don't have to be in the form of talk therapy; we're up to hang at a bar, drink beer and watch football if it helps you to be normal for a few minutes. Support comes in many ways and you just have to find what works for you."

At UCF, there is a tradition called Dedication Circle that sums up the organization's passion and focus, Furman added.

"Before any meeting, race or organized program, we hold Dedication Circle," she said.

"We stand together holding hands—right hand up to receive support and left hand down to give support. Each person is invited to dedicate his or her day to someone. It can be a dedication to someone diagnosed, in recovery or just having a really rough day. It reminds us all why we're there, doing what we're doing. Once everyone has shared, one person says, 'Cancer changes lives...' and the group replies, 'So do we.' That sums up why I fight."

For more information or to register for 24 Baltimore, visit:  
[www.24foundation.org/events/baltimore/](http://www.24foundation.org/events/baltimore/)



*Brina Furman, associate producer at Feat plans to participate in 24 Baltimore, a cycling and walking cancer awareness event by the 24 Foundation taking place from 2 p.m. September 23 to 2 p.m. September 24. Courtesy Photos*



## Baltimore native conducts Information Warfare for U.S. Navy

By Lt. Charity Edgar, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Fort Meade, Md.— A 2009 Loch Raven High School graduate helps protect America by delivering information warfare capabilities to the U.S. Navy as a member of Cryptologic Warfare Group Six. U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Darryl Marshall is a cryptologic technician collection.

“I am a computer analyst,” explained the Baltimore native.

Marshall plays a crucial role in defending against threats in support of the command’s mission to deliver Information Warfare capabilities, such as signals intelligence and cyberspace operations, to the Navy fleet and joint forces.

Information technology advances at a staggering pace. Practically all-major systems on ships, aircraft, submarines, and unmanned vehicles are networked to some degree. This includes most combat, communications, engineering, and navigation systems. While connectivity provides the military with speed, agility, and precision, it also opens numerous attack opportunities for adept cyber adversaries.

There is an inextricable linkage between signals intelligence and cyber operations. Signals intelligence helps inform operational commanders and forward deployed operational units in real time about the actions of adversaries and feeds directly into the Navy’s understanding of cyber actors and their potential actions.

“Given today’s environment of continuous growth in the information and technology realms, our information warfare missions have never been more important. I’m extremely proud of the Sailors and extended team who make our mission possible every day,” said, CWG-6 Commander Capt. Joe J. Johnson.

Members of the Information Warfare Community like Marshall support the Navy’s ability to maintain power projection, sea control and maritime superiority.

“I joined the Navy because my brother served in the Army, and I followed in his



*U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Darryl Marshall is a cryptologic technician collection. The Baltimore native helps protect America by delivering information warfare capabilities to the U.S. Navy. Courtesy Photo/ Navy Office of Community Outreach*

footsteps to the military,” said Marshall. “I initially had a different rate but when I saw what CTRs were doing I thought it looked cool and I decided to do that.”

Marshall says he is proud to serve at the forefront of technology innovation and cyber operations, helping to protect America from threats around the world.

“It’s been a fun time. I’ve been able to see and do a lot of cool things in the Navy. I was able to decommission the USS Enterprise which was exciting since it was such a historic ship,” reflected Marshall. “It was great seeing all the ship alumni there. To me the Navy means teamwork, family and a sense of greater purpose. I am honored to be a part of that.”

The future of U.S. maritime power depends on the Navy’s ability to achieve its vision for cyberspace operations, which is based on careful consideration of the threats, trends and challenges in cyberspace. The men and women of Cryptologic Warfare Group Six and Navy Information Warfare team stand ready to provide outstanding support to meet the Navy’s mission on a global scale.



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# Baltimore music maker inspired by his father and grandfather

By Stacy M. Brown

While in his mother's womb, Imani Wj Wright got a jump-start on life and a fledgling music career.

Wright says his father would later inform him that while Wright's mother was pregnant, the elder Wright would read to him every day, and then play tunes from Miles Davis' 'Tutu' album. Now, 18-years-later, the father's nurturing has paid dividends.

"Being a saxophonist and someone who is deeply inspired by the style of jazz within my art, Miles Davis is by far my number one influence," said Wright, a writer, producer and vocalist who, at 18, is on the fast track to musical stardom.

Wright's latest release, "Consistency," has been labeled as smooth and sultry, a down-tempo song that offers up an easy-going atmosphere— fusing a bit of nostalgia with something fresh.

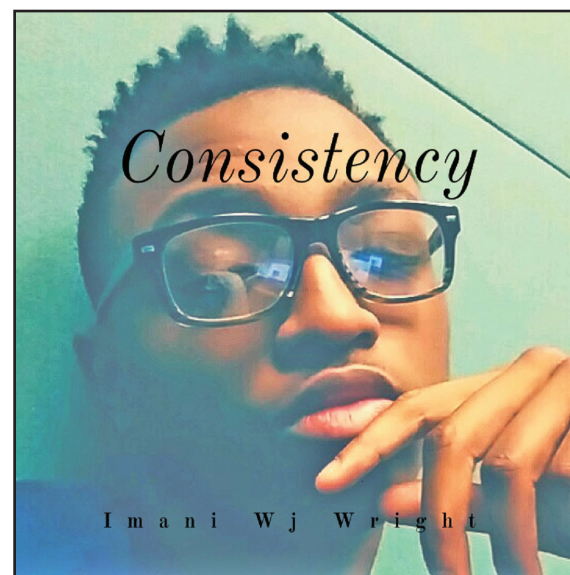
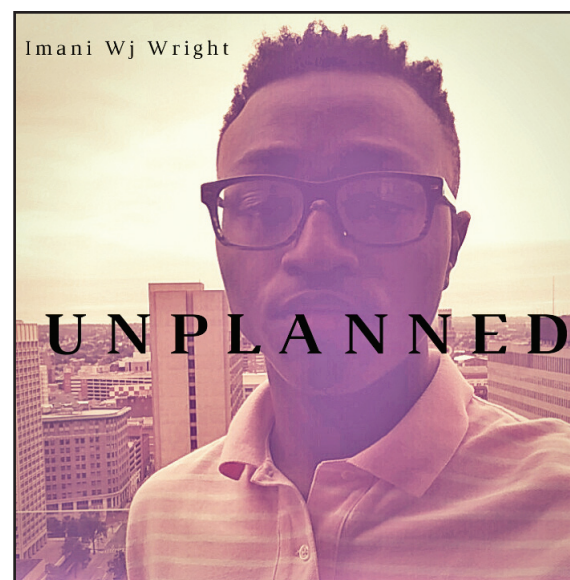
The Baltimore artist's achievements already include a scholarship at the Peabody Institute and The Lyric Opera House of Baltimore. A "Male Singer of the Year" winner in high school, he has also enjoyed a stint at American University with the Washington National Opera.

"I realized my gift when I was about seven, after writing my first poem which eventually would turn into my first song called 'Cries to the Heavens,'" Wright said. "I performed at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School when I was 10, and did so acapella in front of about 1,000 people and that moment truly catapulted my confidence and drive as a musician."

A bio of Wright noted that it's his voice that matters most, describing it as a golden, fluid instrument that effortlessly glides among blues, soul and R&B flavors while conveying a wealth of emotion with each uttered phrase.

It has led to such inspirational singles as "Appreciation," and "Window." Still, Wright says he doesn't go into the studio simply looking to create a hit song.

"The characteristics of a hit are very circumstantial. I'm not sure if there is a direct formula," he said. "And, if there is a direct formula, why use it? This is art. The purpose of art is to find new formulas, different ways to please the ear. I



*Baltimore musician Imani Wj Wright says that throughout his life he has gathered a lot of his inspiration from his father and grandfather. Beside his music career, Wright is also the co-owner of "NoveltyMi" clothing store where his clothing line "Swano Thinking" is sold. (Left) Imani Wright and photographer Jessica Carpenter modeling items from "Swano Thinking" (Right, top and bottom) Record covers of two of his original music creations, "Unplanned" and "Consistency."*

**Photo Credit: Jessica Carpenter and Wright Productions**

don't ever know if a song is a hit and honestly, that is never my concern. But, I do know if I put ample time into the track, I do know if I got lost and heavily engrossed with the song."

He added, "once it reaches the people, then we'll see how it hits them."

Currently, Wright is keeping busy working on a new album called, "Transmogryfy," which will also feature him playing the saxophone.

Wright says he has been fortunate to able to work with artists like Bilal,

Khalid, Claude Coleman and the trombonist, 4Tae. He plans to collaborate with Mr. Cheeks from Lost Boyz and Buddy Wike from the 1990s group, Intro in the future.

And, as if music hasn't been enough to keep him busy, Wright also co-owns a clothing store called "NoveltyMi," where his clothing line that he named, "Swano Thinking" is sold.

With all the hard work, Wright says he gathers a lot of his inspiration from his father and grandfather.

"Both of them are men who have molded me into the person I am today," Wright said.

"They are two men who love family and are always hungry for knowledge. They have made me realize how important it is to do these two things— obtain and share," he said. "Once you've gained that knowledge, share it with those willing to listen, and provide it for the betterment of your community and essentially, the world."

# Back to School Tips for Students and Parents

By Ruth Young Tyler

*Ten things to consider for the new school year; Schools open Tuesday, September 5*

Baltimore County Public Schools re-open for the 2017-2018 school year on Tuesday, September 5. As families finalize summer activities, consider these tips for a smoother transition into the school year.

## 1. Daily Devotional/Meditation—

Prepare yourself before you rush into the day to meet the demands that your family, employers and clients place upon you physically, mentally, financially, emotionally and spiritually. Wake up 30 minutes earlier to focus. Read a daily devotional or personal affirmations. A few recommendations are: Grace for the Moment by Max Lucado, Day By Day with James Allen by Vic Johnson, Prayers that Avail Much by Germaine Copeland, The Holy Bible, The Qur'an or your book of practicing doctrine.

**2. Morning exercise stimulates mental acuity—** Several studies conducted in the United States suggests a myriad of benefits for students (and adults) who exercise in the morning resulting in better academic performance, an increase in concentration and energy levels. Other countries have adopted the exercise regime and it has proved to be highly successful.

## 3. Organize—

**A. Meals-** Pack everyone's lunch the night before. Prepare dinner in a slow cooker. On school nights, don't adopt



the title of "short order chef." Plan and shop in advance while following a family menu (whenever possible). Healthy and nutritious meals will keep your family operating at peak performance.

**B. Laundry—** After clothes are dried, fold and put them on hangers and place them in the drawers or in the closet. Identify and iron clothes the night before. Looking for socks and underwear in the morning will impede morning progress.

**C. School supplies –** Attend an "Annual Back to School Drive" hosted by organizations in the community to supplement your school supplies list. Purchase supplies in advance while anticipating items for science projects.

**4. Wellness and Physical Check-ups –** Before the first day of school have your child boost his/her immune systems with nutritional supplements, at minimum vitamin C. Consult with your primary care physician to address each person's health concerns.

**5. Talk positive with your child/child-**



**ren-** Leading up to the first day of school there will be an increase level of anxiety, excitement and "butterflies." Positive self-talk about the new school, experiences, meeting new friends and seeing the old ones will put them at ease. Continue the communication throughout the school year. Giving each child their one-on-one time is essential in building their self-esteem and managing behavioral concerns and social issues.

**6. Homework/School Projects-** Identify a well-lighted area in your home to complete assignments and special projects or go to the library.

**7. Plan car maintenance –** Maintain the fluids in your car. Fill up the gas tank the night before so that you're ready for the morning commute.

**8. Connect with teachers –** Develop good communication (face-to-face, phone, email) with your child/children's teachers to enhance the learning experi-

ence and to share any concerns. When discussing your child's academic performance avoid communicating with teachers and administrators on any social media platform including, Facebook, Twitter, Oovoo or Facetime. Arrange a "surprise" visit to the school. Be an active part of the school's PTA by attending the meetings. Students whose parents are actively involved with their child's/children's education creates an "it takes a village" relationship.

**9. Stay engaged–** Stay engaged with the educational process, school activities and fundraising events throughout the school year and plan accordingly.

**10. Social media vigilance –** Parents should be vigilant of their child's/children's activity on their mobile devices and "follow" them too. Parents are encouraged to set up an account and monitor for predators, cyberbullies and their child's activity too.

## Local School Supply Lists Now Available on TeacherLists

Parents from local schools have a new tool in their back-to-school bag of tricks this year as all of their school's supply lists are now posted on TeacherLists.com.

With just one or two clicks, parents can find their child's exact supply list and then click right over to pre-filled shopping carts on Target, Walmart, Jet.com or Amazon to purchase their list and have it shipped right to their home.



Target and Walmart also offer in store pick-up. Super easy, super convenient.

"For decades, the supply list process has been a frustration for parents," points out TeacherLists President, John Driscoll. "Where to find the lists? When are they available? Forgetting the list on the counter at home. Hunting the aisles for the specific items their teacher has requested. All of those issues are solved with TeacherLists"

More than 50,000 schools now have lists posted on TeacherLists. Lists for more than 1 million classrooms are live on the site and include required and requested items as well as specific notes and clarifications from teachers and school staff.

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# Maryland taxpayers advised to beware of new phishing scheme that impersonates IRS and FBI

## *Don't download links to fake FBI questionnaire*

Annapolis— Comptroller Peter Franchot is warning taxpayers to avoid a new phishing scheme that impersonates the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the FBI as part of a ransomware scam to take computer data hostage.

The IRS says the scam email uses the emblems of both the IRS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It tries to entice users to select a “here” link to download a fake FBI questionnaire. Instead, the link downloads a certain type of malware called ransomware that prevents users from accessing data stored on their device unless they pay money to the scammers.

“If you receive an email like this, don't reply, download or respond in anyway. These tax scammers are after your hard earned money and personal financial information,” Comptroller Peter Franchot said. “My agency stands ready to help any Maryland taxpayer who gets an email like this and we remain vigilant in our united goal to protect citizens from these con artists.”

The IRS, state tax agencies and tax industries— working in partnership as the Security Summit— are conducting an awareness campaign called Don't Take the Bait that includes warning tax professionals about the various types of phishing scams, including ransomware.

•Victims should not pay a ransom.

Paying it further encourages the criminals, and frequently the scammers won't provide the decryption key even after a ransom is paid.

•Victims should immediately report any ransomware attempt or attack to the FBI at the Internet Crime Complaint Center, [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov). Forward any IRS-themed scams to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

The Comptroller's Office and the IRS do not use email, text messages or social media to discuss personal tax issues, such as those involving bills or refunds. If you are a tax professional and registered e-Services user who disclosed any credential information, contact the IRS

e-Services Help Desk to reset your e-Services password.

The Comptroller's Office also advises taxpayers not to reply to phone calls or emails asking for confidential information, most especially Social Security

numbers, birth dates, salary information or home addresses.

To report a problem, Maryland taxpayers may call 1-800-MD-TAXES or send an email to: [mdcomptroller@comp.state.md.us](mailto:mdcomptroller@comp.state.md.us).



### **The Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center Needs New Board Members**

The Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center is seeking a few gifted and dedicated volunteer board members to direct and energize their programs for the youth and senior citizens of the communities of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. If you can give a few hours of your time, creativeness and leadership and are interested in growing with the organization, contact Alma H. Cropper at 410-263-1860 or by email at [wileyhbates11@verizon.net](mailto:wileyhbates11@verizon.net) to find out whether this volunteer opportunity is a fit for you. They are particularly interested in recruiting young or older folks who have experience in fundraising, an interest in preserving the history of Wiley H. Bates High School and ideas for creating programs that benefit youth and senior citizens as well as developing programs that celebrate the legacy of African American achievement.

**To place Legal Notices in The Annapolis Times,  
contact the Legals Department  
Phone: 410-366-3900 or email: [legals@btimes.com](mailto:legals@btimes.com)**

### **Volunteers Needed for Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival**

Volunteer opportunities are available to help at the 28th Annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival 2017, which will be held at Susan Campbell Park at the Annapolis City Dock. The annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival, coordinated by Kunta Kinte Celebrations, Inc., raises an awareness of the African-American heritage and the common challenges encountered by all ethnic groups striving to preserve their culture. The festival will be held at the Annapolis City Dock on Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteer are needed for set up, refreshments, clean up, children's activities and much more. For more information contact [KuntaKinteCelebrations@gmail.com](mailto:KuntaKinteCelebrations@gmail.com), or visit the website: [www.kuntakinte.org](http://www.kuntakinte.org) where you may sign up for your desired volunteer opportunity.

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