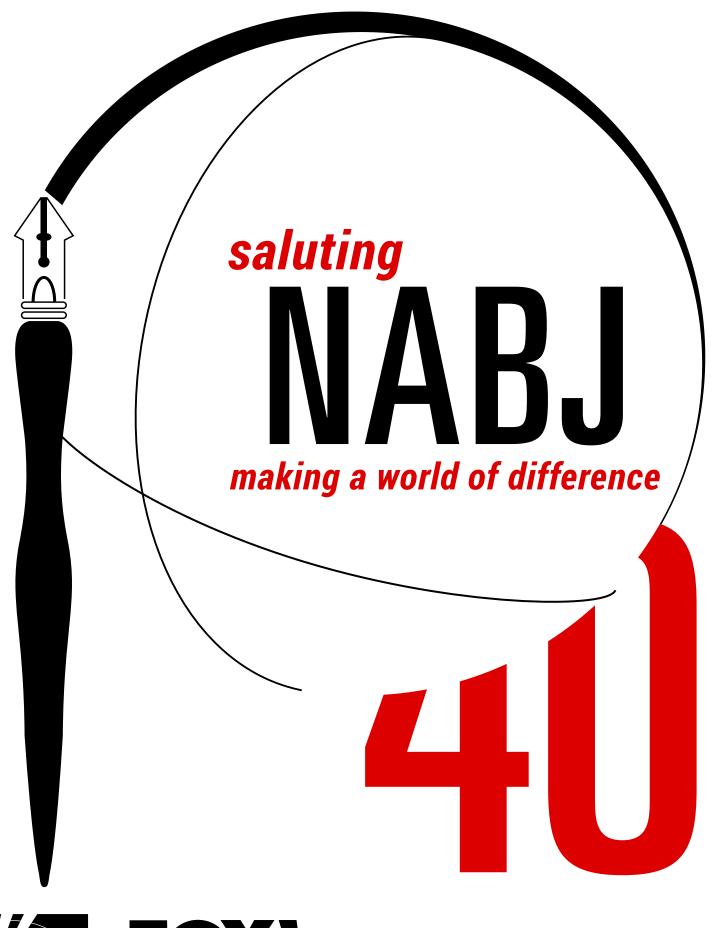
COMMEMORATIVE **National Association of Black Journalists EDITION - 2016** journal EBRAI







CONGRATULATIONS ON 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

National Association of Black Journalist

# NAB]

SPRING 2016 | Vol. 33, No. 1 Official Publication of the National Association of Black Journalists

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#### NABJ Journal Staff

**PUBLISHER** 

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**EDITOR** 

Marlon A. Walker

MANAGING EDITOR

Aprill O. Turner

**COPY EDITORS** 

Benét J. Wilson

Denise Clay

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Veronique Dodson

**DESIGN AND LAYOUT** 

Sheldon Sneed

Lisa Waldschmitt

Kofi Myler

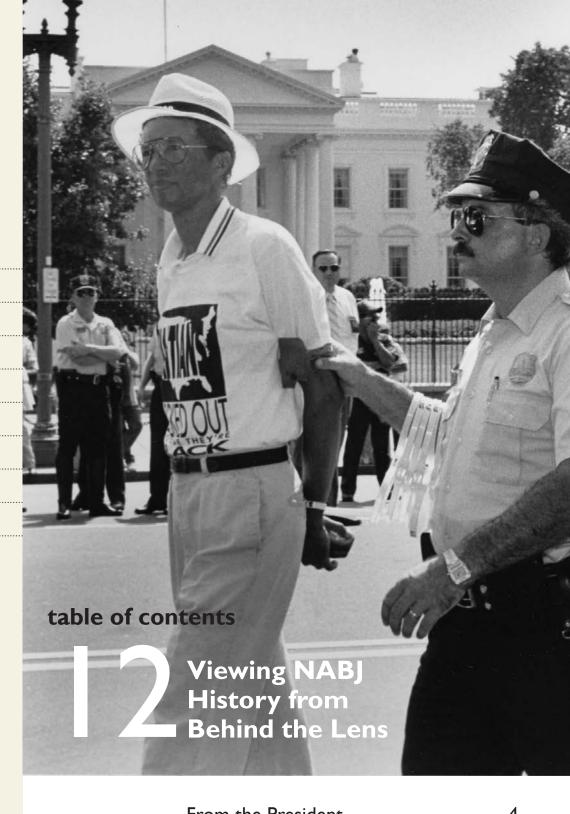
**PHOTOGRAPHY** 

Jason Miccolo Johnson

#### **Contributors**

Sherlon Christie Wayne Dawkins Michael Eaves Marissa Evans Sarah Glover Deon Hampton Tiamoyo Harris Roy S. Johnson Dave Jordan Meta J. Mereday Greg Morrison Merdie Nzanga Rochelle Riley Brittany M. Sango Vickie Thomas Dorothy Tucker Marcus Vanderberg Marlon A. Walker Benét J. Wilson

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#### From the President

Greetings NABJ Family!

This commemorative NABI Journal edition is a celebration of our association that was 40 years in the making. As we reminisce on the impact NABJ has had over four decades, we revel in the determination displayed by our 44 founders on Dec. 12, 1975.

photographer Jason Miccolo Johnson.



advocacy and vision. And in doing so, we pick up the torch to further build NABJ into the future. In this issue, we celebrate the life of Sidmel Estes, NABJ's first woman president. She was a fearless advocate. Her untimely passing has left a void in our hearts, and reminds us how we far we have yet to go to achieve equal opportunity in the media industry. We also remember the

This summer, NABJ will co-host a joint convention with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. The theme is #NABJNAHJ16: One Mission Driving Innovation. We're working to put together the most dynamic journalism convention in 2016 and arguably the most significant gathering of journalists of color in years. Make plans to join us in Washington, D.C., from Aug. 3 to 7, along with the more than 4,000 expected attendees and partake in the cutting-edge programming.

legacies of sports heroes Stuart Scott and Bryan Burwell, and honor the work of NABJ's unofficial

The priorities of the 2015-17 NABJ Board of Directors are in motion -- develop year-round Media Institute programming, restore NABJ to fiscal stability and advocate on behalf of black journalists and for fair coverage of the black community. In addition, over the next two years, members will see NABJ's reach extend globally with fellowship and training opportunities beyond our borders. We will also turn the organization's attention to coverage of black men and to expanded training and job opportunities for members.

Enjoy the pages of this special NABJ Journal. Many thanks to editor Marlon A. Walker and team for bringing our vibrant organization to life here in living color.

Yours in Service,

und Slover

Sarah Glover NABJ President

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## NABJ: A History 40 Years in the Making

By ROCHELLE RILEY

llis Allison Davis recalls vividly the afternoon of December 12, 1975, when she and two friends, on their way to a party, stopped by a meeting at Washington, D.C.'s Shoreham Hotel, in a ballroom down the hall from meetings of the Black Elected Officials Conference.

"My parents lived in Silver Spring, and I went home to visit," said Davis, now a retired producer who worked at NBC and CBS. "Two friends at *U.S. News and World Report* invited me to an event. And I got dragged along to this meeting beforehand. They said, 'We need to do this thing first."

That thing was the first meeting of what would become the National Association of Black Journalists, the largest minority training, support and watchdog organization in the world. Its nearly 3,000 members now meet in convention centers nationwide. But that first meeting was held in a ballroom at the Shoreham during the convention that many of the

journalists were covering.

The late Chuck Stone, then a columnist for the *Philadelphia Daily News*, chaired the meeting, which - at one point - was beginning to drag on, Davis said. She found her voice and cried out, "Mr. Chairman! Point of order!"

She made her point, sat down and thought she was done. But Stone had other plans.

"Who are you?" he asked. "I said 'My name is Allison Davis, WBZ-TV in Boston.'"

"He said, 'Ms. Davis, you are now our parliamentarian.'"

That's how NABJ was born.

And that is how Davis, then all of 22 years old, wrote NABJ's first constitution.

In the ensuing 40 years, those founders and other veteran journalists across the country developed member chapters who host regional conventions, media institutes and other training conferences in a lasting effort to ensure that American newsrooms have diverse staffs.

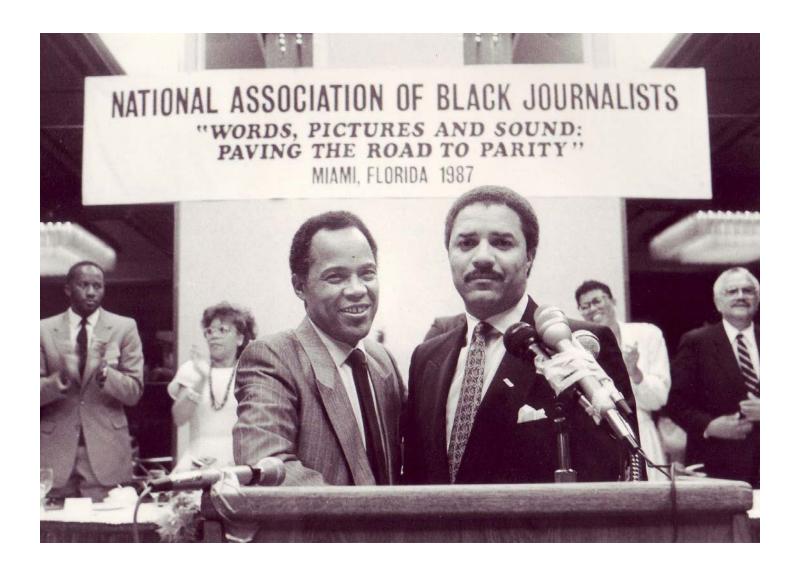
Today, NABJ is at a crossroads as it balances

an economy that is unkind to newsrooms and where it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet NABJ's triple missions: training new and veteran journalists, increasing diversity and fighting for fair and balanced coverage of American minority communities and the African Diaspora.

The 40th anniversary arrived last year as a new NABJ board had to right a ship that had publicly listed for three years. The organization was the subject of national news stories about extravagant and questionable spending, and the new president and board, elected in Minneapolis in August, had to take drastic action to restore the organization's financial health.

But restore they did. And President Sarah Glover affirmed NABJ's status in a statement released after the Huffington Post intimated that NABJ might have to fold its tent – as if such a thing could happen.

"These are exciting times for NABJ," she said. "Over the past 40 years, founders and members have recalled how some have predicted the de-



mise and questioned the relevance of our great organization. Most of the time, it was ignorance regarding how things work in the area of programming, finances, advocacy and business.

"Anyone who suggests that NABJ is close to shutdown-mode obviously does not know our organization," she said. "We are poised for another 40 years and beyond!"

Glover's declaration was a welcome reassurance because NABJ's presence, sadly, has never been needed more than now.

Within the industry, broadcast stations and newspapers are still reeling from belated attention to a digital explosion that has moved jobs to web operations and led many veterans to leave journalism altogether. The Detroit Free Press, for instance, saw 17 veterans leave within a single-four-week period at the end of 2015, an irreplaceable loss of institutional memory and, quite frankly, finely honed skill sets.

Moreover, the anniversary arrived as the nation witnesses a focus on the mistreatment of black people not seen since the 1960s and the

first American civil rights movement.

To NABJ's credit, its veterans now are watching many former students report at the forefront of the nation's top story. One, Wesley Lowery, a national correspondent for The Washington Post, was an NABJ baby.

"I can't imagine a more nurturing organization for a young journalist than NABJ," he said. "When I first started attending conferences, I was 18 - young, naive and inexperienced. But I found myself surrounded by industry veterans who pushed me to work harder and dream bigger and by other motivated young people who challenged me to keep up.

"...NABJ mentors were the ones making sure my internship applications were filed on time. My fellow NABJ students were the ones fielding my late night phone calls so I could rant about the latest difficulties of the school paper or the job hunt. There is no job - internship, fellowship or full time - that I've had in my career in which NABJ hasn't played a vital role.

Lowery, who has focused his coverage on police mistreatment of black Americans, praised those who helped nurture his talent.

"... Who I am as a reporter and the stories I seek to tell are driven chiefly by lessons learned and wisdom imparted while I've been sitting in NABJ conference sessions and standing around the hotel bar, laughing late into the night during a convention. For anyone who doesn't understand just how vital NABJ has been, it need only look to current journalists who all got their start with NABJ mentors."

Indeed, NABJ's crowning achievements, the notes in its sympony (to borrow a metaphor from "Mr. Holland's Opus) are the journalists it has nurtured over four decades. Those babies will gather with veterans and industry leaders alike at the very hotel where it all began to participate in a joint conference with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

Not only will NABJ celebrate its future and those who will tell the stories to come, but it will commemorate its past and honor leaders such as Stone, who died in 2014 and whom Davis said is the reason NABJ still thrives.

"Chuck made sure," she said. "I gotta tell you, he was a full time columnist, but he also was a full-time president of NABJ."

That appears to be true as well for Glover, the current president, as the board helps restructures the organization, return to a transparency in day-to-day operations and doing what Chuck Stone did – make sure NABJ continues to exist, and not just exist but to thrive.

And the greatest work NABJ does happens during its annual convention.

"Our goal is to deliver programming that examines innovative storytelling in 21st century," said Convention Chair Elise Durham, who is Assistant Vice President of Communications at Florida A&M University. "From sharing new techniques to looking at how diversity continues to shape corporate bottom lines, we want to present programming that empowers, enlightens and energizes our members."

This year's convention also will be an historic first for NABJ and NAHJ.

"We are excited about partnering with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists to present NABJNAHJ16: One Mission Driving Innovation," Durham said. "Not only will this historic convention take place in the nation's capitol during a presidential election, but the first time in years, NABJ also will celebrate our Hall of Fame inductees.

NABJ also will induct several journalists into the Hall, whose past inductees include Bernard Shaw, Ed Bradley, Betty Baye, Gwen Ifill and Mervin Ausbespin, a Hall of Famer who is a retired editor of *The Courier-Journal* in

Louisville, Ky.

Aubespin attended his first convention, NABJ's second, in Baltimore. He said he is as excited now as he was then about the organization he loves.

"I am quite proud of NABJ," he said. "It has stayed together and kept its focus all these years. It has always been about jobs and promotions and moving forward, and as a result, much of the industry has people who look like us.

"We bring a wonderful bit of history and a look at things from the other side," he said. "NABJ also has lasted as long as it has and developed new leaders because, for some of us, the first time we got a chance to show what we could do is when we stepped into leadership positions in that organization, and the industry began to take notice. I am one of those."

The joint NABJ/NAHJ convention will open on Wednesday, August 4 and conclude on Sunday, August 9 – with a plethora of training sessions and social events in between.

Highlights will include:

- A major plenary on the U.S. presidential campaign, where current candidates have been invited to speak 90 days before the election;
- A showcase of the latest technology and tools that journalists and other media professionals can use to achieve success in their chosen roles;
- A social media campaign akin to Twit-

- ter's popular #ThrowbackThursday that will urge members to post past pictures of themselves at previous NABJ conventions so people can see how much everyone has changed – or not; and
- The Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

And Davis, who stumbled into that first meeting 40 years ago?

"I am immensely proud of being a part of the founding of the organization and whatever I brought to the table," she said. "The annual convention, I'm thinking is a place where I feel so very validated."

That, more than anything, is why NABJ is the best thing that ever happened to many black journalists: It gave us much needed validation, strength and support. It also trained many of us for jobs.

That need – and efforts to fill it - will never fade. Neither will NABJ.

Rochelle Riley is a columnist at the Detroit Free Press and past president of NABJ chapters in Washington, D.C., Louisville, Ky and Dallas, Tx. A leader of the NABJ Student Projects for 20 years, she now is co-chair of the NABJ Global Journalism Task Force, a member of the NABJ Digital Task Force and a member of the NABJ40 planning committee. Contact her at rriley99@ freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter @rochelleriley.





NABJ looks at how newspapers across the country are adapting to the new digital world order.

#### By Deon J. Hampton

Newspaper newsrooms nationwide are using metrics and data analysis to determine story impact as well as embracing digital and "mobile, first" approaches in the latest attempt to present content that meet the growing demands of readers.

What remains to be seen, however, is if the new measures will stabilized an industry in a downward spiral.

Jeff Sonderman, the deputy director of Arlington, Virginia-based American Press Institute, says his organization is using a metric system in conjunction with 60 other papers to study audiences.

While declining to say which newspaper or newspaper chains are involved, he noted the system will also help understand what stories are being read and why.

It's a new trend Sonderman expects to hit most newsrooms in the next few years.

"The data-driven, analytics approach aims to help papers track topics, enterprise and a variety of other stories," he said.

The decline and possible demise of the

newspaper industry has been a harsh reality for journalists for more than a decade.

Many newspaper organizations have experimented in a variety of ways to hold on to dwindling advertising dollars, which pay for newspapers to be printed, however, most have resorted to reducing staff as a cost-saving measure.

The Gannett Company, a media giant which owns newspapers such as the *USA Today*, *Detroit Free Press* and *Asbury Park Press* in New Jersey, is steering its newsroom organizations toward attracting broader readers in every way.

"We're changing at the speed of light with new ways of coverage," said Hollis Towns, vice-president of news of Gannett New Jersey and editor of the *Asbury Park Press*. "Everyone is looking for an edge that will allow a strong audience that will continue to grow."

For example, his sports department has created the highly successful Red Zone Road Show, a high school football show similar to ESPN's College GameDay which has help grow mobile traffic.

Each week during the football season, a panel of reporters interview an athlete in real time before the game.

But as newspapers continue to print the pages, experts believe the role of reporters and newsrooms overall will continue evolving in the not so distant future.

Sonderman envisions newsrooms having

up to five teams of "Franchise Topics" where reporters closely work with graphic artists, web designers, producers and photographers to create a stronghold on a specific beat.

Newsrooms will also hire more data scientists, dive more into advanced analytics researching what stories are popular, when they were most read, and on what day of the week.

"Mobile advertisement will continue to grow business and people, but will newspapers be able to capitalize on the growing market," Sonderman questioned, noting cell phone users are currently adding software to block advertisements

The loss of advertising revenue has largely been the cause of industry job losses across the country.

The Trib Total Media, which publishes the Pittsburg Tribune-Review and other smaller papers, plans to lay off 153 workers by Christmas.

The Boston Globe has laid off about two dozen full-time and part-time employees with an additional 17 workers accepting buyouts.

Several *New York Daily News* employees were let go during a newsroom restructuring in September.

And in seven years, the number of newspaper reporters across the country will drop 13 percent, according to CareerCast.

Declining revenue and newspaper readers preferring to have their content and information quickly provided online and to them via



mobile devices have forced news outlets to rethink how to present news.

At the *Star Ledger* newspaper in New Jersey, reporters must now reach at least one million online readers per month or risk being terminated, according to former staff workers.

Photographers have it even worse as picture galleries are expected to have two million page views.

Critics say the move encourages reporters and photographers to write more about animals and crime, subjects more likely to be seen by many readers, rather than digging deep to produce stronger content.

But the institute doesn't believe the initiative to gain readership is viable.

"It's not going to work. Not every story will engage every reader. You need a strategic analysis of each area over a six-month span," Sonderman said. "Some stories will naturally be read by a high volume of readers."

He added, "Journalists need their metrics and metrics that don't tell you what to do aren't that helpful."

The race to breaking a story has become nearly as important for newspapers reaching for broader audiences as search engine Google refers online readers to the first trusted news site

Even a one-sentence paragraph confirming a breaking report is enough to potentially draw

tens of thousands of unique visitors, or online lurkers who wouldn't have otherwise read that paper's website.

The way news is broken in newsrooms has also changed.

Last summer, a *Washington Post* intern was credited with breaking a national story on social media when he wrote "The New York Stock Exchange has halted trading on all stocks," on his Twitter account.

Marquette journalism professor and former National Association of Black Journalists President Herbert Lowe has been teaching his students -- the future leaders of the print industry – about the ever-changing landscape of journalism.

"An assignment isn't done when the story is published. The assignment is done when the story is shared socially," he said, referring to marketing stories on social media.

But he warns students are thinking less of working at destination newspapers, once a highly sought after dream, instead eyeing legacy news organizations.

"Students don't want to hear about working at a newspaper," Lowe said.

"They see themselves telling stories, making a difference, and not being limited to a newspaper newsrooms."

Being able to write and publish at any time and the blurred lines between newspapers and

broadcasts are becoming nonexistent, he said. But there is good news on the horizon.

"News audiences are more engaged, reading more news than ever. "That's largely encouraging. The public wants news," Sonderman said.

Industry insiders say some newspapers may turn to hosting or sponsoring events for subscribers in hopes of connecting to the community to increase readership.

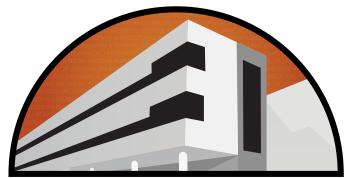
However, midsized and large papers will have it harder because people commute in and out of the city and may not be vested.

"You need to be indispensable," Sonderman said, before adding young reporters need to build equipped to create apps and be well versed in how programming works.

Towns contends newspapers must adopt a digital lifestyle because people can't live without their phones.

"There's a transition in which news organizations are moving away from the printed product. Many papers didn't embrace it at first, but the future is mobile," Towns said. "It's rare to see someone without their cell phones."

Deon Hampton, a Langston University graduate, is a longtime member of NABJ. He is presently a reporter for Newsday in New York.



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Jason Miccolo Johnson's photograph of PBS anchor Gwen Ifill presents the 2009 NABJ Journalist of the Year award to Michelle Norris of NPR.

# VIEWING NABJ HISTORY FROM BEHIND THE LENS

#### By MARSHALL A. LATIMORE

The name Jason Miccolo Johnson may not be the most recognizable in NABJ circles. Yet, the veteran photographer has been a visible presence since 1990, capturing many of the organization's most memorable moments as the official convention photographer.

An award-winning national photojournalist who has been employed by USA Today, ABC News and "Good Morning America," Johnson has captured exclusive photos of some of the world's most recognizable people.

His work has taken him to the White House, the U.S. Supreme Court, two Olympics and five presidential inaugurations. He has photographed the last six U.S. presidents and more than 15 heads of state. Further, Johnson's images have also appeared in 30 books, more than 60 magazines and numerous national newspapers.

In addition to preparing for this year's annual convention in Minneapolis, Johnson is finishing his latest book, "Legends of our Lifetime: 100 Black Men Who Influenced America." The NABJ Journal caught up with Johnson about his 25 years as NABJ's convention photographer and some of his favorite moments over the years.

#### How would you describe your time in the role?

It's been very exciting, fulfilling, and unpredictable. Each convention venue has it's unique set of challenges and opportunities to make memorable images. I have grown every year as the organization has grown.

When I first started covering the convention, there were only about five workshops running concurrently throughout each day. Now it's close to 15. We've gone from black and white film to digital color images. But over the years, it's the relationships formed that make the conventions special. Every year is like a family reunion at the convention. I have enjoyed getting to know, and learning from, each new president, executive director, staffer, and board member. And it's been fun to photograph and watch so many student journalists over the last 25 years, develop into seasoned pros



and become mentors to the next generation of student journalists.

#### What are some of the most interesting moments that you can remember?

Photographing some of the world's top fashion models - including a young Naomi Campbell - on the runway at the 1989 convention in New York during a tribute to black designers and models, taking a group shot of 14 African American Pulitzer Prize winners at the Hall of Fame dinner in 1990, photographing presidential candidate Barack Obama meeting with members of The William Monroe Trotter Group, and the 2007 NABJ Lifetime Achievement acceptance speech given by former CNN correspondent, Bernard Shaw.

#### Is there one distinctive moment that stands out as your favorite to have captured?

No, not one moment in particular, but I am quite fond of a photo of Ed Bradley was watching a video presentation of his career being played.

#### How important do you think your role is in recording the living history of NABJ?

Extremely important! I think I have the most comprehensive set of photographs of NABJ history of any photographer. Also, I

bring consistency and institutional memory to the job and have always been known for being a self-starter and well-organized.

#### How do you find the perfect shot?

The same way you find the perfect mate - be patient, stay alert, know what you want -- and hope that your timing is right.

#### How long have you been shooting?

I actually started my career nine months before the NABJ was founded.

Where has your career in photography taken

Everywhere I've always wanted to go and to places I never imagined! I have photographed or exhibited on five continents, documented Cuba and Sudan, worked two Olympics, contributed photos to 30 books and over 60 magazines, produced two national traveling exhibitions

and a coffee table book, and now have 50 of the photos from that same book in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution. And, I've been fortunate enough to have done assignments at the White House, the

> Supreme Court, and on Capitol Hill, all as a freelance photographer. My photography career continues to

give me the opportunity to be an eyewitness to history and to record that history with a conscious lens.

#### What is your most proud moment as a visual journalist?

Actually there's three moments that I'm most proud: Organizing a 90th birthday tribute to Gordon Parks that brought together 90 of the country's top African American photographers to honor him, meeting Nelson Mandela for the first time, and getting my first book — Soul

Sanctuary: Images of the African American Worship Experience — published

by Time Warner with the foreword written by Gordon Parks.



# STUART SCOTT GAME CHANGER

#### By MICHAEL EAVES

tuart and I first met at the 1997 NABJ convention in Chicago. It was the first one I attended. We met on the floor of the job fair and made a connection over golf after I saw him practicing his swing while standing in the aisle. For the next several years, we would also play golf at the convention, oftentimes arriving in the host city a few days early just to play. Our last round came in Philadelphia in 2011 when we played Merion Country Club. It would host the US Open two years later. We talked about that the entire round.

Stuart was seven years older than me and our birthdays are just one day a part. July 19th for him and July 20th for me. With us being so close in age, we shared some of the same experiences and cultural references. We listened to the same music and watched the same movies. As a result, there were some similarities in our approach to doing sports on television. What Stuart brought to ESPN was similar to what I was trying to bring to my audiences in Lexington, Ky., followed by Memphis, Tenn., and then later Los Angeles.

Again, I was trying. He had mastered it.

Stuart represented an entire generation of sports fans and sports journalists who watched games through a different prism--a prism shaped by non-mainstream experiences. And because he refused to change his style

or approach--even when so many critics tried to shame him into doing it--the industry eventually realized how valuable that audience was. He was truly one of the most influential sports personalities in the last 20 years.

As far as the critics are concerned, here's what they always missed. He was really good at his job. Like stupid good!

People would tend to get caught up in the catchphrases as a reason to say he wasn't a good anchor. If they actually listened to him, they would realize that he was one of the best broadcasters of all time. Think about it - how many times do you ever remember him making a mistake on the air? Even the best of the best flub a word here or there. Do you ever remember Stuart doing that?

Also, every time he read a highlight, he always gave you pertinent information to the game. In between every "booyah" and "as cool as the other side of the pillow" was a stat or fact that gave the highlight context and told you why it mattered. That's broadcasting. And Stuart was a true pro.

I could go on forever about my friend and his positive, joyful approach to life--even in the face of the cancer that was ravaging his body. Most people will remember him for his game-changing work on TV, and they should. But I will mostly remember him for his appreciation for life and his unwillingness to never give in or give up.







Michel du Cille 2015 NABJ Lifetime Achievement Honoree

His impact on scores of photojournalists like me and readers reminds us why visual journalism helps to ensure the public's trust.

## THE VISUALIST

#### Reflections of a journalist who captured images and gave his heart

By SARAH GLOVER

he Ebola story criss-crossed the globe and came home to our living rooms via news reports showing the latest quarantines and body counts. You've seen the powerful images that depict West African communities grappling with the ravaging effects of the disease.

We've lost one of the Ebola story's primary documentarians, and a mentor of mine, with the death of *Washington Post* photographer Michel du Cille while on assignment in Liberia.

Du Cille suffered an apparent heart attack just days after he returned from a four-week vacation to continue photographing the virus' impact at ground zero, according to *Post* executive editor Martin Baron.

I first learned of du Cille's tragic passing on Facebook.

Shock went through me when I read the *Washington Post* link telling us the 58-year-old had died.

"Deep in my heart and soul I know that Michel died doing what he loved! Giving voice to a story he felt compelled to do with all HIS heart and soul. It doesn't make this any easier but it is what I will cling to as I mourn the love of my life," wrote his wife Nikki Kahn, also a *Post* photographer.

Kahn shared a photo of du Cille waving goodbye to her the last time he departed for Liberia.

The three-time Pulitzer Prize winner was a journalism giant, one of those people who you wish in your wildest dreams you might get to meet and work with.

His photos of crack cocaine addicts at a Miami housing project scored him his second Pulitzer in 1988 while working at the *Miami Herald*. I was in awe the first time I viewed his images as a photojournalism student at Syracuse University more than 20 years ago.

How did he have the presence of mind to click his camera and capture marquee moments in such stressful situations?

That was a skill I desired to learn as I studied the great modern photojournalists.

As an up-and-coming photojournalist in the '90s, I scored the internship of my dreams when the *Washington Post* hired me for the summer of 1996, giving me the opportunity to work with du Cille, Dudley Brooks, Michael Williamson, Carol Guzy, Joseph Elbert and dozens of other photographers I admired.

Du Cille was a fixture at the *Post* light table, poring over oodles and oodles of color film with his loupe. This was before digital cameras, smartphones and instant posting to social portals, requiring a discussion with a picture editor as part

of your workflow.

This was during an era when visual journalism and photojournalism was hailed at newspapers and the staff size reflected that. Today, U.S. newspapers are staffed with reporters carrying iPhones, and the downsized photo departments are so small you can often count the number of photographers on two hands, or less.

Serious, pensive and quiet was du Cille's picture editing style.

I can't lie. I was scared of a Michel du Cille edit. He was tough and difficult to read.

Du Cille was fond of an image I took that summer of a black ballet dancer whipping across the dance floor. The horizon line was tilted, and I wasn't sure he'd like that, but he did. I talked with him about how I had lain on the ground awkwardly, almost up-skirting the dancer to capture the moment. I must have shot two rolls of film or 72 frames just to get the right moment, which was turned into a *Post* promotional mouse pad.

I knew du Cille always viewed me as a kid, but three years after the internship, I became one of his counterparts as a staff photographer at the Philadelphia Inquirer.

I saw du Cille over the years at photo workshops and conventions, such as the annual National Association of Black Journalists gathering. It was a treat to reconnect and hear him tell the story of how he made his images that year. He returned to shooting full-time in 2012.

Du Cille's Ebola images grace the National Press Photographer Association's News Photographer magazine as the October cover story.

I studied those photos standing at a post office table, just moments after fetching it from my post office box. As I stood there, I said to myself: This man is going to win his fourth Pulitzer Prize.

One image shows a body being loaded into a pickup truck, with an Ebola awareness poster nearby that says, "Always wash your hands." And there's another of workers covered head-to-toe in white protective gear carrying a body bag as they walk by a clothes line full of children's clothing.

But my favorite is a double-truck image of women rejoicing with multi-colored umbrellas as a nurse was released from an Ebola treatment center after recovering from the virus.

Du Cille brought a human perspective to the ravaging impacts of the virus with his images, and he fought to do so till his last breath.

His impact on scores of photojournalists like me and readers reminds us why visual journalism helps to ensure the public's trust.

We need visual soldiers who are willing to fight to document the story just like du Cille did.



Bryan Burwell 2015 NABJ Legacy Award Honoree

As the industry evolved, so did Bryan.
When the PostDispatch wanted to jump into the digital
TV fray, it turned to him. They built him a studio, but it couldn't confine him.

## THE KING OF ST. LOUIS

#### His competitive nature drove him to excellence

#### By ROY S. JOHNSON



few summers ago (okay, more than a few), well before families and jobs took us along divergent paths, Bryan Burwell and I decided to chill in Jamaica-- the island, not Queens – for a few days

during the NBA offseason. It was one of those all-in-one, food-and-fun packages that attracted people from anywhere and everywhere, all looking to, well, live life.

We definitely did our part – and that's all I'll say about that!

At the time we both worked in New York as beat reporters covering the New Jersey Nets; I was at *The Times*, he worked for the *Daily News*.

We were competitors, no doubt. But friends. Always friends, even when career opportunities might have pitted us against each other or when new jobs took us on to new cities, new challenges.

Each time we saw each other over the years – on the road, at NABJ conventions – we laughed about Jamaica, and Bryan flashed that signature grin.

In 2002, before he accepted the position as columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Bryan called me to talk it through. We both had big dreams. Sports television was still maturing. Broadcast and cable networks were reaching out to print journalists for our expertise and

Bryan and I both aspired to be on-air talent. We both appeared on numerous shows; Bryan worked as a correspondent for HBO's "Inside the NFL" and also appeared on CBS Sports.

Leaving New York for the Midwest might end those opportunities, he feared. But there were still few African-American columnists in 2002, still few black men with strong voices covering the fields where black men dominate, or the issues still confronted by African Americans, Latinos, women and others in sports.

We talked it over for awhile, then I finally said: "Go conquer St, Louis. Go own that town!"

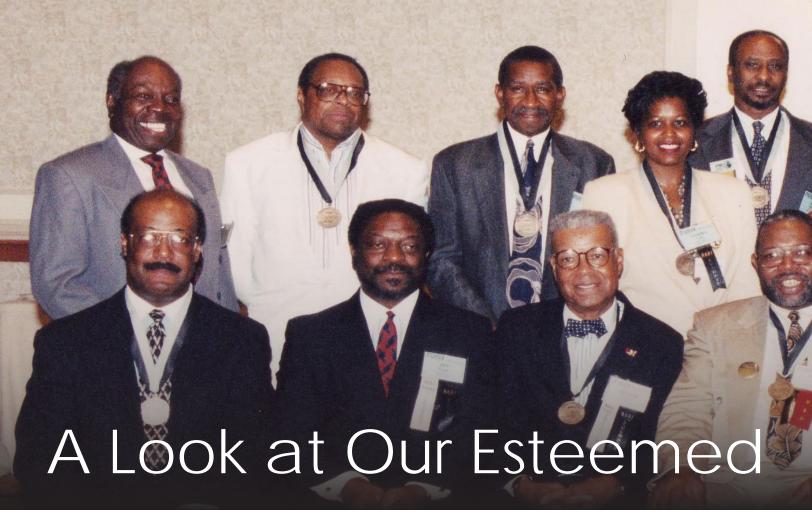
As the industry evolved, so did Bryan. When the *Post-Dispatch* wanted to jump into the digital TV fray, it turned to him. They built him a studio, but it couldn't confine him. He scored interviews with top athletes all over the country, many of whom adored him, many of whom "hated"...but still respected him. In time, and not surprisingly, "Upon Further Review" was recognized and nominated for awards.

A true renaissance journalist, he also recently authored John Madden's biography.

When I learned on the morning of December 5th (via Twitter, of course) that Bryan had lost his short, yet valiant battle with cancer, it took my breath away, and I grieved.

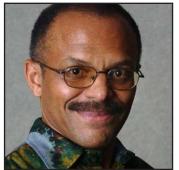
But after a few moments, I thought of Jamaica, I thought of that smile, and I thought of how indeed my brother went on to own St. Louis.

Bryan Burwell, my friend, lived life indeed.





Sandra Dillard learned early that diversity was needed in news coverage. As a 12-year-old, she represented Colorado and Wyoming in the National Spelling Bee. A reporter from the *Rocky* Mountain News left her and a white female contestant at a movie house which ended up telling Dillard she was not welcome inside. The two walked back to their hotel. Once she ran into her chaperone, the Rocky Mountain News reporter, she told the reporter the issue was something in need of telling. The reporter disagreed, deciding instead to write about the number of stairs in the Washington Monument. "That's when I suspected a whole lot of news was being missed," she said.



Joe Davidson was working as a reporter for *The Philadelphia Bulletin* when word went out about the meeting in D.C. At the time, he said, there were so few black journalists they hoped coming together would help with efforts to recruit others into the industry.

Davidson, now a columnist for *The Washington Post*, said the mission was to grow the number of black journalists. "At the time, I'm not sure any of us realized how big NABI would become." he said.

"When we had the first meeting and the first conference, we were just trying to get (NABJ) to grow, with no expectation of how it would grow. We certainly had no indication. It's amazing how much the organization has grown."



Part of a three-anchor format in a revamped ABC's "World News Tonight" in 1978, *Max Robinson* became the first black man to anchor a nightly news broadcast. Robinson anchored from Chicago, Peter Jennings would anchor from London and Frank Reynolds would lead anchor from Washington, D.C. Comics would parody the trio and how they threw stories to one another.

He was also became the first black anchor on a local news broadcast when he joined WTOP in 1969. During his tenure, he became part of the story when Hanafi Muslims took hostages at B'nai B'rith, giving him their demands over the phone on air.

Robinson, who would spend nearly 30 years in the television industry, died in December 1988 at age 49.



The letter inviting black journalists to Washington D.C. was written on stationery of Eddie N. Williams. It only invited them to cover a meeting of black electeds. *Paul Brock* said he wrote the note. It wasn't all excitement when people realized why they had been summoned.

"I remember a lot of very nervous people being in there," Brock said. "It could be their job is it was found out."

He wouldn't watch from the outside, either. Upon realizing they had just put in place the workings of an organization Brock could not join, he said Paul Delaney, followed by Chuck Stone, noted the situation and decided he would be the group's founding executive director, a position he held two year.

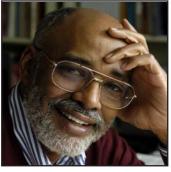




Sandra Gilliam-Beale, not a journalist by trade, was in Washington D.C., for another convention when she was led to the meeting where NABJ was started, Paul Brock said.

Chosen to be the group's first treasurer, she went back to her job at WHIO-TV letting them know the news. "They said, 'Do you want to be their treasurer, or do you want your job?," Brock said. "A lot of people didn't like what we were doing (starting NABJ)."

Instead, she became the group's Midwest region director until November 1976, around the time she left the industry for good.



According to a news article in the Champaign-Urbana newspaper, the (Illinois) News-Gazette, *Leon Dash* has spent nearly 18 years teaching people how to write rather than writing, himself. Dash has been teaching at the University of Illinois since 1998, including six years leading the university's Center for Advanced Studies.

He's not slowing down anytime soon. Dash spent about three decades with the Washington Post, writing about the conflict in Angola in the early '70s and stateside about poverty, drugs and crime, on which he won a Pulitzer Prize for an eight-part series chronicling the lives of one family.

In 2015, the newspaper wrote, Dash was working on another research project.



Claudia Polley's broadcast career took her from NBC News and Sports in New York and Paris and National Public Radio in Washington, D.C. While attending the Juilliard School in New York, she worked for NBC as a production assistant in 1970. She would come back to work for NBC again just as the network was preparing to launch its news radio service in 1975 as sports director for WNBC-AM and WNWS-FM in New York. Before returning to NBC Polley worked for WNTS, a news and talk radio station in Indianapolis from fall 1974 to May of the following year. She would also go on to work for WTLC in Indianapolis in the 1980s. Soon after being elected treasurer, Polley would resign to pursue a singing opportunity.



NABJ Founder *Pluria Marshall*, Sr., not only worked to increase media exposure and opportunities for black journalists but also to improve the government's protection of civil rights for people across the country.

Marshall was appointed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an independent advisory board created in 1957 that was left with the task to investigate and report on to what extent the government protected citizens' civil rights.

Marshall served as the official photographer for NABJ and free-lanced for major publications, including *Jet* and *Ebony* magazines.

In addition to his work with NABJ, Marshall established the National Black Media Coalition in 1973.



# CONGRATULATIONS

To the National Association of Black Journalists for 40 years of service to journalism and your continuing advocacy for black journalists worldwide.

The Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland is proud that you call Knight Hall your home and looks forward to working with you and our student MABJ chapter for another 40 years!



At the marking of the 20th anniversary of NABJ's founding in Philadelphia, A. Pierre Poinsett Sr. said his father, Founder Alex **Poinsett**, like the other founders, received a medallion and plaque commemorating the moment. They've remained on display since that convention, the younger Poinsett said, because of his father's pride for being part of the organization's start.

"I remember how proud he was to receive the accolades from peers and proteges alike," he said.

The elder Poinsett himself wrote about the founding of NABJ in an unpublished memoir, "A Half Century Chase of Five W's and an H," while lamenting how much progress the minority presence in newsrooms had made.

"In the spirit of black power, I was privileged to be one of 44 co-founders of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), organized in December of 1975 to strengthen my ties among African-American journalists, advocate for better media coverage of black communities, issues and concerns and promote diversity in newsrooms," Poinsett wrote. "In April 2005, NABJ reported that there were only 34 more black journalists working at U.S. daily newspapers compared to five years earlier -- still another sign of the industry's stagnation in hiring and retaining journalists of color."



Breaking into journalism usually requires this rule of thumb: go to college, do an internship and then after graduation, apply for an editorial job. But can you imagine working as a janitor for a daily paper making \$40 a week AFTER you've graduated?

That was the path NABJ Founder Francis Ward took in the early years of his career. Ward, an Atlanta native and Morehouse graduate, worked in that capacity for the Atlanta Daily World.

Within five months, Ward was later promoted to proofreader and got a raise of \$4, bringing his salary to \$44 week. He was also able to write articles. Ward later left to get a master's degree in journalism from Syracuse University and briefly worked as a social worker before heading to Chicago to work for Jet Magazine as a feature writer. After being promoted to *Ebony*, Ward was hired for the Chicago Sun Times.

Ward, 80, is now retired and doesn't think much about the state of journalism today because the print and broadcast outlets "are owned by multi-national corporations who put too much emphasis on fluff and not serious news coverage." As for his humble beginnings and early janitorial duties? ""I don't regret doing it," he said. "That's what I needed to do to get my foot in the door."



Born in Montgomery, Alabama, NABJ Founder Paul Delaney attended Ohio State University, where he received his B..A. degree in journalism in 1958. After being rejected for jobs by 50 daily newspapers, he landed at the Atlanta Daily World in 1959, where he covered prominent events of the Civil Rights Movement and politics.

From there, Delaney worked for news publications including the Dayton Daily News in Ohio, the Washington Star in Washington, D.C., the New York Times' Washington, D.C. bureau and the Chicago bureau of the New York Times. He also served as the Times' bureau chief in Madrid, Spain, spending the next 23 years there as an editor and correspondent.

From 1992 to 1996, Delaney served as the first African-American chair of the University of Alabama's journalism department. He was editor of the editorial page of Our World News from 1996 to 1998 and wrote editorials for the Baltimore Sun from 1999 to 2000.

In 2010, Delaney was awarded the NABI Lifetime Achievement Award for his extraordinary contribution to the enrichment, understanding and advancement of black life and culture. Today he is honored for his historical works and roles of leadership as a journalist, humanitarian, scholar and activist.



Founder Edward Blackwell never planned to be a journalist. While studying political science student at the University of Minnesota, he fell into the field. "I never thought of myself as a journalist. Next thing I knew, I was doing it," Blackwell said.

With no formal journalism training and never finishing his political science degree, Blackwell began his career in the 1940s at a longshoreman's newspaper in Seattle. He then moved to the blackowned Minneapolis Spokesman.

When he joined *The Milwaukee* Journal in 1963, he was tasked with covering the Civil Rights Movement. Blackwell said this is when newspapers started hiring black reporters to be their eyes and ears. "I was an expert on riot coverage. I knew what the police or demonstrators would do," Blackwell said.

Blackwell said media coverage of issues among African Americans has waned as many editors seemed to see it as a phase. "There was more impact from the business side of newspapers. In Chicago, advertising departments realized there were tens of thousands of black middle class families. They would sponsor Urban League conventions," Blackwell said. He said he left The Milwaukee Journal in 1978, he felt like he was just spinning his tires in the mud.



It was by chance that Jeannye **Thornton** entered the world of iournalism.

She says it started when her former (white) high school teacher tried to dissuade her aspirations of being a doctor, believing that journalism was a more realistic dream for a black college woman.

"Oh no, that's what you should be," Thornton said her former teacher told her in a 1990 interview. "I thought she was trying to put me down?

At the time, Thornton was a pre-med student at Ohio State University, but was considered a talented editor who oversaw the yearbook in high school.

Thornton, a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists, balked at journalism, feeling she was destined to practice medicine.

"I never knew a black journalist and nobody pushed that idea," she

Despite not agreeing with what the teacher told her, journalism, and possibly fate, intervened.

Her first job in the industry came at The Chicago Tribune in

The temporary job became permanent. "Journalism found me," said

Thornton, NABJ's first secretary. The career switch paid off.

Thornton became the first black woman journalist for the U.S. News and World Report four years later, making her a trailblazer.

But her achievements didn't come without criticism from her peers as many wondered why she and others in her position opted to join white main stream media organizations instead of sticking with black publications which were vastly losing it circulations during the 1960s and 1970s.

"It was a cross black journalists had to bear," Thornton said.



A Pulitzer Prize judge in 1986, 1987, 2002 and 2003, renowned publisher and NABJ Founder *W. Curtis Riddle* has been an important figure in media working mostly at news publications in Delaware, Maryland and Washington D.C.

A graduate of Southern Illinois University, Riddle first worked in the Del.-Md.-Va. region as a news reporter at *The Baltimore Sun*. There he held numerous positions such as assistant city editor, night metro editor, counties editor, and as a reporter in *The Sun*'s Washington Bureau.

Riddle departed from *The Sun* to become one of the founding editors and leading African Americans in the USA Today newsroom. It was there where he served as deputy managing editor of sports in 1982. Riddle then served as managing editor and special assistant to the publisher at *The Cincinnati Enquirer* before becoming publisher of *the Journal and Courier* in Lafayette, Ind., in 1988.

"I was a 24-year-old journalist, just out of journalism school, when I walked into his office as managing editor in Cincinnati," said Ronnie Agnew, executive director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting to the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association Inc.

Gannett Co., Inc. was not mistaken in seeing the talent Riddle possessed. For this he was appointed to lead various papers as publisher, later becoming Gannett's East Group president.

As Gannett's East Group president, Biddle supervised 18 newspapers, from Asheville, N.C. to Wilmington, Del., where he served as president and publisher, up the northeast to Burlington, Vt.

"He was as methodical and thoughtful then as he is today," Agnew said. "But you can't mistake that soft-spoken approach for a lack of passion."

After serving more than 40 years in the business, Biddle retired from Gannett as Publisher of the *New Journal* in Wilmington, Del.



In 1994, NBC "Today" show co-hosts Bryant Gumbel and Katie Couric were on the set discussing a mysterious new phenomenon. "Allison," Couric said in the direction of some people behind the camera, "can you explain what the Internet is?" Allison Davis was Couric and Gumbel's longtime "Today" producer since the 1980s. Davis' interest in public affairs and news was influenced by her father Walter Davis, a labor leader and first deputy executive director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Allison Davis also said in the 1960s, when civil rights was a leading story, watching network news at dinner time was a family ritual.

Before "Today" and producing at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, Davis began her career at then-NBC affiliate WBZ-TV Boston. When she traveled to Washington in 1975 to cover a black elected official's conference, afterward she – the second youngest co-founder – was elected the first parliamentarian of NABJ.

As the primary writer of the organization's first constitution, Davis fondly recalled founding President Chuck Stone as the "mad memo writer" who pounded out numerous communiqués in that pre-digital era of manual typewriters and rotary, land line telephones.

Davis, 62, told Wayne Dawkins she took a break from NABJ for about a decade and was supportive, but not very engaged. During the last half-dozen years, she is a fixture inside the convention week Student Media Project newsroom, where she coaches emerging journalists.

About Couric's question and that quaint moment in 1994?: Davis, a self-identifying tech geek, told the Washington Post this year that she had been dabbling in the Internet since the 1980s. Before she could answer Couric, Gumbel repeatedly interrupted her. "Don't ask her," said the co-host. "She can't say anything in less than 10 seconds."



Sam Ford of WJLA-TV, Washington is a native of Kansas who launched his career in Minnesota. While in graduate school he was both a reporter/anchor for Minnesota Public Radio and a stringer for a black weekly The Twin Cities Observer, owned by Jeanne Cooper, a Republican Party activist. Ford was later hired by CBS affiliate WCCO-TV Minneapolis-St. Paul.

In December 1975 the station chairman dispatched Ford to travel to Washington, D.C. and observe a conference of black elected officials. He was among the rare black journalists working in so-called white-owned media invited by a steering committee of seasoned black journalists and media professionals to attempt to establish a national association of black journalists. Ford, selected as Midwest regional director by his colleagues, is the youngest NABJ founder.

At WCCO, Ford's reporting brought to justice a kidnapper/rapist/murderer of a teenage girl.

In another incident, Ford told me last summer, he was arrested for having an overdue parking ticket. A call to police in which Ford scolded the authorities for dismissing a neighbor's service call escalated into a humiliating public handcuffing. The judge dismissed the charge against Ford, and then a police department deputy chief told him that his run-in was partly responsible for a policy change that no longer made overdue parking tickets an arrestable offense. In a similar dispute, said the police official, the son of the local NAACP chapter president was about to be arrested for an alleged parking ticket offense and the young man died in police custody. Facts revealed the sibling of the suspect was in violation.

After WCCO-TV, Ford was CBS News correspondent and after nine years of network-level reporting in New York, Atlanta and Washington, he has been with ABC affiliate WJLA-TV since 1987.



Oona'o was the birth name of this NABJ co-founder. "I hated my first name as a child," she told Wayne Dawkins in July 2007 when he succeeded in finding the living founder who was missing in action for 16 years after he was able to confirm all 44 founders in 1991.

Carole Bartel, assistant editor with CORE magazine – professionally, she used her middle name as the first – was the 35th of 44 NABJ signees. Later in life Haynes, 67, embraced her birth name. Also, because of marriage, she self-identified as Oona'o Haynes. During a renewed online search, he "found" Haynes thanks to the book, "African American Women Writers of New Jersey, 1836-2000: A Biographical Dictionary and Bibliographical Guide," by Sibyl E. Moses.

The missing founder was introduced to members in the winter 2007-2008 NABJ Journal.

In 1972, Haynes was a journalist with the Essex, N.J. Forum, a black biweekly publication. She joined the Congress of Racial Equality magazine in the mid-'70s [CORE's archives were destroyed in a fire, however he found copies of Carole Bartel's work at New York's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture]. She did public relations work for the Newark Municipal Council during the administration of that city's first black mayor, Kenneth Gibson.

Bartel married Reginald Haynes, lead singer of R&B group The Escorts. He allegedly robbed a men's clothing store of \$117 and three pairs of pants and was then sent to prison. In 1979, Mrs. Haynes published the crusading book, "I Call Him Reggie, They Call Him #59746." She said 20,000 copies of the book were sold, aided by inmates who typed the manuscript. Reggie Haynes served seven years of the 19-year sentence.



Toni Jones found herself sitting inside the founding meeting of the National Association of Black Journalists as a result of the influence of her friend and fellow founder Charlotte Roy of the Detroit Free Press.

"In my opinion, the organization has surpassed the vision we had in the early years, even with the bumps along the way," Jones said.

Prior to attending that historic meeting in Washington, Jones had graduated from Wayne State University and moved to New York with no job prospects but a desire to make a life for herself in the Big Apple. She was hired by Time Life as an editorial assistant in the book division. In 1971, she returned to her hometown of Detroit and was hired as a reporter by the Free Press.

She also worked in radio for the Elgin Baylor show and as a writer and producer at WABC-TV and WNEW-TV in New York City. Jones went on to own her own business, specializing in advertising, marketing and publishing for two decades. Looking back, Jones advises journalists and media professionals today to resist the temptation to write salaciously for the sake of ratings or increased readership.

"Know the difference between editorializing and presenting a balanced account. The public deserves to receive information in an unbiased presentation of the facts. The polarization of our country is being fueled, in part, by untruths and mistruths that are presented in the media as facts," Jones said.

And the advice Jones would give to her younger self — Go for it. Don't be afraid to soar.



While we celebrate the 44 signers who comprise NABJ's notable founders, we may not know that there were others in the room. What happened with them?

According to *Richard Rambeau*, who did sign, there was much discussion about the qualifications and commitment of the others. He was quite vocal about the need for a strong presence in light of all that was happening in journalism and the lack of Black representation.

He felt that any organization that was focused on industry inclusion, should practice the same internally. Rambeau, through his radio and video production work via Project BAIT in Detroit, along with his brother David, has chronicled many of the untold stories within the Black community and the necessity to keep our stories in the forefront.

He continues to compile research about the societal assaults against people of color. He applauds the assertiveness of young people who now have so many tools to showcase the untold stories within the African Diaspora.

While that chant once was, "we do not own anything to tell our stories," Founder Rambeau points out that this era of "smart technology" places the ability to "put truth to power" right in our own hands. He views his role as a voice for the voiceless and advocate for those stories that do not make mainstream media's rosters. While the slogan "Black Lives Matters" was not around in 1975, the fact that we still have to prove it warrants a discussion as to what really has been achieved these last 40 vears.



"I nominated Chuck Stone for president and Vernon Jarret immediately moved to close nominations" is one of the key memories *Charlotte Roy* has of the founding of NABI.

In December 1975, Roy was a reporter for the Detroit Free Press on assignment in Washington to cover a meeting of black elected officials, when she took part in the initial meeting of what was to become NABJ.

She recalls having dinner with Stone and Jarret the night before where "we laughed and joked and talked about doing something" to create the organization. She notes the timing was right as more African American journalists were being employed by mainstream media. Roy, a Fisk University graduate, was already a trailblazer as the first African-American reporter at the Wilmington Morning News before moving to Detroit. While there she made her first of several transitions to public relations. But when her husband took new jobs, her journalism skills were transferable. So began a series of stints at The Buffalo News, Atlanta Iournal, Atlanta Daily World and Gainesville Florida Guardian before returning to Atlanta in 2005. Today she is semi-retired and doing some freelance writing to keep her hand in journalism.

At each job she insisted on including the views of the black community in coverage. Ultimately that led to her being fired aseditor of the *Guardian* when the publisher of the parent *New York Times* paper wanted to curb the independent editorial view Roy championed.

Looking back at the legacy of NABJ and its impact on journalism Roy sums it up simply "I'm proud of us."



"Newsday's not going to send [nine] n----s to that meeting."
But it did and NABJ founder Les Payne made it happen.

The year was 1970 when black reporters, some snatched from urban weeklies, the U.S. Army, mailrooms, or promoted from secretary, joined freshly minted college graduates to cover the riots and unrest sweeping the country.

Newsday reporter Bob DeLeon made the initial request to attend the Lincoln University conference to defend New York Times reporter Earl Caldwell's refusal to testify before a federal grand jury investigating the Black Panther Party. Upon denial, colleague Payne, a rookie reporter covering the "Babylon Town" beat countered that all nine blacks on the paper's 350-person editorial staff should attend the meeting.

At a *Newsday* meeting on the matter, editor Dave Laventhol's offer to finance the trip for three was rejected. Payne insisted that all nine needed to travel to Missouri and "experience" the strategy session to defend Caldwell, firsthand.

The ploy moved Laventhol to throw up his hands and send all nine journalists. Among the 50 professionals, the *Newsday* Black Caucus was the largest.

At a gathering in Washington, D.C., in 1975 several "Black Media Workers" attendees, along with scores of fellow travelers within their growing journalist ranks, decided that it was time to create a sustainable, professional organization, complete with structure, bylaws and a broader group mission. Founder Payne would serve as NABI's fourth president.

Before retiring from *Newsday* in 2008, Payne built an illustrious career, earning a Pulitzer in 1974 for detailing the heroin trail from Turkey to the United States, serving as an associate editor, local and national reporter, foreign correspondent and columnist.



Robert Douglas Greenlee was an U.S. Air Force veteran, who later became a journalist and one of 44 founders of the National Association of Black Journalists.

He completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tx. and was assigned to a unit of the Military Air Transport Service at McGuire Air Force Base in Lakehurst, N.J. Greenlee, a Hamden, Conn. native, graduated from James Hillhouse High School in New Haven, Conn., and died at the age of 70 on April 19, 2011 at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Greenlee was born in New Haven, Conn., on September 12, 1940 and was the son of John and Hattie Hardy Warfield of Hamden, Conn.

Greenlee was a journalist for the New Haven Register for 12 years until the late 1980s and after that he taught journalism at the University of New Haven for six years. Greenlee had a journalism degree from the University of Massachusetts.

At the age of 31, Greenlee was selected to participate in a sixmonth urban journalism fellowship program at the University of Chicago while he was a reporter for the *New Haven Reigster*. Greenlee was one of 11 participants selected for the program's 1972 class. In addition to working for the *New Haven Register*, Greenlee was the former editor of *The Crow*, a now-defunct New Haven newspaper for the city's black community.

In addition to his parents, Greenlee was survived by two sons Ronald David Greenlee of San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Don Greenlee of New Haven, also a sister Cecelia E. (Vern) Morgan of Decatur, Ga., and four grandchildren.



Eclectic doesn't begin to describe the career of National Association of Journalists founder Vince Sanders. Best known for his radio and television career, where he worked for nearly 50 years in the industry, the 2005 NABJ Hall of Fame recipient was the manager of the nation's first black-andwhite comedy team. Well before Eddie Murphy and Joe Piscopo were teaming up for comedy sketches on "Saturday Night Live," Sanders managed the duo of Tim and Tom, better known as comedians Tim Reid and Tom Dreesen. The two met at a United States Junior Chamber meeting in 1968. Reid was working as a marketing manager and Dreesen was an insurance salesmen. They would eventually enlist the services of Sanders, who was working as a radio personality at the time. Sanders would manage Tim and Tom for four years and faced the challenges and criticisms you would expect from an interracial comedy group in the early 1970s. Eventually all three men would go their separate ways in the mid-1970s. Reid would go on to best known for his acting, starring in "WKRP in Cincinnati," "Frank's Place" and "Sister, Sister." Dreesen eventually became an opening act for Frank Sinatra while Sanders continued his journalism career, including becoming the news director of the National Black Network in 1975. Following his retirement from journalism, Sanders wrote a book about Tim and Tom from his perspective in 2006 titled "That's Not Funny!"



H. Chuku Lee is one of the National Association of Black Journalists' (NABJ) founders who worked as the U.S editor for the African-owned London -based African Journal Ltd. He believed it was his job to "tell America's story abroad." While working as a journalist, Lee networked with politicians, celebrities, black publishers and distributors. He also became the president of TransAfrica's New York chapter. "I came in a side door as a propagandist with no formal training in journalism," he said. He hoped to encourage links between his communities by bringing Muhammad Ali, Max and Randall Robinson, Congressman Charles Rangel, John Henrik Clarke, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Alex Haley, Andrew Young, Rev. Jesse Jackson, John H. Johnson, Ed Lewis, Ida Lewis, Earl Graves and others directly to Pan-African audiences through Africa Journal Ltd., NABJ and TransAfrica. "We succeeded, and it was a great deal of hard work and soul-satisfying fun," Lee said.

Lee has also rewritten the classic fairy tale "Beauty and the Beast," illustrated by Pat Cummings. He relied on the French version of the tale to structure this book of the same name that was released in early 2014. In an interview, Lee said, "While I spent 10 years as a journalist, it is safe to say I would never have written any children's story were it not for Pat's infectious enthusiasm for children's literature." H. Chuku Lee's contribution to the NABJ has opened many opportunities and paved the way for black journalists to have a voice in the industry.



DeWayne Wickham is many things -- a founder, a founder of the Baltimore chapter (one of three that predate NABJ), a newspaper columnist and a college educator. He, along with Founder Allison Davis, are ones who have embraced the tools of digital journalism. A journalist since 1973, he noted the new technology journalists are using to tell stories, along with how the news is delivered.

"When I started, we typed stories on manual typewriters using carbon copy paper. We had copy boys who would pick up those multiple copies of stories and take them to be edited," Wickham said. "Now with cell phones, you can be anywhere. With laptop computers, you can do research. "And who would have imagined, back in 1973, that by the time we reached 2010, newspapers would be like the dodo bird and delivery systems would be as small as a smart phone?"

Wickham said he found a second career as a journalist as a result of his move to the digital platform. "It's been a wonderful transition that younger journalists won't experience because many of them think technology is journalism. Too many of them have not developed the basic skills of reporting and writing," he observed. Despite all the new tools and technology, journalists still need to be trained, and some educators are learning right along with their students, he added.

"If you don't want to change, get ready to retire because news organizations are looking for multitaskers," said Wickham. "Gone are the days when a journalist could go into a newsroom and do only one thing and deliver news only one way."



Founder *Luix V. Overbea* had an accomplished career in newspapers and television that spanned 40 years. He was primarily known for being a veteran reporter for the Boston-based *Christian Science Monitor*.

Although Overbea's career was primarily spent working in mainstream media, usually as the first and only black in the newsroom, he also challenged NABJ to never forget the black press. He worked for the Associated Negro Press, where his work graced the pages of black newspapers across the country. From politics to sports, from civil rights to entertainment, his diverse career focused on shedding light on untold stories, which caused NABJ to give him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993.

Overbea's 1964 interview in the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal with Jesse Jackson was one of the first interviews for the young Jackson, then leading lunch counter sit-ins at North Carolina A&T University. His 12-year stint as one of the only black reporters on the southern newspaper began in 1956, when he started by writing the Journal's "Negro page."

Describing that newsroom's attitudes toward blacks at that time, Overbea often remarked, "If I had bothered to turn my head every time somebody in that newsroom said the word 'n----r,' I would have broken my neck."

In the mid-1960s, Overbea was editor of the black-owned St. Louis Sentinel and then moved to the daily *Globe-Democrat*. But most would know him as the lone black face and pioneer on the *Christian Science Monitor*, which he joined in 1970. he also shared his talents as a contributor to the *Boston Globe, the Bay State Banner* and other media outlets. Also an artist and poet, "Hometown," art by Overbea, is on display at the Roxbury Crossing Boston "T" Orange line train stop.



NABJ Founder Sandra Long Weaver is no stranger to the newspaper industry. After graduating from the University of Maryland in 1974, Long Weaver became a staff writer for the News Journal in Wilmington, Delaware. Then she moved to the city of Brotherly Love where she became a reporter, copy editor and editorial writer for Philadelphia's Evening Bulletin. In 1984, Long Weaver became a correspondent for The Philadelphia *Inquirer* and later, became its first African American female managing editor.

During her newspaper career, Long Weaver held several leadership positions including deputy managing editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and managing editor for Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC. In 2008, Long Weaver was named vice president of newsroom operations for Philadelphia Media Holdings, and worked in both *The Inquirer* and *The Philadelphia Daily News* newsrooms.

Today Long Weaver is President & CEO of The Dawson Media Group, a multi-media communications and consulting practice and Managing Partner of Tea and Conversations. As CEO, Long Weaver helps organizations learn and access opinions and preferences of target audiences with a focus on women and on African Americans.

In addition to being a founding member, Long Weaver organized the first "Divine Nine" breakfast for NABJ members who belonged to one of the Black Greek organizations in 2011. She's a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Long Weaver has received many awards including the 2007 Trailblazer Award from the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists (PABJ), and the 2007 Courage Award from the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Cancer Society. Long Weaver has also been a Juror for the Pulitzer Prizes in Arts & Journalism.



During the NABJ 40th anniversary event on Dec. 12, 2015, the founders were front and center sharing their thoughts about the organization they helped found. One name that came up again and again was Founder *Chuck Stone*, who was also NABJ's first national president.

Stone's illustrious and ground-breaking career included stints at *New York Age*, the *Washington Afro-American* and the *Chicago Daily Defender*. But he is best known for his work as a political columnist and senior editor for the *Philadelphia Daily News* from 1972 to 1991. He was also an author and commentator his books, "Tell It Like It Is," "Black Political Power In America" and "King Strut," which led to national media appearances.

Stone also served as president of what was the Association of Black Journalists in Philadelphia, now known as the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, one of three chapters that predate NABJ. As NABJ's founding president, he helped develop a national presence for the organization, exemplified by well-reasoned yet impassioned advocacy and strategic initiatives which were bolstered by the determination of members to work diligently reporting the news with a devotion to accuracy, ethics, fairness and quality storytelling.

After serving his country as a Tuskegee Airman in World War II, Stone graduated from Wesleyan University in 1948 and earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago. He served as the Walter Spearman Professor in University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's School of Journalism from 1999 to 2005.

According to a tribute essay published 15 years ago in NABJ's "Committed to the Cause: A Salute to NABJ's Presidents," Stone was described as "superbly suited to be the first leader of an organization seeking to not only change the way the media would tell Black America's story, but who was going to tell it."



NABJ Founder Maureen Bunvan is among a generation of black journalists who were brought into the industry through an innovative program at Columbia University's School of Journalism. The intensive four-month program for minority journalists was formed in 1968 after the Kerner Commission, created in the aftermath of the race riots in the 1960s, noted a lack of minority representation in the news media. The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times and the three television networks created a consortium for the program. Bunyan was in the class of 1970 with others including NABI Hall of Fame inductee I.C. Hayward, Geraldo Rivera, Roger Sims, who was a producer at "60 Minutes" and the late Michelle Clark, who became one of the first black correspondents for CBS.

"It was clear that the people we worked with didn't think we were properly trained and wouldn't succeed," said Bunyan. "We had to work through it and do the best job we could." She was sponsored by a local Milwaukee television station that had no minorities and was reluctant to hire her.

After three months, Bunyan ended up at WGBH-TV, the public station in Boston after hearing about a job there from journalist Tony Brown. "In the 1970s, we already stood out in the crowd because there were so few minority journalists. People came after us because newspapers and television were desperately looking for people of color," she said. "All these businesses were under pressure by minority organizations and civil rights groups. I never had to look for a job. People came after me. Some were not genuine; they just wanted a face."

"They made a great effort to recruit blacks, Hispanics and Asian-Americans. We all were scared to death, but saw ourselves as trailblazers," she said. "We all thought we had a mission -- to be the voice of people who did not have a voice in the news media."



When NABJ founder *Reginald Bryant* died April 5, 2010 at the age of 69 from cancer, it was also 32nd anniversary of the day he interviewed former President Jimmy Carter in 1978 on his famed Philadelphia-based national syndicated show, "Black Perspective on the News."

Bryant along with fellow NABJ founder Acel Moore co-hosted the show for more than five years. Carter was one of five U.S. presidents Bryant interviewed in his 40-plus year radio career along with 52 Pulitzer Prize winners.

Bryant and Moore interviewed guests of all races all over the nation, and covered controversial subjects such as interviewing the head of the Miss American Pageant on the lack of black candidates, questioned politicians on social security benefits for older African-Americans and interviewed a Nazi and Klansman. While the show's popularity grew over the years, airing in more than 160 cities in America, Bryant received many death threats, but still kept the show going until 1978.

Bryant was also one of the founders of the Philadelphia-based Association of Black Journalists in 1973. It gave way to NABJ two years later as Bryant and 44 other named journalists traveled to Washington to form the organization

Outside of radio, he was also a film maker who enjoyed making documentaries, and an artist who enjoyed creating water colors and oils.

At the time of his death, he was survived by a son and two daughters.

NABJ and PABJ sponsored a fundraiser for Bryant's tombstone in 2012. His tombstone was dedicated on April 5, 2013, the third anniversary of his death, with the top of the stone is in the shape of a book inscribing one of his most famous quotes, "It's not what you know that gets you in trouble, it's what you know that's just not so."



Mal Johnson started her career at Cox Broadcasting after she impressed the company's chief executive with a speech criticizing the company's refusal of a federal loan to train minority women for broadcast jobs.

She returned to her hometown of Philadelphia where she worked for a civil rights group while news anchoring for a television station and doing public affairs work. At Cox Broadcasting, Johnson covered the federal government including the White House and Capitol Hill. She also anchored and produced a public affairs show for Cox in the late '70s. Later she became the national director of community affairs for Cox.

When she retired from Cox Broadcasting in 1990 she created Medialinx International, a media consulting firm. That same year, she became a charter member of the NABJ Hall of Fame.

In 1975, Mal Johnson, with 44 others, formed the National Association of Black Journalists. She served at the treasurer for the organization for eight years. As treasurer, Johnson was well known for watching NABJ funds closely. In "Black Journalists: The NABJ Story," Wayne Dawkins wrote Johnson was "a curmudgeon who guarded NABJ's meager funds like a hen, often to the point of insulting members who became upset if their registration payment was misplaced or membership was not recorded." Michael McQueen, wrote of such a tale for a Society of Professional Journalists blog.

In addition to NABJ, Johnson was national chairwoman of the American Women in Radio and Television Foundation, a board member of the National Council of Women's Organizations. She was also a member of the Communications Consortium Media Center and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Mal Johnson died in 2007.



Joel Dreyfuss was a reporter at The Washington Post when NABJ was formed. He said it was only natural that he became involved, as he was already active in issues like organizing, hiring practices and improved coverage, along with desegregation in journalism.

Those who attended the meeting had different motivations for being there, with a number of them concerned about losing their jobs. Back in the 1970s, the biggest accusation a journalist could face is being a militant, where people could be blacklisted for being a troublemaker. With a mix of older and younger journalists, NABJ was able to create a moderate plan of what the organization would be.

Forty years later, Dreyfuss said he hoped that NABJ would be a more militant organization that was active in protecting and defending the rights of black journalists, along with being more of a critic of press coverage on black issues. However, he is heartened by the exponential increase in the number of black journalists since the organization's founding, which was beyond his wildest expectations

For NABJ's next 40 years, Dreyfuss hopes that the organization will be a much stronger advocate for black journalists. "We've spent a lot of energy in the past 25 years trapped in the mechanics of our convention, raising money from the media companies that we work for," he said. "We're hesitate to criticize those we're asking for money from. I think we should focus on a more moderate convention and put more energy toward training, understanding technology and being on top of digitalization."

NABJ got sidetracked along the way, said Dreyfuss. "As we see more media companies on financial collapse, I hope NABJ will be more dependent on its own resources," he said.



On that faithful day in December of 1975, Bob Hayes signed in as the 12th participate in the historic meeting that lead to the founding of the National Association of Black Journalists. Hayes was a political columnist with The San Francisco Examiner from 1971 to 1977. He was also part of the committee that organized the founding meeting on December 12, 1975. Hayes was born on October 24, 1933 in St. Louis but he grew up in Seattle. He received a B.S. in political science from the University of Washington in 1960. Concerned about the plight of American-Americans, Hayes served as co-president of the San Francisco branch of the NAACP with Ray Taliaferro from 1967 to 1969. Hayes acknowledges he landed a job at The San Francisco Examiner as a direct result of his friendship with Randolph Hearst, publisher and chairman of the Hearst Corporation board and father of Patty Hearst.

Just 12 days before traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend the founding meeting of NABJ, Hayes participated in what could also be considered an historic event that later drew the attention of the FBI. Hayes shared the stage with the likes of KPIX-TV reporter Belva Davis, professor & activist Angela Davis and the infamous leader of Peoples Temple, Rev. Jim Jones. Hayes was co-chair of the event called Celebration of Change honoring Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide United Methodist Church in San Francisco. According to The Jonestown Institute, the FBI reviewed the tape in connection with the assassination of U.S. Congressman Leo Ryan in Guyana in 1978 just before over 900 people died in Jonestown.

Hayes pinned five books over the years including his first, "Black American Travel Guide."



NABJ Founder William Dilday was the first Black owner of a television station in the United States. He was the former executive owner of both WLBT and WJTV, two stations located in Jackson, Miss. Dilday attended Boston University, with the interest of being a sportswriter. After college, he worked for IBM for five years, but turned down a transfer to IBM's New York headquarters to work for EG&G Roxbury. The move to a new company also inspired Dilday to apply to television companies as well. In 1969, he received a call-back from WHDH-TV 5 in Boston to become the station's personnel director.

Following his tenure at WHDH, Dilday moved to Jackson, Mississippi to work for WLBT. Soon after arriving, he was appointed as the station's general manager after its license was revoked over its racist policies. He was scrutinized by businessmen and local citizens for being the station's first Black owner. But after making changes to make the station racially balanced, providing on-the-job training for new workers and putting both black and women anchors on-air during primetime slots, WLBT became the top-rated news station in Mississippi. The station attracted more than one million primetime viewers in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

Dilday left WLBT to become the general manager and vice president of WJTV, where he boosted ratings by implementing new plans in operations and programming for the television station. His work at WJTV helped the station earn the top spot for ratings in Mississippi. Following WJTV, Dilday became the corporate vice president of *News-Press and Gazette*. His work in television at the executive level opened doors for black journalists in the field.



If all you can do is agitate to make change... then don't you ever stop.

He had such a great appreciation for education and books, it would be interesting to get Vernon's take on the Twitter generation. Vernon Jarrett, who was born in Saulsbury, Tenn., spent the majority of his professional life in Chicago. However, he never lost his Southern charm or the awareness of the struggles that blacks endured throughout history. His love of education and appreciation for its importance was derived from his parents and his grandmother, who had been a slave. Jarrett served his country during World War ll in the Navy and often had to bear the injustices of the times. However, he was never one to back away. Whether it was a hunger strike to fight segregated food services or highlighting injustices as the editor of the "Black base newspaper," Jarrett was an "agitator for change." He was more concerned about making a difference and giving voice to the issues affecting his people, then titles and recognitions, although he received quite a few. Being a journalist was his ultimate goal in addition to educating his people. Among his great achievements include being one of the founders of NABJ who brought a unified voice for black journalists and creating the NAACP's Afro Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) to reward a competitive spirit for academics in black children. Jarrett would appreciate journalists "doing the work" to find out about him. He was a mentor and a friend and enjoyed firing people up. He often told me, "You're always starting something... Don't ever stop!"

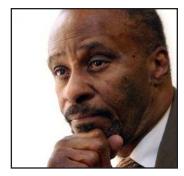


It wasn't overt racism that sought to derail *Norma Adams-Wade*'s career. In the early 1970s, Adams-Wade was a general assignment reporter at the *Dallas Morning News*, one of a handful of brown faces in the major daily newspaper's operation.

I was in the throes of feelings of isolation, like so many (black journalists) across the country," Adams-Wade said by phone. "When you're the first and only, and no one looks like you ...."

A letter from Chuck Stone, another black journalist about 1,500 miles away on the east coast, would build the bridge to longevity. He'd invited Adams-Wade to Washington D.C., for a meeting with other black journalists being held during a conference for black elected officials. Before this, the Dallas native said she turned to her church family as a support system, using that relationship to rejuvenate and begin each week anew. But she was excited to meet up with others who knew that with which she had been dealing.

"When Chuck Stone began to talk about organizing, I thought it was a most wonderful undertaking," she said. "A lot of us talked about the emotions of that. It was like a revival. Being able to share was so profound, and knowing you were not alone, that others were experiencing this. You go back to your various shops and feel insulated rather than isolated."



Philadelphia native *Acel Moore* dressed like his fraternal twin brother Michael until he was 12-years-old, played the classical French horn and served as an Army medic before becoming a copy clerk at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1962.

"Didn't know I wanted to be a journalist until I worked around journalists," Moore said. "I worked at a time when they called people who did my job a "boy." I did not respond. I did not answer."

As a member of the *Inquirer* style committee and asked that the paper stop using the term Negro to describe black boys. Soon thereafter they were referred to as black or African American.

Moore went onto to become an investigative reporter and editorial writer. He's met Presidents Nixon, Carter and Clinton over the course of his career and won a Pulitzer Prize in 1977 for his investigation of inmates at Fairview State Hospital.

Along with fellow NABJ founder Reggie Bryant, Moore hosted a television show called "Black Perspectives on the News" on Philadelphia's WHYY public television in the late 60s/early 70s. It was groundbreaking television as there was no program like it nationwide. He worked with Chuck Stone, Claude Lewis and others to form the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists in 1973 – a precursor to NABJ.

#### Profiles contributed by:

Sherlon Christie Wayne Dawkins Merissa Evans Sarah Glover Tiamoyo Harris Dave Jordan Meta J. Mereday Greg Morrison Merdie Nzanga Brittany M. Sango Vickie Thomas Dorothy Tucker Marcus Vanderberg Marlon A. Walker Benét J. Wilson Brittany M. Sango

### Reporters could not reach, or information was not available, on the following founders:

Crispin Campbell Charlie Cobb Marilyn Darling David Gibson Martha Griffin Derwood Hall John White

#### Credits:

Ebony.com Essence.com "Black Journalists: The NABJ Story," by Wayne Dawkins Boston University College of Communication congratulates Michelle Johnson, the Academic Representative to the NABJ Board of Directors.

"As more
NABJ members
transition from
the newsroom
to the classroom
it's imperative
that we have a
strong advocate
on the national
board."

Michelle Johnson





## REMEMBERING SIDMEL

#### By Elise Durham

I met Sidmel Estes [Sumpter] when I was a senior in college at Florida A&M University. It was the late 1980s, early 1990s and she, as well as several other professional journalists, had come to FAMU to conduct the inaugural NABJ Short Course.

When I say that Sidmel was a force, it almost seems like an understatement. During that time, I had spent a lot of time reporting and anchoring "FAMU Focus," our weekly, studentrun television program. So when it came time for anchor tryouts for the NABJ Short Course, I just knew I was going to be "the one."

Little did I know that my direction and professional life was about to change.

In order to understand, I have to share the names of some of the powerful people who surrounded my classmates and me during that Short Course. People like Sheila Stainback, Paula (Walker) Madison, Janet Johnson, John Jenkins, Tom Morgan and Gary Wordlaw. It was an amazing opportunity. To learn from these folks who were so young and passionate, but so skilled was a blessing.

Sidmel and Janet pulled me aside and told me that I wasn't going to be an anchor, but that I

was going to be a producer. They told me that producing is where all the power is and that I was built for it. I didn't know what they meant, but I listened. When you have that kind of strength around you, you have to.

And then, my craft found me, and the rest is history.

I fell in love with telling stories and crafting shows. And I have loved it for most of my adult life. Had it not been for Sid and others, I don't know where my career may have taken me. Instead, the love she showed has directed me.

By the time I graduated from college, I had already been working for what was then CBS NewsNet for nearly a year. I transitioned seamlessly into an associate producer role at the CBS station in Tallahassee and then into the role as the first black news producer the station had ever had. I honed my skills for 16 months before moving to Jacksonville to be the weekend producer. By the time I was 26, I would find myself under Sidmel's tutelage again.

I moved to Atlanta to launch the 8 a.m. hour of the groundbreaking morning program "Good Day Atlanta." Sidmel was the co-creator of the program and its first executive producer. What most people didn't realize is that "Good Day Atlanta" was the first of its kind for the Fox

Network, and it became the signature program for WAGA-TV after the station changed network affiliations.

We didn't know it at the time, but that program was breaking records and jump-starting careers, featuring guests such as Usher, Will Downing and TLC, among dozens of others.

During the Centennial Olympic Games, "Good Day Atlanta" was the "go-to" destination for athletes, actors, singers, authors and entertainers wanting to publicize their latest projects.

And the industry took note.

Because of Sidmel's creative concept and steadfast direction, news directors and general managers from across the country traveled to Atlanta to shadow her team as we crafted the three hours of morning television that would later drive the morning day-part for many of the Fox affiliated stations.

There are not many people who you meet in life that are fierce enough to always tell their truth, the way they see it.

That WAS Sidmel.

She loved hard and lived in every moment. Her ferocious spirit and contagious laugh could fill a room. She simply was one-of-a-kind. And you just can't replace that.

# As we celebrate 40 years of NABJ, Medill Northwestern University honors former alumna Sidmel Estes (BSJ76, MSJ77)

She will be fondly remembered.



- > First female NABJ president
- > Medill Board of Advisers member
- McCormick Fellow, including executive producer of the 40th anniversary of the Kerner Commission Report video for McCormick Fellows Program
- Recipient of Northwestern University's Alumni Service Award
- President, Northwestern University
   Black Alumni Association (NUBAA)
- Charter member of the Medill Hall of Achievement
- Recipient of the Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Arts and Sciences Southeast region
- > Editor of NU's Blackboard Magazine
- ➤ Editor of NU's New-Sense Magazine