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And Then We Danced

Nguigalakh Wolof, Senegal — I have a friend who always greets me by saying, “Tell me something I don’t know.” It’s a command that is at times annoying, challenging but always enlightening. That conversation almost always ends with me learning something that I had forgotten I already knew. If that sounds confusing it’s meant to be.

On December 1, I lead a delegation of journalists, representing the National Association of Black Journalists, to Senegal, West Africa. During the trip, we visited development initiatives in local communities. Among them was a “green wall” tree planting project to lessen the impact of climate change, projects to manage local ecosystems and restore lands affected by environment degradation. It was a nine-day trip with an action-packed agenda. Many of the young journalists didn’t have international reporting experience, and it was uplifting to hear and see their reaction as they took notes, fired off questions, and drank in the beauty and discovered the challenges of this part of the world. I remember that sense of wonder I experienced when I covered “Operation Desert Storm,” that wide-eyed sense of wonder that comes with a new reporting experience.

It was day four; I was five hours ahead and an ocean away from all that was familiar. But, somehow I knew it would be like this in Senegal. I’d listened and watched as NABJ’s seven journalism fellows hit the ground running with their international reporting and photojournalism assignments. It was grueling and they didn’t get much sleep. We would wake at the crack of dawn, travel great distances and return when it was dark. Through it all, they were a unique, funny, eclectic, talented, passionate group of journalists who appreciated every waking moment of the experience for all that it was worth. At times, I felt a little like a mother hen to them: Separate the myth from reality about Africa, I commanded. Secretly, I was thinking of the challenge my friend always issues, “Tell me something I don’t know.”

I didn’t know I would be so proud of them this early in the experience. I didn’t know their photographs would take me back to that single second experience like a message in a bottle that you could read over and over again, and it still felt brand new. I didn’t know their writing would have me talking back to the computer like a noisy audience member in the movie theater. You know the type; “Yeah that’s right; you tell it like it is.”

I did know to expect the unexpected; we were in West Africa after all. The unexpected happened on our first stop in a little village called Nguigalakh Wolof. Wolof is the language of many of the villages we visited. We met the farmers who are revamping soil that has been wasted by drought. I scooped the sand of the desert and let it fall through my fingers as the farmers explained through a translator how the sand has consumed acres and acres of farmland. The men explained that they were doing battle with the desert, and how some of the tree species are coming back, and that in turn is promoting grass growth to feed the livestock. I didn’t know they would have such hope!

It was then that I noticed her.

Her name was Dneye Ngom. She stood among a group of striking women of perfect posture who proudly proclaimed that they work side by side with the men. Ngom was introduced as the chair of the women’s association, a respected position in the village. She was dressed in colorful flowing fabric. I had forgotten I already knew. If that sounds confusing it’s meant to be.

She’s president over men and women,” CBS Radio’s Bob Butler chimed in. Hearing that, another woman in the crowd shouted, “Yeah that’s right; you tell it like it is.”

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Her name was Dneye Ngom. She stood among a group of striking women of perfect posture who proudly proclaimed that they work side by side with the men. Ngom was introduced as the chair of the women’s association, a respected position in the village. She was dressed in colorful flowing fabric. I was introduced as the president of the National Association of Black Journalists. “She’s president over men and women,” CBS Radio’s Bob Butler chimed in. Hearing that, another woman in the crowd shouted with glee and threw her hands in the air. I leaned in to greet them with a handshake when Dneye Ngom broke into dance. I danced with her for a few seconds when someone said, “She’s proud of you. She is celebrating your achievement.” And then she firmly grabbed my wrist and placed a bracelet on it. It was a beautiful half circle of woven brass and silver. I had nothing but my earrings to give. I took them off and put them in her ears. She gave me an approving nod that told me I just learned something I didn’t know about the sisterhood in Africa.

And, then we danced.
With You…We’re Moving Forward

In this issue of the NABJ Journal on moving forward in your personal and professional lives and the advancement in digital media, I’m excited to share with you just a few positive developments this organization has experienced over the past year, and how you’ve been instrumental in its success.

When I arrived shortly before the 2006 convention in Indianapolis to take on the operations of NABJ, many of you reached out to me with words of encouragement and advice. In turn, I asked you how YOU wanted NABJ to grow.

You told me you wanted NABJ to be a self-sustained organization, and as a result record contributions to the NABJ Freedom Fund ended in more than $200,000 with donors giving $1.00 to more than $100,000 for 2007. Your philanthropy gives us the ability to speak out to your concerns in the industry, produce quality professional development programming, and grow the next generation of black journalists. Not only have we succeeded, but with last year’s addition of a full-time finance manager, I’ve ensured that every cent is properly accounted for.

You said you wanted to enhance your skills throughout the year, and not just at the annual convention. The return of adult education last year through five Media Institute programs in 2007 with seminar topics covering civil rights, digital journalism, business, political and legislative reporting took place. Partnering with groups like The Associated Press, Bloomberg News, Freddie Mac and National Journal magazine provided an intimate opportunity for networking, engaging discussion and career opportunities this year. Look for the return of these popular programs and much more in a city near you – as well as online at NABJ.org.

You asked for more access to jobs and career opportunities and we answered with an aggressive campaign to print, broadcast and online media across the country to advertise online on the NABJ Web site, and recruit onsite at the annual convention and Media Institute events.

Your charge to me was clear “Make my dues worth it and I’ll stay with NABJ.” I’m proud to say that while new members are joining; most of you are retaining your membership. That tells me you're receiving prompt customer service from the national office, career development opportunities, up-to-date information on the Web and see NABJ as an advocate for change in your newsroom.

Together, your association generated the most revenue in the history of this thirty-something organization. This can only be made possible because you the member and supporter believe we are on the right track.

There is still much more work to be done. Efforts will continue to improve our financial position and restore the reserves we once had. Through it all, we will openly and honestly work toward your best interests. Why? Because, you told me so.

For those of you that were part of the wonderful journey during 2007, we thank you. For those of you considering joining us as we continue to push and handle the people's business this year I welcome you. And for those supporters who were there for us, motivating us, and ever-moving onward, I look forward to working with you again this year.

I hope your enjoy this issue of the Journal, it’s another example of YOUR membership at work.

Yours in Service,
Karen Wynn Freeman
The First Question

What made you want to be a journalist?

I decided to become a journalist at the end of 11th grade. I worked on my high school newspaper that year and my journalism teacher appointed me to be the editor in my senior year. I knew then that journalism would become my life’s work. I went to college (a college with no journalism program, mind you) knowing that I would somehow make it into somebody’s newsroom — somewhere. I chose journalism because I loved to write, I liked working with copy and designing pages and because I loved telling stories.

Wanda Lloyd. Executive editor of the Montgomery Advertiser. NABJ member for 27 years.

When I failed to make the high school baseball team in 10th grade, I quickly realized I would need another avenue into professional sports. Fortunately, I had already established an interest in writing so sports journalism was a natural fit.

James C. Black. NFL Editor, Yahoo! Sports. NABJ member for 15 years.

A long time ago, I realized (that) I have a gift and that I was cut from a different cloth. Journalists are faced with the challenging, yet, inspiring task of recording history while telling the stories that create it. My desire is to touch souls with those stories by effectively utilizing the power of the words I choose to use.

Terron D. Austin. President of the University of Cincinnati Association of Black Journalists and editorial assistant/fashion & style writer CiN Weekly. NABJ member since 2007.

Meeting the challenges: NABJ continues to be a privilege and opportunity for students

Almost as soon as I began my term as Student Representative last summer, I began receiving e-mails from students interested in joining the National Association of Black Journalists. The e-mails continue to come in, and the writers of those e-mails often ask one very simple question: What will I get out of being a member of NABJ?

When responding to that question, I strive to make sure that aspiring members understand that membership in NABJ is both a privilege and an opportunity.

As student members, we have the privilege of learning firsthand from professionals whose own experiences have been very much like our own. We also have the opportunity to learn about various careers. Many students have already learned of the value of NABJ membership, with 63 members being high school students, and 1,111 members being college and graduate school students.

NABJ’s efforts to serve its students are noteworthy and have been made evident when one looks at five of NABJ’s key initiatives:

• SCHOLARSHIPS Each year, our association provides more than $30,000 in scholarships to deserving student members, which helps make it possible for them to continue their studies. NABJ also recently partnered with City University of New York to offer a $7,500 scholarship to a student member who earns acceptance to its three-semester master’s program.

• INTERNSHIPS Each year, 10 to 15 students are afforded the opportunity to serve as an intern for one of the nation’s premier news organizations. Other internship opportunities are also listed on the NABJ students’ listserv. (To join, send an e-mail message to nabjstudents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.)

• STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS Each summer at our annual convention, students continue to gain practical experience through participation in the Student Development Projects. Last year was an exciting year because nearly 50 students worked on the NABJ Monitor, NABJ TV, NABJ Radio and NABJ Online. For the first time, students from across the platforms were able to gain convergence experience, which allows students to stay up-to-date with technology.

• NABJ MEDIA INSTITUTE Recently, student member Travers Johnson (Morehouse College ’08) was among members of the delegation to Senegal. For Travers, the trip was an opportunity to work alongside journalists and to report on life in Senegal. Student members also can benefit from the organization’s spring short courses.

• MENTORING Last summer at the NABJ convention in Las Vegas, the Mentorship Breakfast marked our recommitment to the mentor program. The program allows professionals to give back and provide guidance to students as they begin their careers.

NABJ has risen to the challenge of showing students why they should pursue careers in journalism. Now it’s up to NABJ to encourage students to make that transition from student to professional.

Many student members are looking forward to the opportunity to become the next newspaper reporters and editors, television and radio reporters. Students also are interested in online careers.

So, partner with us to make sure we continue to rise to the challenges and continue to serve the student membership.
NABJ News

NABJ Founders Pledge Big to Scholarship Fund

By Denita Dalton Wright

With a stroke of the pen, NABJ founders Les Payne, Maureen Bunyan and DeWayne Wickham each put their money where their mouth is.

In a historic gesture, the three combined to donate over $60,000 to the scholarship fund. Their contributions are the largest personal donations in the history of the scholarship program. New scholarships will be created and named in their honor.

“I wanted my gift to help elevate ‘giving back to NABJ,’ from the motto of talk, to a model of ‘walking the walk,’” Payne said. “There’s no better investment, I submit, than our scholarship program, no dividend more rewarding than the success of our students. Those among us, who – with the help of others – have achieved in journalism, must share our wisdom as well as our resources with the generations coming along behind us.”

Payne and Bunyan, a news anchor for WJLA-TV in Washington, D.C., each donated $25,000 to the fund. Wickham, a USA TODAY columnist and NABJ’s seventh national president, pledged $12,000.

“The generosity of Maureen, Les and DeWayne is overwhelming,” said NABJ President Barbara Ciara. “It’s not often that the NABJ scholarship fund receives a pledge of this size. I challenge other members to follow their lead and invest in the next generation of black journalists.”

NABJ’s scholarship fund supports the education and career goals of aspiring African-American journalists. Annually, the scholarship fund awards more than $30,000 to students interested in pursuing careers in journalism.

Denita Dalton Wright is a teacher for Norfolk Public Schools in Virginia.

Associate Member Task Force carves niche

The Associate Members Task Force has been created to offer educators, freelance writers and media-related professionals a structured platform within NABJ.

There are currently about 563 associate members in NABJ. The task force will be a conduit of information and resources that will increase NABJ’s presence and prominence in the industry.

For additional information about the Associate Member Task Force, please contact Associate Member Representative, Aprill O. Turner at aturner@cooperkatz.com

Media Institute set for March in Memphis

NABJ will host Better Watchdog Workshop/Computer Assisted Reporting Media Institute March 8 at the University of Memphis. Co-sponsored by IRE, the workshop will help journalists learn the investigative skills that keep government and business accountable, and to produce enterprising and informative stories. A breakout session will be offered for newsroom managers. The workshop will also cover the effective use of the Internet, open records laws, computer-assisted reporting, anonymous sources and the multi-media. The Pre-Registration Deadline is March 3. For more information, log on to nabj.org.

Washington Recovering

Frank Washington, a Detroit-based automotive journalist, has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home from a vicious attack. Police say that on Jan. 29, Washington, 60, was attacked and severely beaten. According to his brother, James Washington, “He was not just mugged, he was severely mugged and every bone in his face was crushed.” Washington is managing partner of Aboutthatcar.com, an automotive information Web site, and a freelance writer. He has covered the automotive industry since 1988, is a former Detroit bureau chief for Newsweek magazine, and is the founding chairman of the Automotive Task Force of the Detroit chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, created in 2005 to promote diversity in automotive communications. Fellow auto automotive journalist Greg Morrison, CEO of Bumper2Bumper TV, helped set up a trust fund for Washington, who does not have insurance. Donations can be sent to Colonial Bank, 10500 Miramar Parkway. Miramar, FL 33025. Att: Kerri Greener, Vice President. Phone: 954-450-7005 FAX: 954-450-9350.
REMEMBERING THOMAS MORGAN III

In Remembrance: Thomas Morgan III

As black journalists, even in the midst of the most convulsive transformation of our industry in our lifetimes, or our parents’ lifetimes, or our grandparents... most of us have never known the soul-shattering fear of believing that when God made you, somehow, He made a mistake.

But as I strode into my first NABJ convention in the summer of 1989, though I wore the confidence of being young, gifted and black – a newly minted Stanford graduate, an associate editor at Newsweek, the big time, especially for a kid off welfare from Trenton – on the inside, that was how I felt: that, somehow, God had messed up with me.

I’m not sure when I learned that Thomas Morgan III, the tall, regal, president of the largest association of journalists of color in the nation – if not the world – my association, was a gay black man. But I remember it made it impossible to hate myself.

We often judge a man or woman by what they leave behind.

The legacy that Tom left at The New York Times was his unself-conscious, unrelenting, uncompromising, sense of belonging – even at that august newspaper, even as a black man, and, eventually, even as a gay black man.

For those of us who tread those halls still, from Tom’s time there and from after, he walks beside us still – his head high, his consonants crisp and “proper” (actually, the product of learning to control a stutter), his stride confident, his steps directed – reminding us that we belong, and that The New York Times is lucky to have us.

But I came here more than a decade after Tom had left. I knew him from another of the places he left better than he found it, perhaps the institution that most bears his legacy, the National Association of Black Journalists.

I didn’t know it at the time, but it had been a bruising campaign to be NABJ president, Tom’s sexuality had been whispered about, and sometimes more than whispered...

“Do you want one of ‘them’ leading NABJ?” some members asked their colleagues.

In the end, Tom won. Before I even knew him personally, he was a hero. A Hero in the Struggle,
as Phill Wilson of the Black AIDS Institute would put it.

The legacy Tom left NABJ, in terms tangible and absolute, was a fiscal house that had been put back in order, a national headquarters worthy of NABJ's stature.

But what he bequeathed to me, this fearless gay, black man – and to hundreds of other gay and lesbian journalists of color like me, and not just to LGBT journalists of color, but LGBT journalists period, and African-American journalists, period, of all sexual orientations – was pride. He had a fierce courage to take on challenges, no matter how great, no matter how stacked the odds against him, and a fierce determination to prevail.

The next time I saw Tom, after my inaugural NABJ convention, was in the early '90s. Much had happened in those short years. I had come out, and Tom had grown perilously close to death. At the NABJ Convention in 1993 or 1994, he was skin and bones.

But it was in those dark moments, Tom in a wheelchair, his body frail and his eyes glassy, that I was most proud of him. Even "disabled" he was more impressive than most of us walking around.

It was in those heart-shattering days that Tom's courage and determination showed themselves and made me grow stronger. Not in the majesty of the office he had held at NABJ, or the marquee of the paper he wrote for. It was in that resolute dignity, even in the midst of his own mortality, that I saw what a truly beautiful black man looks like.

The other very tangible legacy Tom bequeathed to the National Association of Black Journalists is the Gay and Lesbian Task Force – and we NABJ members who walk today – gay or lesbian, and Black – fearlessly through the shadows of great newspapers, and to the heads of great organizations.

Tom taught us how to do that. And we are his legacy.

Indeed, Tom's legacy is almost anyone reading these words in the NABJ Journal. Tom's legacy is you.

And as I continue in this challenging business, at this challenging time, I hope each of us here will remember that Thomas Morgan III is walking with us, and that we, now, have a legacy to live up to: to live honestly, and passionately, and fearlessly.

Marcus Mabry is the international business editor for The New York Times and the founding chairman of NABJ’s Gay and Lesbian Task Force.
It’s New Year’s Eve, and the ball in Times Square is making its slow descent. As we prepare to ring in the new year at a friend’s home, my eyes are glued to the flat screen. My heart feels light; the lightest it’s felt in the past 365 days. We count, we toast, I kiss my husband, and then unexpectedly the tears come. In the midst of 20 people I’d just met, I cry. Two thousand seven, the hardest year of my life, is history. Praise God.

I’m a tough person; always have been, which is why I’m embarrassed to admit, I wasn’t sure I was going to make it to this point. Not that I would die, mind you. It’s just that some of the days were so damn dark. I didn’t help my case much either; I ate too much, drank too much and exercised too little. I was angry and feeling sorry for myself, having to endure this “character building” year. Didn’t I have enough of that already? I thought so.

(Photograph) Into the light: René Syler relaxes in her home office in Chappaqua. She says it is a reflection of her faith.
My character-building year actually started in 2006, but in reality, probably long before that. My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer post-menopausally at age 64. Because she was vigilant about her mammograms, it was caught very early and she’s been cancer-free for 10 years now.

My father was diagnosed when I was a kid, young enough to still be embarrassed by the word breast. He had a radical modified mastectomy, which left him scarred and disfigured until the end of his life. Though rare, men can and do get breast cancer; only about 1700 cases are diagnosed each year. But because they do not have estrogen in the levels women do, doctors worry there could be a genetic link.

A lot of people assume because they have no family history, they cannot get breast cancer. The truth is most of those cases come right out of the blue. That was the case with my mother, no family history. But my sister and I held a losing ticket in the genetics lottery. Having a first-degree relative with breast cancer does increase your risk about 5 percent to 10 percent. We had two.

Shortly after my mother’s diagnosis, I started having regular mammograms. The mammograms showed healthy breast tissue until 2003, the year after I joined “The Early Show.” Mentally I was adjusting to the stress of a big gig, but my body was not doing so well. That was the first time those little white flecks, called micro-calciﬁcations, started appearing on my X-rays. On the mammograms, they looked like buckshot; constellation-like in the left breast. The doctor also found a lump on my right breast. I wasn’t worried initially, because even with my family history, I was and am a healthy person. I don’t smoke, I exercise regularly, I don’t drink excessively and I keep my weight under control. But the fear raged after she told me they would need to biopsy both breasts.

The tumor turned out to be non-cancerous ﬁbroid adenoma that they removed. But the left breast was real trouble. Doctors diagnosed me with hyperplasia atypia, widely viewed as the stage right before breast cancer. (I never developed a tumor in the left breast. The changes they found on the mammogram were on a microscopic level). Now, along with being a woman and growing older (the two biggest risk factors for breast cancer), I had a strong family history and this diagnosis. I needed to be screened more closely.

So with diligence and routine predictability, I began heavy screening: twice yearly visits with the breast surgeon, mammograms, MRIs and sonograms. I would schedule the mammograms around my birthday to make it easy to remember. Each year, my gift from the radiologist was a recommendation for another biopsy. Four years and four biopsies later, my psyche was tattered; my breast looked even worse.

The tipping point came as I stood staring at my naked chest, horrified by what I saw. Following the fourth biopsy in July 2006, my left breast was about a half a cup size smaller than the right and so much tissue was missing, it had sort of collapsed on itself. I sat in the closet and cried. This is not how I pictured my life.

Years before, when it appeared I was going to be on the table getting cut up every year, my breast surgeon and I started talking about ways to keep me cancer-free. We explored the chemo-preventive drug, Tamoxifen, which stops estrogen production. But as I teetered on the brink of peri-menopause, I wasn’t anxious for a drug that would kick me once-and-for-all into the menopausal abyss. I’d had one hot flash too many as it was.

I wanted to play offense not defense. My doctor assured me because of the heavy screening, even if I was to develop breast cancer, we would catch it early and more than likely have a positive prognosis. But even stage one breast cancer, with its 97 percent survival rate, roughly 3 percent of the patients do not survive. I am a wife, mother, aunt, niece, best friend and a woman who loves life. That 3 percent was too much of a gamble. I decided on surgery.

Because I did not have cancer, I was eligible for a special procedure called a nipple sparing mastectomy. It’s quite fascinating. In most mastectomies, they take everything, the nipple and areola and after treatment, replace what nature gave with a tattoo. In my case, they planned to just cut the side of the breast mound, leaving the nipple and areola intact, while still removing the tissue. The implant would go in through the same incision.

I worried about how I would feel; WHAT I would be able to feel. Would I feel like I was less of a woman because I was removing the very symbol of femininity? What would my husband think? What would I look like?

There is no bigger supporter of René Syler than Buff Parham, the man I married 14 years ago. And despite the occasional
foot in mouth, he was wonderful. When I told him I was thinking about this surgery, and that it would drastically reduce my odds of developing breast cancer, he said, “Well that sounds like a no-brainer.” Well, for HIM, of course it was a no-brainer. They were not his breasts coming off!

It ultimately came down to this. My breasts had served me well. They fed my babies and made me feel like a woman. Now they were just causing me trouble. I decided my family needed ME here, not my breasts. In my mind it was better to have a part of me gone, than all of me.

I scheduled the surgery for early January.

I shared it with my bosses at CBS and told them, I wanted to do a story on it. What better way to educate? I had done a story on my first breast cancer scare in 2003 and won a prestigious Gracie Allen award for it. But more than that, I had a number of women who said they were way overdue for mammograms schedule them because they had seen my story.

At the end of November, I began shooting tape. I documented my first meeting with the plastic surgeon and had other interviews set up and ready to go. On December 2, still coming to grips with that very difficult decision, my bosses told me I was toast. Being let go, leaving the network, use whatever euphemism you wish to use. In plain English, I was fired. That is never a pleasant experience; even less so with the language I was fired. That is never a pleasant experience;

People ask me how I got through that time and honestly I still don’t know. I was amazed by my strength and proud of how I handled myself. I focused on what was really important refusing to let the stress of being fired make me sick, possibly delaying a surgery that would finally bring me peace.

Even though I had been thinking about this for years, talked to several doctors, saw a psychologist who specializes in people preparing for cancer surgery, underwent genetic testing for the breast cancer gene (which I do not have), it was not an easy decision.

On the morning of December 22, I said goodbye to “Early Show” viewers, friends and co-workers. Two weeks later I said goodbye to my breasts.

Oprah decided she wanted to tell her story. So her cameras followed me everywhere in the days leading up to the surgery. And it was while they were rolling the morning of the surgery, with my gown on and IV needle in place, I decided I didn’t want to do it; I couldn’t go through with it. I cried and prayed and came as close as I ever have to coming completely unglued. I don’t really believe in coincidence. The world is a purposeful place, so I know it was through divine intervention that a breast surgeon I had interviewed on “The Early Show” walked by, right then, in the middle of my breakdown. She calmly reminded me that this surgery was for people like me, at extreme risk who wanted to take control of their health. In short, she brought me peace.

The surgery was fairly uneventful, painful but not in the chest area. After the surgery I began spotting, waking up flat-chested. When the anesthesia wore off, I gingerly removed the gauze and got a first look at what I called my “baby breasts.”

They were two cup sizes smaller than my real breasts. They were also very hard and HEAVY! The surgeon had taken all my tissue and replaced it with temporary, saline-filled implants. Who knew 360 cc of liquid could feel like two, 10-pound bowling balls? The recovery nurse would follow me around the floor, reminding me to pull my shoulders back and stand up straight. It was the oddest feeling because they did not feel like they were a part of me as much as they were sitting on top of me.

I left the hospital and headed home to my house in upstate New York to begin the long recovery process. That was a challenge in itself as we were in the middle of an extensive renovation of our 104-year-old home. There were not enough pain pills to help me deal with the sawdust and strangers milling about.

My kids, Casey and Cole, met me at the door, happy to see me after three days. Their big worry was that their mother could die. They hugged me tenderly and when they saw my industrial sized bra, their eyes got really big. But Cole, ever the perceptive boy said, “Mom, I think you did the right thing because women die from breast cancer.” I said “yes they CAN die if they don’t catch it early.” I thought that was pretty perceptive for my then 8-year-old boy to come up with. (He was soon back to being all-boy, chewing bread into the shape of guns and terrorizing the rest of us with it!)

In February, with scars still very fresh, I began the expansion process. Doctors would insert a needle into each breast and fill it with 60 cc of saline, which slowly moves the pectoral muscle away from the ribcage (the implants are placed under the muscle to protect them). It was very surreal, watching my beast expand, sort of the way a tire fills with air. It was extraordinarily painful but not in the chest area. After each expansion, I got crippling pains in my
upper back from the muscles moving and stretching. It was hard to breathe.

I went through the expansion two times. On March 9, I had the final reconstructive surgery where the temporary implants were exchanged for the softer, gel-like, silicone implants.

Three weeks after the final surgery, I found myself sitting on the couch next to the queen of talk, Oprah, who, along with asking questions, felt my breasts and pronounced to her nine million viewers, “Very Nice.”

There was also a bright spot to last year because I realized my lifelong dream of writing and publishing a book. “Good Enough Mother, The Perfectly Imperfect Book of Parenting,” the perfectly imperfect book of parenting, is my missive about modern motherhood. I was hoping to bring relief and humor to women who were making themselves crazy trying to provide a perfect childhood for their children. The response was overwhelming! Women were so appreciative as if I somehow gave them freedom from the quest for perfection when I admitted pizza for breakfast and eggs and waffles for dinner were okay, as long as their children ate something.

Life is funny because sometimes when you are seeking your life’s work, your life’s work finds you. For the last 20 years I have worked with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the largest breast cancer organization in the world. Now I am an official ambassador for Komen because they, as I do, truly believe we can live in a world without breast cancer. I pray that happens before my daughter grows up. I don’t want her to have to make the same choice I made.

This fight is particularly daunting for African-Americans. I may take some heat for this but we have to be healthier. Obesity is a gateway illness, leading to high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and cancer, including breast cancer. Women of color are diagnosed less with breast cancer but die more. Much of that is due to lack of access to quality health care but late diagnosis is also a problem. Also, African-American women tend to develop the cancer about 10 years before white women, when they are young and pre-menopausal, leading to a different and sometimes more difficult battle.

So I am co-chairwoman of the Komen initiative called Circle of Promise, trying to reach women of color to dispel myths and get us to promise to take better care of ourselves. We are the lynchpin of the family. We cannot continue to give and give and take care of everyone else without showing ourselves the same courtesy. Sometimes it is okay to put yourself first.

My prognosis now is very good. In 2007 I went to hell and back, but I am back. Mentally and physically, I am healthy and strong. I’m back to working out, the breasts are now a part of me. My risk of developing breast cancer, once as high as 40 percent, is now down to 2 percent. These are good odds!

2007 was the year I took control of my health and professional life. Nowadays, I am working on turning “Good Enough Mother” into a franchise. I am developing a radio show and a couple of TV shows based on GEM principles and am working on a second book - all in my spare time.

I have no single regret about my decision. My body doesn’t look the same, my breasts don’t move the way they once did. Still I have not one second thought about my decision. It means no more mammograms or biopsies and a drastically reduced risk of breast cancer. That is reason to celebrate. Plus the fact, I’m a woman in her mid-40s with the breasts of a teenager!

RENÉ SYLER

Syler said the massive renovation of her home has served as a metaphor for her life.

“LIFE IS FUNNY BECAUSE SOMETIMES WHEN YOU ARE SEEKING YOUR LIFE’S WORK, YOUR LIFE’S WORK FINDS YOU.”

René Syler is an active member of the National Association of Black Journalists. Between working on a second book and frequent media appearances, Syler continues to carry the flag for Good Enough Mothers everywhere. http://www.goodenoughmother.com

Editor’s Note

NABJ has been struck with the number of our members who have come forward to talk about their encounters with breast cancer. The NABJ Journal wanted to explore the issue deeper, so we went straight to the sources. In this issue, René Syler tells her story in the form of a first person essay. Hoda Kotb and JaQuitta Williams also shared their stories. René, Hoda and JaQuitta — as powerful, popular and familiar as they are — have taught us that breast cancer is no respecter of position, or race, or personality. We now encourage you to follow up and find creative ways to get the message out to your readers, viewers and listeners about breast cancer and health issues that impact our people. And pay attention to your health.
Breast cancer is not contagious, but Hoda Kotb is glad she caught it

By Mashaun D. Simon

It may sound weird, and to a certain extent it is almost too hard to believe, but Hoda Kotb will tell you that breast cancer was the best thing to ever happen to her.

Yes, you read right; breast cancer, that thing that most consider a horrible disease – pretty much a death sentence – has given the NBC TODAY anchor a new outlook on life. So much so that she says it has made her a better person.

Kotb learned last January that she “was infected” with breast cancer. It was a sobering experience being that she always considered herself healthy and never expected to get such news.

But now, a year later, as a survivor she has a new mantra: “You can’t scare me!”

“What is better than that?” she said. “That’s what I get from this. Bill collectors are calling; my house could burn down...okay!

“When you get a diagnosis like breast cancer, you realize your life has margins. It snaps you into focus,” she said. “Your life begins to make sense. You get a second bite out of the apple, and second chances really wake you up.”

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among African-American women, according to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. It is the second leading cause of cancer death among African-American women, exceeded only by lung cancer.

Yet, according to the American Cancer Association, there are more than 2.4 million breast cancer survivors alive today.

What is breast cancer? Susan G. Komen for the Cure defines it as “a type of cancer where cells in the breast tissue divide and grow without the normal control. Cancerous tumors in the breast usually grow very slowly so that by the time one is large enough to be felt as a lump, it may have been growing for as long as ten years.”

When Kotb learned of her diagnosis she took on an “onward” attitude. She said she is the kind of person that when things are too big, she becomes a “put her head down and do it” kind of person.

“Forward! That’s what I kept thinking. Oftentimes, so many of us get stuck in the fetal position,” she said. “What do you do afterwards? It is all about looking ahead.”

She wanted to just deal with it and push forward, not sit by and bask in the direness of the situation. And she kept it to herself because she did not want to have to deal with the “looks people give when they know you are sick.”

So, she kept quiet. That is until she was inspired to speak up. On her way back to the United States from Ireland, she sat next to a stranger on the plane.

She remembered that he had kind eyes and very philosophical. He asked her, “What’s the knock on you? What are people saying about you when you leave a room?” She was tired, drained, and was not feeling well at all. As a matter of fact, she was not up to doing much talking. Not that she was trying to be rude, she said, she just wanted to rest. But this man, with such kind eyes, would not let up. He had something to say.

And for some reason she chose to oblige him. She chose to hear what he had to say.

“Breast cancer is a part of you,” he told her after she shared her very personal secret with him. “Here is some advice and then I will let you go to sleep. We are just here to help people. For all of us there are moments and we can miss those moments.

“Just be present,” he said. “Live in the moment and show up!”

And so she “came out” with the news of her diagnosis. A choice, Dwight Randle, Ph.D., Senior Scientific Advisor for Susan G. Komen for the Cure, says will play such an important role in saving the lives of other African-American women who have been diagnosed.

“The belief that breast cancer is an old white woman disease is so not true,” he said. “Black women don’t know that, and it gives me shudders.”

With Kotb, René Syler (formerly of CBS) and ABC’s Robin Roberts being so open about their diagnoses they are giving a face to this disease that is normally not seen. And they are getting the message out that “this can happen to you.”

“When women are saying, ‘she looks like me; maybe I should be looking at this and taking it serious,’ then a life is saved. And when it is found early there is a better chance for survival,” said Randle.

The survivors have been the other saving grace for Kotb. A fellow survivor will give her a “look that is better than words,” Randle said. It is not the same look of pity, but a look of strength, love and understanding.

Kotb said she is no longer wasting time in her life. Having been diagnosed and surviving breast cancer has changed her for the better.

“Look at how it has changed me,” she said. “There are very few things that are life changing. This is one of them. It really does change you to the core.”

Mashaun D Simon is the former NABJ Student Rep. He is a graduating senior at Kennesaw State University, in Kennesaw, GA and works fulltime in Atlanta as a freelance writer.
A week after returning to Atlanta from the NABJ Convention in Las Vegas, JaQuitta Williams – a weekend anchor and reporter at WSB-TV in Atlanta, announced to the world that she was battling breast cancer. Her openness was not a surprise to anyone who knows her. JaQuitta is a fixture in Atlanta and her invitation to her viewers to join her on her journey seemed natural. Now, she sits down with her good friend and WSB-TV anchor Jovita Moore to discuss, laugh, cry and sing about her diagnosis and future.

Jovita: When did you find out and what was your reaction?
JaQuitta: It was July 19 and I was at work when I found out, just about an hour before my live shot at 5 o’clock. My reaction was shock, to the point where I kept asking the doctor over and over again until it became clear that I had breast cancer. My photographer was outside the truck, setting up our live shot, and I was sitting inside typing an intro to my story. He wasn’t aware of what was happening.

Jovita: Our NABJ convention was a few weeks after...why did you still decide to make the trip?
JaQuitta: I go to the convention just about every year and I still felt it was important, as a journalist to be a part of it. I didn’t want my cancer diagnosis to change that. I wanted to have a good time and I wanted to be with my friends in the business. I also wanted to share my news with those friends. René Syler was one of them. We hugged and cried together. I also spoke with Byron Pitts and his wife, Lynn. I clearly remember how we stopped in the middle of the casino, with lights blaring, whistles blowing, while we prayed.

Jovita: What kind of procedure did you have?
JaQuitta: A lumpectomy. My doctor took the tumor out of my breast and was able to save my breast.

Jovita: Were your initial thoughts about your health or about your career?
JaQuitta: My health, definitely. The first thing I thought was this is serious. I wondered if I was going to die. I worried about everything that my diagnosis meant. I never really thought about my career. I just wanted to live.

Jovita: You’re outspoken about your diagnosis and treatment. Why? Because you’re in the media or because you want to be an advocate?
JaQuitta: I toyed back and forth about going public and my first thought was “no.” I thought I wanted to be private about it since this was going to be the fight of my life. But, then when I saw Robin Roberts tell her story nationally, I knew that I could tell mine locally.

Jovita: Why is it important for you to be out there?
JaQuitta: I also realized that because I was young, 36, with no family history,
non-smoker, and believing I was treating my body right, I still had breast cancer. I wanted women to see that no matter how old or how young you could still get cancer. And, I wanted to tell them that most important is doing self-exams. I decided to be an advocate.

**Jovita: What advice do you give to women after your experience?**

JaQuitta: It’s been a roller coaster ride. The chemo is no joke. (JaQuitta tears up here) It’s been difficult but it’s changed my life for the better. I thought I was living my life to the fullest but chemo, cancer has really taught me how to live. It has taught me what’s important. I don’t want people to think that being diagnosed with breast cancer is easy, because it’s not, but it is doable.

**Jovita: So, what is important now?**

JaQuitta: I don’t take anything for granted. I don’t just think that because I’m 36 I have the rest of my life in front of me. I believe that I do, but I live life each day because I never imagined that I would deal with this. I love being around my friends, they’re very important to me. I enjoy my work, but I’ve also realized that being a journalist is not what’s most important about living.

**Jovita: What has surprised you most about having cancer?**

JaQuitta: Gaining weight! The chemo and the medications made me gain 30 pounds. I used to think that people with cancer got skinny, or “looked” sick, but I didn’t. People always comment on how good they think I look while undergoing chemo. And, hot flashes, hot flashes, hot flashes! Thank God that’s over!

**Jovita: How has the fight against cancer changed you?**

JaQuitta: My perspective on many things has changed. I think I’m softer than I used to be, not as rough around the edges as I used to be, particularly in regards to work. I’ve slowed down a lot, and I feel like I’ve taken this time to slow down...a lot.

**Jovita: Your thoughts about so many prominent Black women with breast cancer?**

JaQuitta: I think cancer doesn’t care who you are or how much money you have. We’re all the same when it comes to knowing what’s going on with our bodies. I do believe as high-profile black women we have the ability to help educate other women who admire what we do. If it can happen to René, Robin or JaQuitta...it can happen to “me.”

**Jovita: January 2 was your first day back on-air, how was it coming back? Was it an emotional time for you? How do you feel being back at work now?**

JaQuitta: It felt great being back. It kind of felt like I’d never left. Another part of me felt like it was a little bit foreign because the newsroom was like it always was... phones ringing... scanners going off, reporters getting their assignments, etc. And I felt different, changed, although everything and everyone was the same – I wasn’t. I know I’m different though, and it’s a good thing.

**Jovita: Final comments?**

JaQuitta: Finally, I got into this business because I wanted to tell stories. Surprisingly the one story that I feel I’ve been able to help the most people is telling the story of this journey. Hopefully, maybe, I’m saving somebody else’s life.

**Jovita Moore is the 5 p.m. anchor for WSB-TV in Atlanta.**

To read more about JaQuitta Williams’ journey log on to the following links to see WSB-TV-produced news stories about her, watch videos of her, read her ongoing blog or send her a message. Visit [http://www.wsbtv.com/station/14103898/detail.html](http://www.wsbtv.com/station/14103898/detail.html); [http://www.wsbtv.com/news/13908138/detail.html](http://www.wsbtv.com/news/13908138/detail.html)
Cathy Hughes, media mogul of urban radio and TV, continues to forge ahead in her own truth – no matter what the others are saying. And a recent interview proves that she proudly remains out of the mainstream.

Unabashed, opinionated and unapologetic, Cathy Hughes is a pragmatist whose choices boil down to what she thinks is best, not what is popular.

Stopping short of endorsing Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-New York for president of the United States, Hughes said: “Everyone is so happy that Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. is running for president. My major concern is the survival of America. This economy is the scariest thing that I have lived through in my entire life. The Clintons were not my cup of tea – more black men and women were incarcerated under the Clinton administration and he dismantled welfare – but when I look over the field, Hillary Clinton is our best chance for the improvement of the American economy.”

Hughes said that the international community’s respect for former President Bill Clinton would restore confidence in American leadership and that she has “more confidence in Hillary’s leadership than the other candidates.”

Hughes, who moderated the Iowa Heartland Presidential Forum in December, said, “I know that this is not a popular opinion, but [Obama] is young; he can run again. His three years of community organizing activities don’t measure up to Hillary Clinton’s 35 years of service on behalf of others.”

Hughes even expressed skepticism about who may be supporting Obama.

“Obama is highly articulate and highly intelligent, but he is in denial if he thinks this is a colorless election,” she said. Hughes’ chief concern about Obama is her perception that his actual political experience is limited. “He hasn’t introduced bills – or served on committees – that resulted in any real action. We don’t have time to train a president,” she explained.

Furthermore, she said, “Rep. Charles Rangel, D-New York is one of the most powerful, one of the most knowledgeable politicians – experienced, and well-respected. He convinced Hillary to run for senator. Rangel and Rep. John Conyers, D-Michigan – they know how [politics] work.”

Hughes concedes, however, that Obama’s candidacy has motivated younger African Americans to become involved in the political process. Her grave concerns about the economy center around the damage resulting from the subprime mortgage market.

“Atlanta is built on subprime loans. I have employees living in half-million-dollar homes,” she said in reference to the practice of lenders selling higher-end properties to buyers who really cannot afford them. “We have got to get people out of subprime loans.”

Of the shrinking value of the dollar abroad, Hughes said, “We cannot talk about black empowerment until we deal with economic issues.”

In her own boardroom, Hughes might be concerned with the fact that Radio One’s stock has plummeted in the past year from $6.83 per
share to below $1.70 per share today.

“The entire sector is down,” she said. “Radio has fallen out of favor on Wall Street. It is tragic that this is happening because it is hurting employees. ... But, the market will cycle back up.”

Ever grounded in the importance of providing a voice for African Americans, Hughes explained that racism is still a formidable foe in America: “Covert racism is most invidious. This is the first generation of black people who will do worse than their parents.”

Looking back on her own success, Hughes is quick to point out that she did not rise to become the first African-American woman to head a publicly traded company without the help of others years ago. And today, Hughes is chairwoman of the board of Radio One, which owns a share of TV One, a venture with Comcast Cable and others.

Hughes explains that she is a praying woman who has continued her mission, sometimes without trying. Hughes says that when TV One was launched, a family-oriented station was not a part of the mission.

“We were not interested in being another HBO or another BET... We wanted to present adult entertainment for the 30 to 49 age group.”

She said when the Black Family Channel changed its slate of programming, TV One ended up being the source for programming such as Roots and Roots II. This was “divine intervention,” and now TV One's target audience is ages 5 to 85, Hughes said.

While others have opposed recent changes by the Federal Communications Commission, which relaxed media cross-ownership rules, Hughes is not concerned about being adversely impacted at this time. She is more interested in the People Meter, a viewer tracking system which determines who is listening and watching media. The People Meter came under intense scrutiny a few years ago before being launched by Nielsen Media Research.

“The People Meter registers major exposure opportunities for white folks. [The People Meter] looks like black people don’t listen to the radio. We should be effectively lobbying to keep these issues alive,” Hughes said.

On the road to a media success, Hughes didn't shy away from thorny issues.

Considering at the Jena Six situation, Hughes said, “We need more advocacy and better follow-up.”

And in response to the criticism that the black press is often too easy on other blacks, she said, “It is not healthy to glorify. We can disagree without being disagreeable. We should tell both sides of the story and a personality.”

On a softer note, Hughes talks about the importance of helping others move ahead in the broadcasting industry.

“I sold five stations to Sheila Eldridge in Augusta, Ga. I felt as if I were passing the mantle to a black female. I am proud of my son, but he is a man. And I had a desire for a black woman to benefit from my career.”

Having successfully raised her son, Alfred Liggons III, as a single mom, she offers some advice to other single moms:

“With black folks, we struggled so hard and we have turned our own kids into privileged characters. I never get it confused. I was never my son’s best friend. It was my responsibility to educate and nurture him.”

To parents who own their businesses, she said, “Insist that your child work in the family business.” Throughout our telephone conversation, she paused from time to time, to offer comfort to her 85-year-old mother. Likewise, I could hear a mother-like support for the community she loves as she gave instructions to a group departing her home for a homeless tour.

Cathy Hughes lives and loves authentically. Without a doubt, she is out of the mainstream.

Karen Moody is an attorney and freelance writer in the Washington, D.C., area.
“Turning White: A Memoir of Change”
Lee Thomas

Lee Thomas, like thousands of broadcast journalists, wakes up at 4:45 a.m. to prepare for a long day of reporting. Despite the workload ahead — and the early morning hour — his co-workers know they can expect Lee to have a light step, jovial personality and a strong work ethic. With all of his phenomenal qualities as a man and as a reporter, you have to look past a small detail: he is a black man turning white.

By Winter Johnson
Every day, Thomas puts on makeup to conceal the white splotches that mark his body, an effect of the vitiligo that has taken its toll for the past 16 years. His motives don’t have a speck of vanity in them; he just wants to make sure that people pay attention to the news—and not examine his mouth, nose and ears, which are the areas most claimed by the disease. Vitiligo (pronounced vit-ill-EYE-go) is a pigment-destroying disease that affects as many as 4 million Americans—and there is no cure.

In “Turning White: A Memoir of Change,” Lee discusses his journey, from his early days as a rookie reporter trying to make it big to the beginning of the disease that changed his life. Beginning as a small spot on his scalp, the vitiligo spread to more than 30 percent of his body, creating a dramatic contrast on his smooth brown skin. A naturally positive individual, Lee doesn’t allow the skin-whitening disease to stop him from living. In his book and in interviews, he says, “Vitiligo has made me into the man I’ve always wanted to be—and even more.”

Admittedly, talking to Thomas, a man who has been claimed by a disease that drastically alters his appearance, made this reporter regret every time I complained that I hadn’t waxed my eyebrows. His positive outlook defies anyone who likes to make excuses for why they can’t achieve. With a bravery that defies explanation, he looks at the world and says, “What? Me, worry?”

Throughout the book, Thomas spreads a daunting number of anecdotes, which at times can prompt a reader to stop and wonder, “What the heck does his playing basketball with Denzel Washington have to do with vitiligo?” But each one provides a stunning snapshot of the life of a man who has discovered his own beauty—outside of the mainstream world’s standards. And in spite of his illness, he has a flourishing career as a broadcast journalist on Fox 2 News in Detroit, as well as a lovely girlfriend, who, by the way, met him with his makeup off.

“The key for me is simple: Just live!” Thomas says. “Keep showing up and continue to engage life. We need each other to survive. I will never give up on loving life or sharing it with people. And no person or thing can change any of that. Even if I am turning white.”

Winter Johnson is a recent graduate of Northwestern University and the NABJ Journal’s book editor.
Back to Africa
Delegation of NABJ members visit Senegal to report on AIDS, education and the environment

By John Yearwood and Djibril Diallo/World Affairs Task Force
Photos by Bob Butler

We rode through the desert, even getting a couple of flat tires. Interviewed a president, prime minister, first lady — and countless village elders. Shed a tear or two at Goree Island. And, yes, some of us found out that toilets come in all forms.

The experiences were all part of an incredible journey to Senegal in early December for seven fellows under the leadership of NABJ President Barbara Ciara. It was the second trip to Africa in two years to honor the memory of student member Akilah Amapindi, who died from malaria on the last day of the NABJ Atlanta convention.

During the eight days, fellows reported on myriad issues, including the impact of climate change, the fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria, education, and new infrastructure construction, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The United Nations again partnered with NABJ, through the World Affairs Task Force, to make the trip possible. NABJ also received financial or logistical support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and The International Reporting Project.

The fellows were: Bob Butler, KCBS Radio, San Francisco; Cindy George, Houston Chronicle; Kafia Hosh, The (Fredericksburg, Va.) Free-Lance Star; Travers Johnson, The (Morehouse College) Maroon Tiger, Atlanta; Ojinika Obiekwe, WPIX-TV, New York; Khadijah White, NOW on PBS, New York; and Regina Boone, The Detroit Free Press.

NABJ members were able to follow the trip through daily blog entries in which fellows described their experiences. It was the first visit to Africa for most fellows.

Here are some of their stories.

Looking for the Perfect Shot: Unexpected Snags Bring New Preparedness for Not-So-Perfect Settings

By Khadijah White

“Don’t cry!” the paper screams at me. It’s the last thing I wrote in my notes after my NABJ trip to Senegal. After sitting for hours screening through footage, holding back tears was all I could do.

It had been an indescribable trip — going to a palace, meeting with dignitaries, and traveling to deserts. I had expected to haggle in Senegalese markets and negotiate paths through open sewage, but nothing had prepared me for filming and producing a story in a new language, with unfamiliar traveling comrades, about people I knew nothing about.

I wasn’t ready for dragging a tripod and camera through desert sand, holding the camera steady while ignoring the burrs that pierced through the bottoms of my ill-advised sandals. I didn’t expect to have to ask the journalists I was with to move out of my shot or beg our dutiful guide to repeat things for me “on camera.”

I hadn’t realized how long the translations of local villagers would take, how the sand would affect my equipment, how rushed our time would be in each location.

Everything in my work at PBS had trained me on preparation, on setting up beautiful interviews in controlled locations with characters I knew everything about.

None of that had prepared me for the trip to Senegal. And as I went through my footage, critiquing my shots, loathing the lighting, and noting my fellow journalists who always seemed to walk through my “perfect” frame, a sinking feeling filled my stomach. At the bottom of the page I had even warned myself against shedding tears.

But more than a month later, I see something different in my notes. I smile recalling the sunset I have on “Tape 3.”
I’m proud of the stand-ups I shot for two other journalists on the trip. And I know that Regina Boone’s playful antics with beautiful schoolchildren will end up on the NABJ’s video of the trip. Despite the fact that there was a lot I didn’t expect about my trip to Senegal, I have an experience under my belt that makes me feel like there’s nothing I can’t do as a journalist. I did carry my own equipment to countless locations. I did videotape the president and capture a stunning moment between a woman and her child. I made it through. And there’s no need to write a note to myself at the bottom of the page this time – I’m smiling already.

Innocence of Childhood Transcends Economic, Social Disparities

By Kafia Hosh

Our visit to Senegal was my first trip to Africa since 1989, shortly before a civil war ravaged my native country of Somalia. Interestingly enough, Dakar’s crowded streets, grandiose mosques and colorful landscape reminded me of Mogadishu.

Dakar was a place where Western culture collided with Senegalese customs. Teenage girls in tight-fitting jeans filled the streets alongside women donning free-flowing traditional dresses with matching head wraps.

I soaked everything up because Dakar was the closest I had ever come to experiencing Mogadishu in 18 years.

And like Somalia, or many other African nations, there was a distinct socio-economic divide among Senegal’s people.

Our group stayed in a palatial hotel with marble floors and incredible views of the Atlantic. We stopped by high-end jewelry boutiques and dined on fresh shrimp and white rice. And during rush hour, we watched as private school students were chauffeured home in luxury cars.

But at the same time, we saw begging street kids in tattered clothes and broken sandals. We visited remote villages where men tended to livestock and women still gathered water from wells.

Somehow the opposite lifestyles of Senegal’s residents were most evident among its children.

One afternoon we ran into three boys frolicking in the Darou Fal desert where a modest farming community is located. One of them wore shorts with a torn T-shirt that was several sizes too big. He held a portable radio close to his ear. He wore no shoes, but it didn’t stop him from dancing to the music, thrusting his tiny feet into the sand with each step.

On our last day, a few of us walked out to the hotel beach to see a young French boy fishing as his Senegalese au pair watched. He had a mop of strawberry blond hair and wore red fishing boots. After catching a fish, he would compassionately throw it back into the water. What a privileged life he must lead, I thought. But he wasn’t that different from the boy in the Darou Fal desert. Their carefree demeanors, something only experienced in childhood, were both the same.

To read and see more that Kafia wrote about and saw in Senegal, go to:

Residents fear rising sea levels
http://www.fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2008/012008/01272008/340375

Senegal promotes HIV/AIDS awareness
http://www.fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2008/012008/01282008/346640

Video: Country has painful history
http://www.fredericksburg.com/News/Web/2008/012008/0127senegal

Slideshow: Senegal, West Africa

Heart of Senegal Pumps Strong In Face of Environmental Threats

By Bob Butler

The NABJ/UN fellowship was absolutely amazing. I’m not one to resort to flowery language or hyperbole because I believed one of my former professors who said they have no place in journalism. But he didn’t go on this trip. He didn’t see the water had risen at least four feet.

He also was absent in Nguigalakh Peuhl where we learned that a severe drought had forced Fulani nomads to give up their wandering lifestyle because they couldn’t find enough food and water for their cattle.

No, my professor wasn’t on this trip. If he had been, I’ll bet he would have described it as a surprising, heart-wrenching and heartwarming look at how climate change and global warming is affecting Senegal and how the Senegalese people are adapting and, in some cases, thriving.
They are all Senegal

Photos and words by Regina Boone

As one of seven NABJ fellows who traveled to Senegal to learn about its people, its culture, its history, its politics and its environment, I did not come solely with my ears open and ready to absorb all that was to be presented to us through numerous briefings during our tightly scheduled working trip. But I came with my eyes wide really hoping to see the true spirit of the country and to document it with my camera. Of course, this is wishful thinking that I could possibly find this in such a short span among a group even. Although we met many people and saw various aspects of Senegal in a whirlwind manner I can look in the eyes of the portraits I made of the young and the old, the privileged and not as privileged and I truly see the Senegal that I think they hoped us to see – a place so proud where dignity illuminates no matter what part of the country they come from. They are all Senegal.

Regina Boone is a photographer for the Detroit Free-Press.
Accra, Ghana crackles from dawn to dusk with every imaginable sight, sound and smell. Roosters routinely awaken you while rhythmic drumming from nearby nightspots won’t let you fall asleep.

Cars, trucks, taxis and recycled passenger vans known as Tro Tros race through streets and major highways, narrowly missing pedestrians who are everywhere and seemingly selling everything. Young boys and girls boldly glide through bumper-to-bumper traffic peddling plastic bags of water, phone cards, bundles of fresh pineapples and bananas, T-shirts, newspapers and toilet paper.

So how was I to respond to the cab drivers, hoteliers, expatriates, business owners, laborers, American bureaucrats and others whom I met during my two-week journey to the West African country when asked, “How do you like Ghana?”

“Ghana is everything and more!” became my constant reply. Some smiled or laughed at my response. Others nodded in agreement, as if they, too, realized my difficulty in describing this nation of 23 million people that teems with extremes: Poverty, disease, unemployment and substandard housing so visible that it rendered me speechless.

Yet, Ghana, which last year celebrated its 50th year of independence from British rule, bursts with beauty, culture, wealth and warmth that calms the soul.

Days after returning from Ghana, it was hard to shed its sounds and images. Black folks, whose skin tones ranged from the deepest ebony to honeycombed hues, running things and taking care of business. The dozens of languages that frequently forced me into silence. The spicy chicken, rice, beans and plantains that I preferred over starchy Ghanaian staples such as fufu or banku. The inquisitive stares I attracted, not because I looked much different from Ghanaians. (To my immense pleasure, I actually was mistaken for a Ghanaian while awaiting my return flight home).

I decided the stares probably were due to my oh-so-American attire: Big sunglasses, floppy hat to shield the unrelenting sun, bland capris and braided hair that looked silly when compared to the colorful designs and styles paraded on the streets of Accra, Ghana’s capital. In Accra alone, there are 2.3 million people.

Despite my American ways, Ghanaians embraced me, if not always with the passion I’d envisioned. Perhaps they’ve become accustomed to our kind of people coming into their country full of ignorance or arrogance. Or, perhaps the inhabitants of this poverty-stricken country are too busy surviving off the average $500 annual income that most earn to pay much attention to Americans, who seem to have it all.

As for some overly friendly Ghanaians, I was warned they sometimes have ulterior motives in mind: To sell you items at a high rate, to befriend you during mealtime, or attempt to use you as an opportunity to “visit” the U.S.

I traveled to Accra Dec. 28-Jan. 12 as an Ethel Payne Fellow. NABJ awards the fellowship to two members each year in honor of Payne (1911-1991), a pioneering black journalist who covered seven U.S. presidents and was a war correspondent for The Chicago Defender. Payne’s work in Africa as a foreign correspondent prompted NABJ to create the fellowships.

I am honored and humbled by the award that enabled me to experience a land I’d only gleaned from the media and snippets of conversations from acquaintances who have traveled the continent. Although I have traveled many parts of the U.S. and the Caribbean, Ghana marked my first opportunity to visit Africa, frequently referred to as the “Motherland” by American blacks whose ancestors originated on its shores.

My primary reason for visiting Ghana was to report on the Millennium Challenge Corporation’s five-year, $547 million compact with Ghana. MCC, an independent U.S. Government agency, was established in Congress four years ago to reduce global poverty through “sustainable economic growth.” Agriculture accounts for 40 percent of Ghana’s gross domestic product and employs between 60 and 70 percent of its labor force.

Ghana is among several developing countries in which MCC has compacts. MCC officials say the program seeks to help rural...
families increase their income through a complex, three-part program that will increase production of food crops, improve transportation services, and improve water, sanitation, educational and vocational facilities.

The program intrigued me for several reasons. I wanted to see firsthand where and how our tax dollars will be used. I also have a keen interest in economy, business and education, and the MCC program appears to combine all of those elements.

In addition, I was born in rural North Carolina near tobacco fields, so focusing on farming and agriculture was a natural for me. How effective the compact will be long-term remains to be seen (and reported).

I met with MCC officials, the U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, Pamela Bridgewater, and two groups of farmers that are participating in the compact. The farmers’ most memorable words to me were (through a translator) that they are glad to know the American media are interested in their stories.

But a funny thing happened on my way to and while in Ghana. I discovered that my journey wouldn’t be complete without chronicling at least some of the other stories I encountered. One such story has simmered for several years right under my nose at Virginia Commonwealth University where I am an associate professor of journalism.

While I was teaching an ethics course last year, one of my students asked if she could show the class a brief video promoting an upcoming event on campus. “Sure,” I replied. I absentmindedly asked about the nature of the video.

“It’s about a benefit for a school in Ghana,” she said.

“Ghana?” I said, my head jerking to full attention. “I'm going to Ghana!”

My excitement ignited because I had yet to complete plans for my upcoming trip and the deadline loomed. Plans to travel in early 2007 didn’t pan out. So when my year's expectation already in place that included down-time visits to the W.E.B. DuBois Museum, Cape Coast slave castles and Kakum National Park. Booking my travels with such a large group saved money and enabled me to purchase a still and video camera and digital voice video recorder to further record my work, some of which will run in The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch.

Once in Ghana, other story ideas bloomed. So, in addition to the MCC and SGM, I’ll also write about black American expatriates in Ghana, along with a look at Global Media Alliance, an International Media Company that specializes in Communications, Public Relations, Public Affairs, Event Management and Media Relations. GMA is run by Ghanaian Edward Boateng, who received his master’s degree at Clark Atlanta University.

Again, my experience was proving to be everything and more.

The 10-hour flight from New York’s JFK Airport to the Kotoko International Airport in Accra left my feet and ankles swollen for three days. Fat feet failed to stop me from partying on New Year’s eve with several Americans who’ve resettled in Ghana. I learned about one couple, Albie and Rose Walls, just two days before leaving Richmond. A family friend who met the Walls while visiting Ghana in October, e-mailed them to see if it was OK if I contacted them during my visit. Their affirmative reply was immediate.

On New Year’s Eve, the Walls and I descended on the Jazz T one nightclub, run by Toni Manieson, a Californian who lived in Atlanta before moving to Ghana 11 years ago. Manieson delighted us with her southern-style hospitality, and I’m hoping to sell my story about her to a magazine. Another expatriate, Jerome Thompson, formerly of Fort Washington, Md., generously shared his Sunday with me, showing me some breathtaking beach scenes in Accra and provided tips about how to best maneuver in his new country.

Several Ghanaians came to my aid at crucial moments, particularly after informing them I am a journalist, a field that garnered respect from many of the people I met during my journey.

Doris Ofori, from her small, street-vendor cart, helped me secure a cell phone in less time than I’ve ever been able to obtain one in the U.S. Adam Bampa patiently troubleshooted problems with my laptop, and Edward Boateng found me an affordable full-service hotel after I’d spent a week in a hotel with lots of lizards and no hot water.

In my new surroundings, I sometimes missed the camaraderie of the social work student group. I also discovered that the Internet connection at my new digs wasn’t any quicker than the more affordable Internet cafe in which Adam toiled 12 hours a day.

My most exhilarating moment in Ghana came on New Year’s Day at Kakum National Park. I felt empowered after walking up a steep hill that leads to the park’s popular canopy walkway. My intentions to catch my breath, drink some water, check out the scenery and walk back to our Tro Tro were detoured upon learning that our group was expected to complete walling on a series of ropes suspended nearly 100 feet above the rainforest floor.

I was petrified and attempted to find excuses to back out of the exercise. But, because I don’t like the word “coward” in front of my name, I braced myself and stepped onto the plank.

“Don’t look down,” someone called out. The words stayed in my head as I walked the sky, one step at a time.

After completing the walk, I dropped to my knees, wept and shouted the names of ancestors and loved ones who’ve gone before me. My actions and accomplishment reminded me of the symbolic Sankofa bird, which I rediscovered toward the end of my journey.

Sankofa, which represents a realization of self and spirit, means “go back to the past in order to build for the future.”

My journey to Ghana enabled me to do just that… and more.

Bonnie Newman Davis is an associate professor of journalism at Virginia Commonwealth University.
Digital technology has transformed the way journalists tell stories and the way people receive them. Every day, readers and viewers readily embrace new news-viewing inventions because doing so improves their lives by making it easier and faster to get news from anywhere at any time. Once they experience the satisfaction of getting the information they want, they will demand nothing less. But this has always been true ever since human beings communicated around a fire or with a rock and a cave wall.

Due to the demand, several multimedia and telecommunications companies – AT&T, Comcast, Microsoft, Google, etc. – are the new players on the mass communications and newsgathering playing field. Traditional broadcast and newspaper companies are in serious trouble or folding. Knight-Ridder closed its doors and was acquired in 2006. The New York Times sold its television stations in 2007. Clear Channel had the sale of its television stations approved in December 2007 and plans to sell hundreds of radio stations. Tribune is considering the placement of KTLA-TV, its L.A. flagship, on the selling block, and NBC, CBS, and Fox will have sold all of their small and medium market television properties by the end of 2008.

Others adapt the best they can by closing ranks and partnering with the new media players. Several local television stations are signing deals with their one-time rival local newspapers to cover local news in print, on the air, and online. In 2006, Disney’s ABC Radio merged with Citadel Broadcasting Corporation to form Citadel Communications. NBC and Fox are honeymooning with the Web video site, Hulu.com. CBS News and Yahoo! teamed to put “60 Minutes” clips on the Web, and MSNBC.com is a ten year old Microsoft-NBC baby.

Yet, several “old” media companies are thriving in the “new” media environment. The Washington Post Company is a client of Internet Broadcasting Systems (a leading local television Web site creator) and has not sold any television stations. Gannett has preserved its television ownership, and USA Today.com is an extremely popular news site. News Corp. purchased the social network Web site MySpace. Viacom continues to develop its Internet presence with youth-oriented projects on MTV.com and by targeting advertisers to African Americans with their newly created BET Digital Media Group. Despite spinoff rumors, Time Warner owns part of TMZ.com and continues to hold onto AOL.com, and CNN.com is a dominant news Web site.

All told, the new Internet companies have the competition running scared or at least playing catch up. Yahoo! News routinely enjoys No. 1 source status, and Google News and Drudge Report are often in the Top 10 and used by traditional news producers and writers to find “fresh” story ideas. However, it is interesting to note that most of the purely Internet companies do not create the content they present. For example, Google News is filled with links to stories from other news organizations. An exception is Yahoo! with original sports news content and rare, valuable Third World news coverage with Kevin Sites in the Hot Zone.

If traditional media companies are not terrified by the new digital landscape, many of their journalists are. Digital innovations are new and scare a lot more journalists than the audience members they seek to inform. So, how is any journalist expected to compete now and in the future?

The best way for journalists to survive and thrive is to recognize digital technology is here to stay and is designed to empower us. However, the first barrier to this epiphany is fear. Many journalists, new and veteran, become frightened of technology and avoid or criticize it especially when they know nothing about it. There was plenty of criticism about the Internet and digital technology when they first entered the news business. Critics claimed the Internet meant the collapse of civilization and civility; everyone would turn into anti-social zombies who would never leave home. Others thought computers competed with newspapers, television sets, and radios. Now, all executives admit the Web is revolutionary, and their corporations must publish on
it or perish. This turnaround occurred with education. Once we educate ourselves on what something is, we are less likely to be scared of it and more likely to embrace it.

In this Information Age, journalists must educate themselves in order to increase their knowledge base and skill set. This makes them a more valuable employee. Twenty-first century storytellers should enroll in digital editing, Web video, and Web publishing courses. Web publishing classes provide the fundamentals of Web site creation, including HTML for creating a layout and inserting text and images. Think of it as merely a variation of composition and writing. The most successful, famous news Web sites like DrudgeReport.com, HuffingtonPost.com, and PerezHilton.com started and still thrive while being simple; no frills, just words and pictures.

Major universities are good sources for instruction on how to build and maintain a Web site. However, the technology is so new and ever-evolving that many community colleges and adult education centers have digital curricula on par with larger colleges and universities. Often, smaller schools offer similar or deeper coursework outlines that cost half as much or even less. The best news is cost may not be a factor at all. Your new education may be free if your employer has a tuition reimbursement program.

Journalists’ fears will dissolve when they realize the power they have, based on their already accumulated journalism education and experience. Digital technology is not reinventing the wheel of journalism. Rather, it is an additional tool that enables them to practice journalism more efficiently. Because Web-page making is more of an art than a technical skill, a portfolio of work rather than an educational institution’s name impresses many employers. There are three words to remember when it comes to creating a stellar digital portfolio - “content is king.” Digital technology just adds more platforms for you to display your work. Journalists will become more courageous when they realize they are already the masters of creating and organizing content for Web sites or the delivery of stories to cell phones, iPods, satellite radios, or other mobile devices.

Notice the new multimedia companies want no part of newsgathering or reporting. In fact, companies like Google readily and explicitly state this. This is why there are so many of the aforementioned partnerships as opposed to takeovers of old media companies by new ones. Original news content remains in the hands of traditional media companies and their journalists. So as journalists, you will be more marketable and valuable to your employer by learning current and future digital technology.

Journalists should sign up for videography and photography classes, too. Education in digital equipment is crucial because the cross-pollination between traditional television, radio, and print is growing rapidly. Radio stations, newspapers, and periodicals are shooting video, and conversely television is publishing print material. In addition, the new digital journalism universe’s news managers are demanding that their news departments deliver the news more efficiently. To a journalist, this means cutbacks, layoffs, and telling more stories with less equipment and fewer people. Local stations are going digital with new equipment, but photography and camera operating fundamentals remain the same. One-person-bands and multitalented workers who are well versed in storytelling, writing, and technology are more common and will likely increase. Therefore, an understanding of and proficiency in the basics (zooming, focusing, white balancing, etc.) are essential. Stations like San Diego’s KGTV-TV have videographers, who have vitally ingrained camerawork experience and knowledge, reporting stories on television and online; the station calls it their “Digital Correspondent Initiative.” Getty Images’ photographer John Moore narrated a New York Times multimedia presentation on Benazir Bhutto’s assassination on nytimes.com. Stuffing more technical knowledge into a journalist’s head now will keep it off the chopping block later.

Personal and financial empowerment is a strong motivation for journalists to use digital technology. While new media companies shy away from creating content, they are happy to generate and give away applications/digital tools. You may have to agree to share your new software, but you maintain control over what you create with it. In addition to free software, digital technology will become more affordable and accessible to journalists and citizen journalists (non-journalists who supply news stories). Citizen journalists have produced some of the biggest stories of the past few years. In 2005, first person accounts of the London subway bombings were captured on cell phone cameras, and the South Asian-East African tsunami was shot on home video. American politics was rattled in 2006 when a young man recorded U.S. Senate candidate George Allen’s “Macaca-moment” in Virginia. The world was rocked by the cell phone video of Saddam Hussein’s execution. And in 2007, no one would know about the plight of Myanmar monks without bloggers risking their lives and freedom by telling their tales online.

Journalists have their own moneymaking opportunities within their grasp, too, if they commit to digital education. This notion is analogous to traditional manufacturing. The journalist’s brain is a factory. Perceived events and ideas are the raw materials that go in. News stories are the journalist’s product that the audience has a hunger for. Digital technology has the ability to empower journalists to do more independent, enterprising stories and to become entrepreneurs. Cheaper, more available digital technology allows a journalist to create a television station, radio station, or newspaper from home. There is a huge potential for journalists to supplement or even replace current incomes with revenue from newsgathering and storytelling activities with assistance from digital technology.

The business and act of journalism is a public trust. Journalists tell stories that the public needs and wants to know. They perform tasks to educate the public about the unknown so they can take care of themselves, their families, loved ones, and communities. If we succeed, society will be grateful. If we fail, society will turn on us. Digital technology gives us an opportunity to effectively tell and deliver stories quicker, more accurately, and more precisely to local and global audiences simultaneously. To take advantage of this opportunity we, as journalists, must first educate ourselves about digital technology so we can take care of society and society can take care of us.

*The author is a Washington Post Company employee.
Andrew Humphrey is founder and chairman of NABJ’s Digital Journalism Task Force, and Meteorologist and Journalist with WDIV-TV in Detroit.
Tips for New Media Newbies

By Mara Schiavocampo

Not since the advent of television has the media landscape transformed faster and more significantly than it is right now. Change is not on the horizon. It is here. Now.

Today’s young journalists have to learn a lot more than reporting. Thanks in part to the Web, there are more ways to deliver content than ever before, and you must be fluent in all of them. Below are some tips on moving bravely into this new world of media.

1. FOCUS ON THE STORY
The tools may have changed, but the trade has not. Journalism, no matter what form it’s in, is still journalism. So while you may edit your story on a laptop or post it to the Web with links to a photo slideshow, storytelling and ethics are still the most important elements. We still have to tell good stories. We still have to get it right. Don’t neglect that part of your craft.

2. DON’T BE INTIMIDATED
The new media world is facilitated by a heck of a lot of technology. With all the gadgets out there, it is easy to be intimidated and shy away from the whole process. But take heart, you don’t have to deliver an interactive multimedia version of your story tomorrow. Set a small goal to add one new-media element to each story you work on. This can be a blog about a sidebar element or a slideshow of related photos. If you’re new to video shooting, put the camera on auto and work only on shot composition. In other words, baby steps.

3. BE AN AVID CONSUMER
Know thy audience. Read blogs; pick a few that you love and some that you hate. Do some social networking. Identify which big media Web sites you like and why. Spend some time on YouTube. Most of you already do some of these things. But you should be comfortable with the entire landscape. Make sure that you’re part of the new media revolution as an avid consumer, as well as producer. It will give you a better understanding of what your audience wants and expects.

4. EMULATE
Here’s a little secret: when it comes to new media, we’re all trying to figure out exactly what works and what doesn’t. That being the case, when you see a way of presenting a story that works well, copy it. “OK,” so you don’t get any points for innovation. But ultimately, we should all be committed to telling the story in the best way possible for the medium. Now is the time to do some experimenting with format. So keep an eye on what others are doing. And don’t feel guilty; imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

5. GIVE YOURSELF CREDIT
For what may be one of the first times in labor history, the least experienced segment of the population possesses the most in demand skills: you probably have a Friendster page while the rest of us think Friendster is just a nickname for your best buddy; you likely can’t remember a time without the Internet or e-mail; you know the difference between a vlog and a blog. In other words, you get it. And a lot of people want it. Recognize the input you bring to the table as a member of the new media generation.

Mara Schiavocampo is a Digital Correspondent for NBC Nightly News With Brian Williams, www.nightly.msnbc.com. She is also NABJ’s 2007 Emerging Journalist of the Year.
plan a multimedia story. They’ll have developed some basic video and audio skills, and knowledge of how to publish an interactive multimedia story using Flash graphics,” Pace-Hinton said of the UGB program. “Beyond the hard skills, we strive to instill the fellows with a sense of the unique nature of the Web, and the idea that it is its own medium. And most return to their newsrooms motivated to experiment with some of the ideas and forms we’ve shown them, and many have gone on to create new models of storytelling.”

Freelance photographer Aaron Roberts was just transitioning into a career as a photojournalist four years ago when video really began taking the industry by storm. However, by the time Roberts applied for his first newsroom jobs, he said he felt his skills seemed somewhat obsolete. He knew that if he were going to be a viable job candidate, he needed to pick up more multimedia skills.

He said he found the boot camp run by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to be the most valuable of the workshops he’s attended. During the week-long program, Roberts learned about interactive graphics, audio and video gathering and editing, basic Flash animation, photo editing and Web design.

UNC runs the boot camp twice a year.

“It’s a constant change in the industry, and because of that, you have to keep educating yourself to keep up with all the demands,” Roberts said. “Even with going to school, there aren’t any guarantees you’ll get a job because the market is hot right now.”

Stephanie Crockett, a senior programming manager at America Online, took a more long-term approach to expanding her skills. Crockett decided going back to school would give her the time to step back from day-to-day work and consider what she was doing and why.

“My job is consistent; consistently updating, consistently building, consistently publishing and producing, so it leaves very little time for innovative thinking and growth,” Crockett said, adding that because of her background in reporting she decided to focus more on the technical skills.

“There’s a thick line between the tech side — all the back-end stuff people never see — and the programming side — all the stuff people see when they come to a Web site. It seems like once you choose your path, tech or programming, there’s no room to learn the other side without stepping down a title or two,” Crockett said. “Although I did have some technical skills as they related directly to my job, they were generally proprietary. I wasn’t learning universal publishing programs that would help me if I left to go to another job.”

Crockett enrolled in American University’s graduate program in interactive journalism. Every Saturday for two years, she joined a small group of professionals in honing her technical skills — in Web page building, shooting and editing video, Flash animation, etc. — while working toward a master’s degree.

“I’ve used everything! It’s funny to me, too: one class, our video class, wasn’t particularly interesting to me and then what happens? AOL Personals’ decides to use video to do man on the street interviews about different love topics. And guess who was in charge of the encoding process?” Crockett said. “It really does pay to keep one eye on the moving parts of the Web all the time. You just never know what you’re going to need to know.”

In describing AU’s appeal to journalists of all stripes, Jill Olmstead, associate journalism division director at AU, said: “There really is no such thing as a ‘non-Web’ journalist anymore. The caveman drew pictures on cave walls in order to tell stories, so storytelling will always be evolving because of technology, bringing new forms to life that we can’t contemplate today. There really is no choice [but to keep learning new skills] for people or news organizations who want to stay in the information business.”

Ju-Don Marshall Roberts is managing editor of washingtonpost.com. To find more information on programs available for journalists, log on to www.Ju-Don.com

What is on my MP3 Player and DVR?

On the walk from the garage to my desk, I listen to my iPod to pump me up for the day. My favorite jumpstarts are Soul II Soul, Prince, Mary J. Blige, Beyonce, Justin Timberlake, EnVogue, James Brown, A Tribe Called Quest, The Roots and Stephen Marley. I let my daughter listen to my iPod while she sits under the dryer, so I also have “Between the Lions” stories, Cheetah Girls and jazz for kids featuring Ella Fitzgerald singing Muffin Man. I Tivo Girlfriends, The Wire, The Game, Ugly Betty and Dirty Sexy Money. I watch too much TV so I’m a trying not to TiVo too much.

Shannon Buggs, financial columnist, Houston Chronicle

I have not watched an episode of this season’s “CSI,” but I have all of the new shows on my DVR. I also have Reno 911, Oprah, 60 Minutes, The Amazing Race, Family Guy, The Simpsons, Criss Angel Mindfreak, Dream Team (a soap opera about a British soccer team), Frontline, Survivor, Stargate: Atlantis, Battlestar Galactica, Star Trek: Enterprise and American Idol. I mainly use my MP3 player for working out. My eclectic collection includes Kanye West, Mariah Carey, Keith Sweat, Too Short, 50 Cent, Charlie Wilson, Madonna, Seal, Everything But the Girl, Ne’Yo, Chris Brown, Justin Timberlake, A Kόn, Timberland, Nelly Furtado and Kevin Lyttle to name a few.

Manny Otiko, Senior Media Relations Associate, Wunder-Mark PR

I’ve lost 10 pounds rocking out on the elliptical machine at the Y with my iPod! Inspirational, upbeat sounds get me going. Right now, I’m listening to lots of contemporary gospel and motivational songs. I like Hezekiah Wάlkεr, Kirk Franklin, Marvin Sapp, Beyonce, Mary J., Arrested Development, and Boney James, to name a few. I also enjoy listening to sermons from Bishop Noel Jones. Even though I anchor the news on television everyday, I don’t have as much time to actually watch TV as I’d like. But if I did have a TiVo, I’d probably have all the awards shows and sitcoms that I miss while I’m working.

Bridgett Williams, Evening Anchor/Reporter, NBC Augusta
Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists. group's highest honor in photojournalism. In 1996, Boston was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Sigma Delta He received the National Press Photographers Association Joseph A. Sprague Memorial Award in 1993, the picture of the unveiling of the bust of Martin Luther King Jr. in the Capitol Rotunda was a Pulitzer finalist. Boston served four terms as the White House News Photographers Association president and his 1987 his right hand he began placing the flowers into the barrels of the soldiers’ guns. He came out of nowhere.” Boston said in a 2005 interview for Curio magazine. “One soldier lost his rifle. Another lost his helmet. The rest had their guns pointed out into the crowd, when all of a sudden a young hippie stepped out in front of the action with a bunch of flowers in his left hand. With his right hand he began placing the flowers into the barrels of the soldiers’ guns. He came out of nowhere.” Boston served four terms as the White House News Photographers Association president and his 1987 picture of the unveiling of the bust of Martin Luther King Jr. in the Capitol Rotunda was a Pulitzer finalist. He received the National Press Photographers Association Joseph A. Sprague Memorial Award in 1993, the group’s highest honor in photojournalism. In 1996, Boston was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists.

Bernie Boston, 74; prize-winning D.C. photographer
Bernie Boston, a nationally acclaimed photojournalist, whose 1967 “Flower Power” photograph came to symbolize the Vietnam War and the peace movement, died Jan. 22, at his home in Basye, Va. He was 74. Boston was working for the Washington Star when he was assigned to cover an anti-war demonstration at the Pentagon on Oct. 22, 1967. His trademark photograph, “Flower Power,” shows a young man placing flowers in the gun barrels of soldiers. It was a runner-up for a Pulitzer Prize and ranks 30th on the list of the 100 greatest war photos of all time. “I saw the troops march down into the sea of people and I was ready for it,” Boston said in a 2005 interview for Curio magazine. “One soldier lost his rifle. Another lost his helmet. The rest had their guns pointed out into the crowd, when all of a sudden a young hippie stepped out in front of the action with a bunch of flowers in his left hand. With his right hand he began placing the flowers into the barrels of the soldiers’ guns. He came out of nowhere.” Boston said in a 2005 interview for Curio magazine. “One soldier lost his rifle. Another lost his helmet. The rest had their guns pointed out into the crowd, when all of a sudden a young hippie stepped out in front of the action with a bunch of flowers in his left hand. With his right hand he began placing the flowers into the barrels of the soldiers’ guns. He came out of nowhere.” Boston said in a 2005 interview for Curio magazine. “One soldier lost his rifle. Another lost his helmet. The rest had their guns pointed out into the crowd, when all of a sudden a young hippie stepped out in front of the action with a bunch of flowers in his left hand. With his right hand he began placing the flowers into the barrels of the soldiers’ guns. He came out of nowhere.”

Steve Grayson, L.A. Sports Photographer
Steve Grayson, a Los Angeles area sports photographer, died Jan. 24, after suffering a heart attack. He was 47. Grayson, who was freelancing at the time of his death, previously worked at the Los Angeles Sentinel, the Los Angeles Herald- Examiner and at the Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise. He had been senior picture editor at AllSport USA and worked under contract for the Associated Press, United Press International, the Los Angeles Times and Reuters.

Deborah Tang, 60; former BET executive
Deborah C. Tang, who created Black Entertainment Television’s news division as the network’s vice president of news, entertainment and sports programming, died on Christmas Day of cancer. She was 60. Tang spent 14 years at BET, where she produced “BET News,” the first national cable news show, and “Lead Story,” a roundtable program featuring prominent national journalists. Tang left BET in 2000 to do volunteer work and to work with mentoring organizations.

Terry Armour, 46; Chicago Tribune entertainment writer
Terry Armour, a Chicago Tribune sportswriter-turned-entertainment writer, died Dec. 29 after falling ill at work. He was 46. Armour covered the NBA’s Chicago Bulls during its championship seasons in the late 1990s, then became an entertainment and nightlife columnist. He also co-hosted “The Stan and Terry Show” on WCKG-FM. Read more about Armour at: www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-armour_webdec29_0,7259678.story?coll=chi_tab01_layout

Luther Brown, 56; former NBC news producer

Delaney (Ben) Casey, 72; Alabama radio star
Delaney (Ben) Casey, a longtime Huntsville, Ala., radio personality, died Nov. 20 of cancer. He was 72. Casey was instrumental in bringing local access to an audio news line for visually impaired people and hosted the 30-minute talk show “Community Focus” on Huntsville radio station WEUP-AM for a decade.

Stebbins Jefferson, 71; Palm Beach Post columnist
Stebbins Jefferson, a former editorial board member of The Palm Beach Post and a columnist known for her outspoken views on race relations, died Oct. 27, after complications from heart surgery. She was 71. Jefferson spent most of her career as a teacher, before one of her former students, a Post editor, suggested she work at the paper as a columnist. She joined the editorial board five years later, where she remained for a decade. Read some of Jefferson’s columns at: www.palmbeachpost.com/search/content/opinion/epaper/2007/10/28/1028jeffycolumns.html

David M. Lewis, 57; Baltimore Sun photo editor
David M. Lewis, deputy director of photography at the Baltimore Sun, died Dec. 14 after suffering a heart attack while undergoinng dialysis. He was 57. Lewis worked at the Des Moines Register before joining the old Baltimore Evening Sun as picture editor in 1985.

Frances Murphy, 85; chairwoman of The Afro
Frances L. Murphy II, who chaired one of America’s oldest newspapers, died Nov. 21 in Baltimore. She was 85. Murphy was the granddaughter of John H. Murphy Sr., a former slave and Civil War veteran who founded the Afro-American newspaper in 1892. She worked as a writer for the paper and eventually became chairwoman of the Afro, which publishes in Washington and Baltimore. She also served as publisher of the Washington edition.

Tom Terrell, 57; music journalist
Tom Terrell, a music journalist who also managed the reggae group Steel Pulse, wrote album liner notes, and worked as a disc jockey on Washington area radio stations, died Nov. 30. He was 57. Terrell’s articles appeared in Vibe, Jazz Times and Essence. His pieces also aired on National Public Radio. To listen to a farewell tribute to Terrell on NPR, click: http://www.npr.org/blogs/allsongs/2007/11/farewell_tom_terrell.html

By NABJ staff
Region V Conference Scheduled

The Region V Conference is planned for April 12 in Houston. The scheduled luncheon speaker is CNN commentator and radio host Roland Martin. In November, the Kansas City Association of Black Journalists celebrated exceptional coverage of people and communities of color with its annual media awards banquet and urban journalism academy reception.

The Houston Association of Black Journalists hosted its annual gala Feb. 15. Houston radio legend Skipper Lee Frazier received the HABJ Lifetime Achievement Award. The Spirit Award was presented to James T. Campbell and Paula Madison, executive vice president of diversity for NBC Universal, was honored with the HABJ Pinnacle Award.

Region VI continues Bailey project

Members of the Bay Area Black Journalists Association continue to work on the Chauncey Bailey Project, which is publishing stories looking into the dealings of the now-defunct Your Black Muslim Bakery. A handyman at the bakery is accused of the Aug. 2 killing of Bailey. The Black Journalists Association of Southern California took part in a forum on media diversity sponsored by the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Organizations with stories to tell learned how to do just that during the Media Access Workshop held by the Seattle Association of Black Journalists on Jan. 28. The San Diego Association of Black Journalists teamed with Southwestern College to host “Pro for a Day” in November.

Region III revs up chapters

Chapters in Atlanta, Orlando, Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham have selected new officers and members in Jacksonville were scheduled to have an election Feb. 23 in an effort to recertify the chapter.

Elsewhere, AABJ recently honored Angela Robinson as the 2007 Pioneer Black Journalist and Deborah Simon as Volunteer of the Year. In Birmingham, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin served as the BABJ’s keynote speaker at its Newsmaker Dinner. George Curry was the keynote speaker at the Tampa Bay Association of Black Journalists’ Griot Drum Awards and Scholarship Dinner. The Nashville Association of Black Journalists hosted poet and author Nikki Giovanni.

Interns excel with the armor of expert advice

By Demorris A. Lee

Before beginning journalists step foot into newsrooms this summer for that long-sought-after internship, they should pack their brains with an array of helpful advice.

To provide strategies that will help interns retain the best out of a summer internship experience, we asked several experts to offer tips that lead to great clips, awesome taping jobs and a healthy newsroom experience.

Joe Grimm, a recruiter with the Detroit Free Press and Gannett and author of “Breaking In: The JobsPage.com Guide to Newspaper Internships,” has been recruiting since 1990. He recruits at every NABJ and UNITY convention and offers the following advice:

• Start with a handful of goals that will cause you to stretch and that will advance your career.

• Smart interns find mentors, cultivate editors to be references and stay in touch with them.

• At your internship, stay focused on professional relationships. An intense personal relationship can throw you and your career off track.

• To recover from a mistake, take responsibility, show remorse, make things right, explain, learn and move on.

• Push your editors to push you and be open-minded to their feedback and criticism.

Theola Labbé, an education reporter with The Washington Post, was an intern in 1998.

Ten years ago, she wrote about how to get the most out of a summer internship.

“One thing I’m amazed at is that 10 years later, the newspaper business and newsrooms have changed immensely but when I reread what I wrote, that advice still stands true today,” she said.

Labbé suggests:

• Know your editors’ schedule and responsibilities. “I like to call this one ‘Stalking your editor.’ Do you know what time your editor arrives at and leaves work? How many other employees does your editor supervise? When is your editor in a meeting? Common sense should tell you not to approach your editor at 2:20 p.m. when there is a 2:30 news meeting, or to pitch your feature story idea about stray rabbits the day of a plane crash. They don’t have time to listen. Recognize when your editor has time to talk and adjust your plans accordingly. If that means coming in at 8:30 a.m. or staying away after your deadline has passed to catch their ear, so be it… If you still can’t get time with your editor, or things aren’t going as well as you would like, ask them to lunch.”

• Get to know your boss’ boss. “Your editor is under pressure to meet certain expectations from his/her boss, and these expectations will undoubtedly affect the kind of assignments that you do. If other editors want more stories from the suburbs, your editor will tell you to start combing the towns. You can make things easier for both of you by jotting down the concerns voiced by executive and managing editors in meetings. Then try to come up with ways to address those concerns during your internship. You’ll be a valuable asset if you’re aware of the larger issues that plague the publication as a whole, not just your department or beat.”

• Talk to your co-workers. “I sat next to a Pulitzer-prize winner for six weeks and didn’t even know it. Many of the people around you are seasoned pros, who can give you story ideas, advice on how to improve your work or entertain you with their hard-knock stories. Make sure to talk to other departments too. Reporters should know copy editors, photographers, production staff. All of your co-workers have something to teach you simply because they’ve been working there longer than you have.”

• Miscellaneous things are significant, too. “Listen to a news radio station before you come to work; you’ll be up to speed and ready to pounce on any breaking news story the minute you arrive in the newsroom. Write a memo to your editor midway through your internship outlining what you’ve done so far and what you would like to do. Be sure to chat with the recruiter – or the person who hired you – during the summer to honestly let them know how things are going. Try to get a written evaluation midway through, and at the end of your internship. Work hard and ask questions. Oh, and lastly, be sure to send thank-you cards to everyone who lent you a hand.”

Demorris A. Lee is a staff writer at the St. Petersburg Times in Clearwater, Fla. He chairs NABJ’s Student Education Enrichment and Development (SEED) Program. You can find information about “Breaking In” at www.newsrecruiter.com.
ANDRE BROOKS has been named the 5 a.m. morning show producer at WRC-TV in Washington. His parents are NABJ fixtures, Rodney Brooks, deputy-managing editor/Money at USA Today, and Sheila Brooks, president of SRB Productions Inc.

BERNADETTE BROWN, NABJ’s former Region V director moved to Atlanta from Houston to accept a job as Senior Assignment Coordinator for CNN NewsSource.

MELANIE BURNEY has joined the editorial board of the Philadelphia Inquirer, where she will write editorials. Burney had been a reporter for the Inquirer and recently won the in-house Vigoda Award for her coverage of schools in neighboring Camden, N.J., revealing a culture of cheating that had existed for decades. She is also the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists current journalist of the year and NABJ’s former parliamentarian.

CARI CHAMPION, who was fired after her Atlanta station accused her of saying a 12-letter expletive on the air, has been re-hired, by WGCL-TV. On a Nov. 11, newscast, Champion said she used the word, “mothersucka,” during what she thought was a commercial break. In an interview with Richard Prince of Journal-Isms, Champion said: “I was talking to my co-anchor during a commercial break. The floor director did not cue me or my co-anchor, and when it was time to tease an upcoming story, you could only hear us but not see us. My co-anchor and I were talking about a mechanical screenwriter. It is difficult to use at times. The last part of our conversation was silly banter and barely audible, but it was picked up. I called the screenwriter a ‘mothersucka’ not the f-bomb.” Champion was fired, but was picked up. I called the screenwriter a ‘mother-sucka’ not the f-bomb.” Champion was fired, but was picked up. I called the screenwriter a ‘mother-sucka’ not the f-bomb.”

MARVIN LAKE, public editor of the Virginian-Pilot, and the paper’s first black summer intern, has retired from the Norfolk-based paper after 40 years. Lake spent his time at the paper as a reporter, city editor and recruitment director, before becoming public editor. Last April, he was inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame.

WILL LAVEIST has been named editor-in-chief of Mix magazine, a publication of the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

MICHEL MARRIOTT has left The New York Times after 20 years to teach journalism as an assistant professor at New York’s Baruch College. Marriott, 53, started at the Times in 1987 and spent a year away at Newsweek.

JOVITA MOORE has been named 5 p.m. anchor for WSB-TV in Atlanta. Moore had been the 5:30 p.m. anchor. In her new role, she will anchor the whole hour and continue to report.

RASHIDA RAWLS, a former copy editor, page designer and columnist at the Star-Banner in Ocala, Fla., recently moved to Atlanta, Ga., where she works as a copy editor and slot at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Rawls, 26, is also a former president and founder of the Middle Georgia Association of Black Journalists.

ROB REDDING’S ReddingNewsReview.com won as “Best News Distributor Site” last week in the second annual Black Web Awards, voted by readers.

KATINA REVELS, night picture editor at the Detroit Free Press, and chair of the Visual Task Force, left the paper to become a picture editor at the Associated Press in New York City.

NEAL SCARBROUGH, has been named senior vice president and editor-in-chief of Sportnet, which calls itself “the internet’s most comprehensive sports network.” Scarbrough, a former NABJ Regional Director, had been general manager and editor of AOL Sports.

RON STODGHILL, who had been a writer for the Sunday business section at the New York Times, left the paper to become editorial director of six magazines published by the Charlotte Observer. Stodghill, former editor-in-chief of the late Savoy magazine, came to the Times in 2006 from Fortune Small Business, where he was a senior editor.

SUSAN L. TAYLOR, the driving force behind Essence magazine since she became its editor in chief in 1981, is leaving the magazine to build her Essence Cares mentoring movement.

“In mentoring I see light shining at the end of a long dark tunnel. There is a chance that if I devote more time and space in my life to learning and working with the growing number of community leaders throughout the nation who are organizing local Cares mentoring efforts, such a movement will succeed in doing what political will and public policy have not done: give our children a peril a chance to develop the extraordinary in themselves.” Since 1981, Taylor has been the face of Essence, particularly through her inspirational column, “In The Spirit.” She spent 19 years as the editor-in-chief of the magazine, before becoming editorial director six years ago.

ISMAIL TURAY has been named city editor for the Springfield News-Sun. Turay, 33, worked as a reporter for the News-Sun from 2000 to 2003, covering police and general assignment news. He worked as a reporter for the Dayton Daily News from 2003 to 2007, most recently covering Greene County. He returned to the News-Sun earlier this year as assistant city editor.

YVETTE WALKER has been named director of presentation at The Oklahoman and its Web site, NewsOK.com.

LARRY WHITESIDE, the baseball writer and columnist who died in June, was elected into the writer’s wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame. He is only the third black journalist in the history of the hall to be so designated.

LINDA WILLIAMS will become senior editor for news at the Raleigh News & Observer. She will oversee the metro, business, sports and features sections and the paper’s news copy desk.

WILLIAM WORTHY was presented with the Lyons Award for Conscience and Integrity in Journalism by The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University.

Comings and Goings is a sampling of items culled from Richard Prince’s Journal-Isms. For extensive daily coverage of news from our industry, bookmark, www.maynardije.org/columns/dickprince
Welcome New NABJ Members!

NABJ welcomes you. The National Association of Black Journalists has a long tradition of excellence working with members to provide professional development, networking, and mentoring. We encourage you to dive right in.

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<th>Full</th>
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<td>New and returning members, be sure to update your contact information at MyNABJ.org</td>
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A New Journalism for a Changing World

UNITY ‘08 CONVENTION

JULY 23-27, 2008

McCormick Place West
Chicago, Illinois

The largest gathering of journalists of color

NABJ Members, Register before June 13 to Support NABJ • www.2008UNITY.org
A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY
The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is an organization of nearly 4,000 journalists, students and media-related professionals that advocates for diversity in newsrooms and in news content. We are committed to providing quality programs and services for black journalists worldwide.

As a NABJ member, you’ll receive these valuable resources and benefits:

- Year-Round Personal and Professional Development Opportunities
- Access to NABJ Jobs Online
- Access to the NABJ Annual Career Fair
- Leadership and Mentoring Opportunities
- Regional and National Networking Opportunities
- Industry Information and Action Alerts
- Scholarship and Internship Opportunities
- Discounts on Convention Registrations, Regional Conferences and NABJ Media Institute programs
- Participation discount for annual Salute to Excellence Awards Contest
- Student Services Support
- Members-only Web Access, including Online Membership Directory
- Free subscription to NABJ E-News, our weekly electronic newsletter
- Free subscription to NABJ Journal, our quarterly magazine
- NABJ Annual Report

PURPOSE OF APPLICATION ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

1. WORK / SCHOOL
MEMBERSHIP PROFILE (please print clearly)

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<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Initial</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
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Date of Birth (mm/dd)

Title

Company/School Address

City State Zip Code

Work Number Work Fax

Work E-mail Address

Website

Referred by

2. HOME

Home Address

City State Zip Code

Home Number Home Fax

Home E-mail Address

3. COLLEGE/GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERS

☒ Freshman ☐ Senior
☒ Sophomore ☐ Graduate Student
☒ Junior Graduation Year: __________
☒ High School member (see next page)

4. RELEASE INFORMATION
Indicate preferred mailing address:

☒ Home ☐ Work /School

NABJ occasionally receives requests for our membership mailing list to disseminate vital industry and educational information to NABJ members. Would you like to be included in such mailings?

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

a) What is your gender?

☒ Female ☐ Male

b) What is your age group?

☒ 16-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44
☒ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65 and over

c) Which best describes you?

☒ Executive ☐ Management
☒ Staff ☐ Student

d) Which of the following fields do you work in primarily?

☒ Newspaper ☐ Magazine ☐ Newsletter
☒ Television ☐ Radio ☐ Online Media
☒ Educator ☐ Student ☐ Public Relations

e) How many years have you worked in the industry?

☒ 0-2 ☐ 3-5 ☐ 6-10
☒ 11-20 ☐ 21+ years
6. PROGRAM INTERESTS  MARK ALL THAT APPLY.
- Speakers Bureau
- Media Institute
- Mentor Program
- Internship Program
- Student Development Program
- Scholarship Program
- Other ___________________________

7. VOLUNTEER INTERESTS
- Fundraising
- Advocacy
- NABJ Journal
- Communication
- Task Force/Committees
- Other ___________________________

8. MEMBERSHIP TYPES & DUES
- Full Member ........................................... $100
  Working journalists, including reporters, editors, photographers, newsroom managers, etc. who produce, gather and disseminate news for newspapers, television and radio stations, magazines, wire services, etc. and full-time freelance journalists.

- Multi-Year Membership – FOR FULL MEMBERS ONLY
  - Two Years ($180)
  - Five Years ($450)

- Premium Full Member .................................$150
  Same as full member eligibility plus additional benefits to include: VIP express registration at NABJ annual convention; acknowledgement in convention program book and journal; NABJ premium member lapel pin and special gift.

- Lifetime Full Member .................................$1,500
  15 years as a full member and same benefits as premium full member plus: lifetime full member lapel pin; framed lifetime membership certificate; acknowledgement on NABJ Web site and publications; special invitation to receptions at annual convention and reserved seating at NABJ’s Special Honors Gala and other special events.

- Emeritus/Retired Full Member .......................$79
  Full members who have retired from active work in the journalism field, but who are still participating in the organization.

- Associate Member .................................$75
  Part-time freelance journalists, journalism educators, public relations and other media-related professionals.

- Student Member ..................................$40
  Full-time students in an accredited college or university. Course of study must be in the communication field, preferably journalism. (Copy of student ID required.)

- High School Member ..................................$35
  Intended course of study must be in the communications field, preferably journalism. (Copy of student ID required.)

Membership Dues Total ..................................$_________

Plus my tax-deductible DONATION to support:
2007 NABJ Freedom Fund  $ ________
National Scholarship  $ ________
Internship Fund  $ ________
Student Development Program Fund  $ ________
Support a Student to Attend NABJ Convention  $ ________

TOTAL  $ __________

Dues may not be deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes; however, dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions. Consult your tax advisor.

9. PAYMENT METHOD
- Visa
- Check
- Master Card
- Money Order
- American Express

Account Number

Expiration Date  Billing Zip code

Cardholder’s Name (as it appears on the card – please print)

Signature of Cardholder

10. SUBMIT APPLICATION

VIA WEB
A fast, easy and secure way to join. Go to www.nabj.org and click on Join NABJ. Credit card payments only.

VIA FAX
NABJ: 301.445.7101
Credit Card payments only

VIA MAIL
National Association of Black Journalists
P.O. Box 630946
Baltimore, MD 21263-0946

VIA CREDIT CARD/CHECK
Secured website for credit card payment and/or the convenience of personal check by mail.

Please allow two weeks for processing.

For NABJ Office Use

Membership # __________________________
Type _____________________ Category _____________________
Fee _____________________ Prior Exp. Date _____________________
DOE _____________________ Lockbox Dep _____________________
Code ____________________________

Dues may not be deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes; however, dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions. Consult your tax advisor.
We see the next wave of great inventors.

The Microsoft Imagine Cup is a global competition that helps young innovators in the U.S. and 90 other countries pursue their creativity, ideas, and dreams. It helps young people around the world become the high-tech inventors and skilled workers of tomorrow. Find out more at microsoft.com/potential.
In 2007, an estimated 19,010 new cases of breast cancer occurred among African American women.

Join the Susan G. Komen for the Cure
Circle of Promise Campaign!

Educate!
Get the word out about breast cancer's impact on the African American community and the importance of early detection and treatment.

Engage!
Get involved in the global breast cancer movement and serve as an ambassador within your local community.

Give!
Help increase financial support for breast cancer research and additional community-related programs!

Visit the website today
www.circleofpromise.org
Together, we can find the cures!