DEAR CAN’T WAIT TO VISIT PHILLY,

I CAN’T WAIT TO HOST YOU FOR THE 2011 CONVENTION. IN FACT, I’M ALREADY WORKING ON YOUR ITINERARY.

PLAN ON A DOSE OF HISTORY AT MY ICONIC SITES, INCLUDING THE LIBERTY BELL, INDE HALL AND THE SOON-TO-BE-COMPLETEP PRESIDENT’S HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE SITE.

FOR THE INSIDE SCOOP ON IT ALL, CHECK OUT VISITPHILLY.COM/PHILLY360 OR FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @PHILLY360.

P.S. LET’S GET BETTER ACQUAINTED AT THE “PHILLY LOVE” PARTY THIS SATURDAY NIGHT!

WITH LOVE
PHILADELPHIA
XOXO

PA  gp


Dear NABJ Family,

We have witnessed and weathered winds of change, economic setbacks, and the roller coaster state of our industry from coast to coast. We have watched as our jobs vanished and veterans left our newsrooms. Through it all, we have found ways to reinvent ourselves and use technology that years ago was unavailable.

Since I was elected president of NABJ nearly a year ago, my journey has taken me from San Diego to Senegal and to productive meetings with the Federal Trade Commission, National Public Radio, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association just to name a few. With each mile traveled, I witnessed hope and determination and the resiliency of our members.

For laid-off newspaper copy editor and San Diego Association of Black Journalists President Jerry McCormick, his determination led to work at a television station as a writer, web producer, and associate producer.

Lee Warren, one of six black men laid off at the Houston Chronicle, returned to his Mississippi roots and landed a job in radio as an anchor, reporter, and producer. Carla Wills is producing a national radio program and running a business after leaving the magazine business.

As the staff, convention chairwoman, and I pondered a convention theme, we concluded that empowerment and change had to be intertwined. The theme “NABJ@35: The Power of Change” emerged. The convention planning team has created unique tracks for those of you who want to climb the corporate ladder, improve your multi-media skills, stay in mainstream media or embark on a new journey to build your own brand.

The momentum will continue in the fall and in 2011 as we plan:

- new strategic alliances with universities, businesses, organizations, and journalists, including Canadian and Haitian journalists.
- more webinars and networking on our new website
- specialized training at our new headquarters at the University of Maryland
- more regional programming

NABJ would not be a success without you. Your support is needed as we restructure, strengthen our ties with old friends, and form new relationships.

During the spring, several invitations and advocacy trips set the stage for new partnerships for NABJ. National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) president, Danny Bakewell Sr. invited me to address his members in June during NNPA’s conference in New York. We vowed to work together to further the goals of each organization. Your NABJ vice presidents, Deirdre M. Childress and Bob Butler and I also met with local and national media in New York to discuss diversity, future collaborations, and jobs.

In April, I followed the footsteps of other NABJ presidents and visited the motherland. I went to Dakar, Senegal in West Africa at the invitation of the country’s president, Abdoulaye Wade and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. I had the pleasure of traveling and bonding with an American delegation that included NABJ members, hedge fund managers, civil rights icons, historians, and emerging leaders.

During a weekend of activities that marked Senegal’s 50th anniversary of independence, the president of the democracy called for the reunification of Africa, a deeper relationship with the African Diaspora and President Barack Obama, and a place at the table for Africa where world decisions are made.

The journey to Africa reminded me of the importance of extending our reach and power beyond our shores and beyond the Ethel Payne fellowships we award so that members can report on an African nation.

My visit to Goree Island, a holding place for slaves en route to the Americas, was a reminder of our common bond and the strength of our ancestors. As I looked at the beautiful Atlantic and breathed the air they parted with, I thought of their journey to hell and how the strongest were chosen for the treacherous voyage.

Survivors went from slavery to emancipation. Descendants of sharecroppers became shareholders. Now that 19th and 20th Century shackles are gone, where will your vision, inner strength, and creativity take you in the 21st century?

Together, let’s recharge our mind, body, and spirit. Let the Power of Change start with you at this year’s NABJ Convention and flourish year-round.

Yours in service,

Kathy Y. Times
Just what the journalist ordered.

At Lilly, one way we strive to improve lives is by providing accurate, timely information on current, critical health issues. Our goal is to positively impact the lives of patients around the world, and to serve as a trusted resource to the public as well as those who report the news.

Access these journalist resources for information about Lilly and its partnerships and to understand more about health care, health disparities, and health and public policy.
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Action & Advocacy
NABJ President Kathy Y. Times and Vice Presidents Bob Butler and Deirdre M. Childress made advocacy visits in June that included the annual conference of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. In April, Times also traveled to Senegal in West Africa.

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NABJ@35: A Founders’ Perspective
NABJ Founder Sandra Long discusses the power of NABJ and looks to its future. “Without NABJ, many news organizations would not have taken the extra step to hire minority reporters to diversify their newsrooms.”

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San Diego chapter rolls out welcome
For five years, the San Diego Association of Black Journalists has awaited the annual NABJ convention. The chapter is ready to welcome our members to California. “This year’s convention will be money well spent,” said Jerry McCormick, president.

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a special thank you
The 2010 Convention and Career Fair issue of our Journal could not have been printed in honor of NABJ’s 35th anniversary without the support of Eli Lilly and Company, Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corp. and our platinum sponsor, The Walt Disney Company. This edition is also a tribute to our print and visual journalists, among the best and brightest of NABJ, who donated their talent to this effort. This Journal will be distributed at our convention and available online to all members.

Deirdre M. Childress
The 50th anniversary of Senegal’s independence and a visit to leading news organizations in New York City, offered NABJ leaders an opportunity to advocate for NABJ’s mission and its members.

Special performances, exhibitions and parades plus the dedication of a 150-foot African Renaissance Monument were part of the April celebration of the founding of Senegal as an independent republic. Among the guests were NABJ President Kathy Y. Times, immediate Past President Barbara Ciara and Djibril Diallo, co-chair of the World Affairs Task Force, as well as representatives of the NAACP, Rainbow PUSH Coalition and other U.S. organizations.

In June, Times, Vice President-Print Deirdre M. Childress and Vice President Bob Butler traveled to New York for a series of advocacy visits at print, broadcast and digital outlets.

A highlight was a reception for NABJ hosted by member Jacque Reid at CNN and attended by NABJ Student Representative Georgia Dawkins and Region I Director Katina Revels. Danny J. Bakewell Sr., president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, also welcomed board members.

R&B singer and Senegal native Akon joins NABJ World Affairs Task Force Co-Chair Djibril Diallo at the dedication of the African Renaissance monument.

President Times witnessed the dedication of the monument, interacted with Senegalese journalists and a delegation of Americans that included scholars, historians, NABJ members, civil rights activists, business and political leaders.

Thousands witnessed the dedication of the bronze African Renaissance monument to mark the 50th anniversary of Senegal’s independence.
As the National Association of Black Journalists celebrates its 35th Anniversary, one of its founders is stressing the continued need for our organization and its training and job opportunities as we move forward into this age of multimedia.

NABJ, the nation’s largest organization of journalists of color, was founded in our nation’s capital by 44 men and women on Dec. 12, 1975. Its mission always has been to encourage diversity in newsrooms across the country on every level of production from news intern to executive.

“NABJ has always had a clear mission and has stayed focused on that mission through all of its leaders through the years,” said NABJ Founder Sandra Dawson Long, who is vice president news operations for the Philadelphia Inquirer, Daily News and philly.com.

“Pushing for diversity in every segment of our newsrooms has been critical to the news reports we produce each day.”

An important aspect of maintaining and increasing the number of black journalists in our nation’s newsrooms is training. In 1997, the NABJ Board of Directors created the Media Institute. In January 1998 at the University of Maryland, the institute hosted its first event, a leadership seminar with the intent to create a training center to promote and enhance the skills of journalists for professional development.

Currently, the Media Institute hosts in-person events and webinars as well as training through fellowship and leadership opportunities.

“I think NABJ has made tremendous progress over its 35 years of existence,” Long said. “The organization has been able to embrace the technological changes in our industry and pass the information on to the membership.” Long added that she would like to see a special membership category for bloggers to clearly acknowledge the popularity and influence of social networking and new media.

NABJ has created career opportunities for many journalists through its annual job fairs and postings.

“Being a part of NABJ is the only way some journalists have been able to break into the industry,” Long said. “Networking with others in the field is important for career development.

“Classes and training offered by NABJ help to build skills needed for career advancement. Without NABJ, many news organizations would not have taken the extra step to hire minority reporters to diversify their newsrooms.”

NABJ has also made the cultivation of students transitioning into the workforce an important part of the organization’s training platform by providing mentorship opportunities as well as training courses to help undergraduate and graduate students gain more knowledge and hands on experiences within the journalism field.

“NABJ has created opportunities for young journalists with scholarships and internships. It is great to see that the organization has continued to grow over the years,” Long said.

With six regions represented within the organization, NABJ boasts a membership of 3,000 journalists and media professionals. This foundation of hard-working folks will continue to grow with the inception of new programs and training opportunities that will advance journalists’ working knowledge. Long suggests that young journalists hone their talent, seek advice from experienced journalists and take advantage of as much training as possible. “Do not despair if you are having difficulty getting that first job…be proud of who you are and what experiences you bring to the table,” she said.
Sure the economy is bad, and the journalism landscape is changing, but organizers of the 35th annual NABJ Convention and Career Fair say attendees will have a lot to gain personally and professionally this summer in San Diego.

“This year’s convention will be money well spent,” said Jerry McCormick, president of the San Diego Association of Black Journalists. “Not only do the participants get to spend a few days in paradise, they’ll get some of the best training by some of the best people in the business.”

But before our members get down to business, convention-goers will have an opportunity to mingle with friends and colleagues at the opening reception. This year the convention’s Wednesday night event

San Diego: Our host chapter rolls out the welcome

By Dana Littlefield

A view of the San Diego Harbor at dusk from the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel with the U.S.S. Midway in broad view.
will be held in a venue that showcases the beauty of San Diego's bay front and one that acknowledges this city's military roots.

NABJ is partnering with the USS Midway Museum to host this kickoff event aboard the USS Midway, a massive aircraft carrier once active in the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm. Now a popular museum, the Midway's four-acre flight deck will serve as the backdrop for the reception, offering attendees a welcome that's uniquely San Diego.

"It's going to be a fabulous event," said Elise Durham, this year's convention chairwoman, who added that convention-goers will be able to experience the museum's exhibits while socializing with other NABJ members.

"Coming to a Navy town, it only makes sense," she said.

The Midway is walking distance from the host hotel, the Manchester Grand Hyatt, which is also close to other attractions in San Diego's vibrant downtown area, including dozens of restaurants, bars, shops and nightclubs. The Hyatt will also house the NABJ career fair with more than 70 exhibitors, plenary sessions and workshops, the latter of which will take on a special new twist.

Durham noted that the convention committee has been working for months to put together a broad-range of programming with an eye toward the changes and challenges facing journalists in today's work environment. She said the workshops will be organized into a series of tracks pegged to various stages of professional development. The five tracks – aptly named The Lobby, The Elevator, The Training Room, The Conference Room, The Business Center and The Executive Suite – are meant to provide opportunities for training, networking, empowerment and discussion to help NABJ members advance their careers.

"I'm so proud of this," Durham said, noting the executive track in particular. "This is the first time NABJ has offered management training for its members who have ascended past the programming that's generally offered to other members."

Durham said the convention will feature a Healthy NABJ Pavilion connected to the exhibit hall, where attendees can take part in a number of workshops and presentations focused on health, nutrition and fitness. Among the highlights, Durham said, will be presentations from cardiac surgeon and talk show host Dr. Mehmet Oz, who is expected to share information on five health-related topics African-Americans should share with their communities, and Grammy-winning singer and minister Donnie McClurkin, who will be talking about his efforts in the fight against diabetes.

And that's just a sample of all that's in store for attendees at this year's convention, organizers said.

"San Diego is one of the most beautiful places on earth," McCormick said. "Why not come here to get away?"
Discover the only place where you can experience the feeling of scaling Mt. Everest and crossing the plains of an African safari, all in the same day.

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THE BEST OF
NABJ
2009 - 2010

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NABJ Salute to Excellence Honors Best and Brightest

By Andrea King Collier

NABJ will honor a diverse group of journalists from newspapers, magazines, radio and television and new media outlets during its Salute to Excellence Awards Gala on July 31. The finalists were judged on the content, creativity and innovation, and use of the medium and a relevance to the black community. Each entry shows how those guidelines were delivered in compelling, and often controversial, stories that got to the heart of some aspect of the black experience. Whether the subject was business, education, health and wellness, art and culture, the economy, Hurricane Katrina, or war, each of the finalists cast an unflinching light on what it means to be black in this country and in the world.

Newspaper Finalists

Newspapers continued to cast a bold spotlight on the world through a local, state and national lens. Gloria Campisi of the Philadelphia Daily News delivered “Treated Like Trash,” Kimberly Hayes Taylor drew attention to inequities in cancer for the Detroit News in “Cancer’s Inequities.” Ashley Anthony of the Jackson Sun’s “History Documented with Art” follows artist Bodie Gentry who makes miniature airplanes, and Gus Garcia-Roberts from the Miami New Times tells the story of six teens who were murdered just before graduation in the “Curse of the Class of 2006.” Corey Mitchell of the Saginaw News tells the story of violence and poverty, through “Bond of Brothers.” Sarah Fenske of the Phoenix New Times shares the consequences of a fatal car accident in “The Bryant Wilkerson Case.” Newspapers with a circulation of more than 150,000 delivered stories that had national and international significance, including Stephanie McCrumen's Washington Post story, “Congo.” Finalists also included Brian McCollum and Bill McGraw's feature in the Detroit Free Press, “Motown at 50,” and the Philadelphia Inquirer’s Kia Gregory’s “A Life on the Street.”

Insightful commentaries such as Rochelle Riley’s “Hey Detroit, Your Future is Not Your Past,” in the Detroit Free Press, Derrick Z. Jackson’s Boston Globe commentary “A Prize That’s Also For Us,” and Ken Wells story for Bloomberg News, “Armageddon in Alabama” also made the finalists’ list.

Magazine Finalists

Magazines often have the time and space to explore stories in an expanded way. This style paid off for this year's finalists: Neely Tucker's Washington Post Magazine profile, “The Known Word of Edward P. Jones,” Sarah Karp and John Myers' Catalyst Chicago story, “Reaching Black Boys,” and The Nation's AC Thompson's story, “Katrina's Hidden Race War and Body of Evidence.” Heart & Soul's Yanick Rice Lamb, Akiba Solomon, Kendra Lee and Debra Moore delivered on “Mapping AIDS.” Essence's team, headed by Angela Burt-Murray, was a finalist with six stories.

Television Finalists

In television, Gloria Neal from KCNC-TV/CBS 4 Denver, was recognized for her long-form feature, “Black at 5280 Feet,” and Everett Mashburn from MPTV Milwaukee's public affairs segment, “Black Nouveau: Soultime at the Apollo.” And at the networks, Gitika Ahuja, Robin Roberts, Diane Sawyer, and Dan Harris brought “Black and White Now: Perceptions of Race in America”
for ABC News Good Morning America, Byron Pitts, Rick Kaplan, Rodney Comrie, and Betty Chin were recognized for their short story “N-Word” for the CBS Evening News with Katie Couric. CNN was also recognized for “Breast Cancer Examined: An African-American Perspective,” a part of its “Black in America 2” series.

Radio Finalists
Finalists produced a range of work that represented the depth of black culture across continents. Stories such as “Climate Change: A Minority Perspective,” by Kimo in Black Enterprise.com’s “On Radio,” and CNN Radio’s Maria Boynton, Chris Chandler and Soledad O’Brien’s “Black in America 2” series gave America a glimpse into worlds under its radar. Ofeiba Quist-Arctin from NPR’s “Guinea Crackdown and Rape” showed how civil unrest and sexual violence have torn the country apart. The ties that bind cultures are shown through the Studio 360’s Kurt Andersen, Jenny Lawton, and David Krasnow who made the list for their tribute, “August Wilson’s Come and Gone.”

In the radio commentary and long form categories, voices abound. NPR’s Michel Martin and the staff of the show, “Tell Me More With Michel Martin,” consistently delivered cultural insights. They gave a glimpse into the impact of the economy through the lens of “Black Men Hit Especially Hard By Unemployment.” Amon Frazier, Courtney Stein, Marianne McCune, and Kaari Pitkin from WNYC Radio, weighed in on the new educational standards that impact promotion from one grade level to the next with “Promotion in Doubt.” Anita S. Woodley and Dick Gordon of North Carolina Public Radio became finalists with “Thinking Big.” In “Twice as Deadly: Chicago’s Race Gap in Breast Cancer Survival,” Gabriel Spitzer and Catie Calvan from WBEZ-FM in Chicago looked at stunning health disparities in breast cancer treatment and survival. And Richard Steele, Eilee Heikenen-Weiss, and Aurora Aguilar, also of WBEZ-FM, brought the power of the corner barbershop discussion to listeners with “Barbershop Welcomes Discussion of Youth Violence.”

New Media Finalists
This year, in addition to print and broadcast finalists, new media’s role in the work of telling the story was recognized with works that span from politics to sports history to religion and business. Deborah Creighton Skinner Derek T. Dingle and Christina Faison’s work shown in BlackEnterprise.com’s “Obama’s 100 Days.” Jenni Carlson and Sara Phipps produced “nDepth: The Minister of Millwood” for NewsOK.com, and Wright Thompson, Jay Lonvinger, and Scott Walker created “The Ghosts of Mississippi” for ESPN.com. Lee Hawkins, Adam Najberg, and Rebecca Blumenstein wrote “The Marketing of Myron Rolle” for The Wall Street Journal Online.

This year, the NABJ Hall of Fame will be celebrated at a special event this fall coordinated with the NABJ Founders’ Task Force. The Task Force plans to honor the memory of the late Vernon Jarrett, NABJ’s second president. Here are this year’s HOF Inductees:

Ed Bradley CBS News
Before his passing in 2006, Bradley spent nearly his entire 39-year career with CBS News. At CBS, the man once described as “the coolest guy in the business” rose to the pinnacle of journalistic achievement, at first on the CBS Evening News and on CBS News documentaries. On 60 Minutes, he compiled an extraordinary body of work that featured a keen talent for interviews and an intense curiosity in his investigative work, according to his CBS’ biography.

Merri Dee WGN Chicago
Dee’s 30-year career in Chicago broadcasting and her charitable efforts on behalf of children and victims’ rights make her a standout honoree. She is one of the first African-American women to anchor the news in the Windy City, and she is a survivor. Dee nearly died after being kidnapped outside her station, shot in the head and left to die. She used this challenge to mold her activism for others.

JC Hayward WUSA Washington
Hayward, news anchorwoman of 29 years at Washington, D.C.’s WUSA-TV, Channel 9, holds the national record for a woman anchoring the same evening newscast at the same station, her bio notes. She is widely known and respected in the metropolitan area for her supreme devotion and commitment to community and public service, charitable giving, and education. She is repeatedly rated one of the top news people on Washington television.

Eugene Robinson The Washington Post
Robinson is a columnist and associate editor at The Washington Post who won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 2009. He won for a selection of columns on the 2008 presidential campaign. Robinson has been city hall reporter, city editor, foreign correspondent in Buenos Aires and London, foreign editor, and assistant managing editor in charge of the paper’s Style section.

Ray Taliaferro KGO Newstalk 810 San Francisco
Ray was the first black talk show host on a major market radio station in the country. He helped found the National Association of Black Journalists in 1975, and was honored by the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce in 1994 with the Black Chamber Life Award, recognizing him as a “forerunner in broadcasting.” Taliaferro has literally owned the Bay Area’s overnight radio listening audience since 1986 when his talk show moved to the 1 to 5 a.m. time slot, his station reports.
Michelle Singletary: More than dollars and cents

Michelle Singletary is a wife, a loving mother of three children, the author of three books and an award-winning personal finance columnist at the Washington Post. Yet, she still finds time to help others. Singletary dedicates much of her spare time to spreading awareness and assisting people with what she says can be the root of many problems - money.

How does she do it?

“I don’t sleep,” she joked.

Singletary, who writes the nationally syndicated column, “The Color of Money” for The Washington Post, regularly goes into the community to educate people — in both churches and prisons — about how to be financially stable.

That’s why she is this year’s recipient of the NABJ Community Service Award.

“I’ve always done community service since before my college days so I’ve always believed in giving back,” Singletary said in an interview.

She speaks about financial stability at women’s conferences and religious workshops, including her home church, First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Maryland.

“I love talking to people about handling their money,” she said.

“There’s nothing better than seeing someone saving for the first time.”

Singletary also founded “Prosperity Partners Ministry,” a program geared to helping people struggling financially. In one aspect of the program, Singletary goes to prisons in Maryland to speak to men and women about the importance of managing their money once they are released.

NABJ President Kathy Y. Times has witnessed firsthand Singletary’s impact.

“We also called on Michelle to help our members through the trials of industry layoffs and buyouts to help answer their questions about finances,” Times said. “She is always ready and eager to share her wisdom with others.”

Despite tough times, Singletary believes the current state of the economy shouldn’t change how people handle their finances.

“It’s important to handle your money wisely during all times,” she said. “The recession has helped me because it shows people that times are not always going to be good.”

She recalled helping people who were
Abducted, Humiliated and Undaunted: Their Sacrifice

By Jennifer West

Manjama Balama-Samba of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service (SLBS) and United Nations Radio; Henrietta Kpaka, also of SLBS; and Isha Jalloh and Jenneh Brima, both of Eastern Radio, will receive NABJ's 2010 Percy Qoboza Foreign Journalist Award at the July 28 opening reception during the association's annual convention in San Diego.

The National Association of Black Journalists annually bestows the Percy Qoboza Journalist Award, which aims to recognize foreign journalists who have done extraordinary work while overcoming tremendous obstacles, doing work that contributes to the enrichment, understanding or advancement of people or issues in the African Diaspora.

The 2010 recipients are more than worthy of this honor, overcoming major hardship for the sake of our craft. Balama-Samba, Kpaka, Jalloh and Brima were abducted and attacked in February 2009 by the Bondo Society, a women's group that sought to prevent them from reporting on the subject of female genital mutilation. Balama-Samba was reportedly stripped naked in the bush and later paraded on the streets before being set free.

According to Balama-Samba, prior to their abduction they received telephone calls threatening their lives and warning that they would be taught a lesson if they reported on female genital mutilation. In obligation to their assignment, they reported on the heinous issue, never taking part in any campaign.

These women exemplify the true essence of the Percy Qoboza Award with their courage and unwillingness to waiver in the face of adversity for the sake of good journalism. “The abduction and subsequent public humiliation of these journalists was both shocking and appalling,” said NABJ President Kathy Y. Times. “Journalists should not face pressure not to report a story. As journalists, we have a responsibility to bring attention to issues ensuring basic human rights.”

According to the World Health Organization, more than 100 million girls and women worldwide are living with the consequences of female genital mutilation. In Africa, about 92 million girls aged 10 years and older are estimated to have undergone the procedure.

In 2008, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution (WHA61.16) on the elimination of female genital mutilation, emphasizing the need for concerted action in all sectors - health, education, finance, justice and women's affairs. The World Health Organization efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation focus on research, advocacy and guidance for health systems.

In response to their efforts to bring awareness to this issue, the awardees will be recognized at the opening ceremony aboard the USS Midway.

Jennifer West is a freelance writer living in Chicago.
Soledad O'Brien reports for Black in America 2.
Losing her job meant a big win

For some TV people, losing a high profile job may be the beginning of their career’s end. But for CNN anchor Soledad O’Brien, leaving the co-anchor slot on CNN’s American Morning in 2007 led to one of her greatest triumphs as a journalist: the cable news channel’s award-winning “Black in America” documentary series.

“I think my boss, Jon Klein, had a wider vision than what I knew I could do,” noted O’Brien, who said the president of CNN/U.S. pitched the idea of spending several months developing the documentary the same year Barack Obama would declare his candidacy for the presidency.

“I knew I could outwork anybody. I knew I did research well and I knew I could bring a certain perspective,” O’Brien said in an interview. “Now I had a project, and it was a good one.”

The “Black in America” series led to a sequel in 2009 that was the channel’s most-watched documentary series of that year; articulating issues and concerns on the minds of Americans everywhere as the nation’s first black president began his first year in office.

Now O’Brien, 43, is the most visible face leading CNN’s In America unit, expanding
Their documentary work to a Latino in America installment, gay parenting issues in the film Gary and Tony Have a Baby, and a look at the five-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina’s impact on New Orleans.

“The first year we did ‘Black in America,’ people were standing up saying, ‘When are you going to do Latino in America? When are you going to do Asian in America? When are you going to do gay in America?’ she said.

“It’s less about me and more about the idea that there are all these stories and people who feel like their entire life flew under the radar in mainstream coverage. They’re really saying no one is taking the time to bring their story to the mainstream.”

As the daughter of an Afro-Cuban mother and Australian father with Irish and Scottish roots, Maria de la Soledad Teresa O'Brien has always had connections to many different perspectives as a journalist.

When asked whether that’s been difficult for her – O’Brien for example, is a member of both the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists – and she finds no downside in having two ethnic groups “claim” her as a proud example of achievement.

“I love it,” she said, laughing. “There is literally not one bad thing about that, except the logistics of getting to two different conventions every year.”

Born in New York, she majored in English and American literature at Harvard University before landing a job as an intern and production assistant at WBZ-TV in Boston.

Through the early ’90s, she worked as a field producer for NBC News and reported at KRON-TV in San Francisco before joining MSNBC as a morning anchor and hosting its technology program, The Site.

But when it was canceled in 1997, O’Brien first faced the same kind of challenge she would later find at CNN.

“I was still working for NBC, which didn’t have a bureau in San Francisco, and I had no producer, no nothing,” she said.

“I realized staying in San Francisco made no sense.”

O’Brien moved to New York, where she co-anchored Weekend Today and contributed to the weekday Today show and NBC Nightly News before leaving in 2003 for CNN’s American Morning show.

Throughout her tenure, O’Brien tried to balance race-focused stories that could reflect her unique perspective with the kinds of attention-getting coverage which makes broadcast careers.

Over the years, she’s interviewed former FEMA head Michael Brown in the aftermath of Katrina, covered terrorist attacks in London in 2005 and a tsunami in Thailand, earning awards from the NAACP, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and now, the National Association of Black Journalists’ Journalist of the Year honors.

“I remember as a low-level TV writer, you pushed to cover the big stories that went in the newscast’s ‘a’ block, and race was not an ‘a’ block story,” she said.

“But I also felt like I would go between wondering ‘Why am I the person who always gets called about race stories?’ to saying ‘I can’t believe they didn’t call me on this story about race.’ So you balance the two feelings and try to avoid being pigeonholed.”

Now living in New York with her husband, Brad Raymond, and children, Sofia, Cecilia, Charlie and Jackson, O’Brien is engaged in a different kind of balancing act, living the life of a high-profile TV journalist while also raising a young family.

“I’m a glass half full kind of gal...I find opportunity in a lot of things,” she said.

“Having a BlackBerry means I can watch my daughter’s ballet recital and answer any questions about stories I’m working on and even come back to the office and get a couple of things done. I’m definitely not living the life my parents had.”
“Not sick” is still a long way from healthy.

True health goes beyond the absence of illness. That’s why we go beyond medicine, with “Answers that Matter” — like free information on how to better care for yourself and your family.

With programs and resources such as “A Healthy You! America’s Guide to Healthy Living,” we make it easier for anyone to start making healthier choices — whether you’re sick, healthy or somewhere in between.

lilyorbetterhealth.com
In a time when news operations continue to shrink and staffing cuts disproportionately affect journalists of color, NBC News and its Chief Diversity Officer Paula Madison set the standard for promoting diversity in management practices and in news coverage.

NBC News and its owned-and-operated television stations will receive the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) annual Best Practices Award, while NBC Universal Executive Vice President Paula Madison will receive its Legacy Award at this year's annual conference in San Diego. Madison, based at Universal City on the West Coast, is also serving as honorary chairwoman of this year's convention and career fair.

A study released in April by the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) found that newsrooms cut black journalists and supervisors at a higher rate than ever before in 2009, even as the minority communities they cover grow larger. Newsroom jobs held by black journalists were slashed by an unprecedented 19.2 percent in 2009, nearly six percentage points higher than the previous year, said the report, and since 2001, African-Americans have a net loss of more than 30 percent of the positions they occupied in American newsrooms.

The news business is stressed these days, says Madison. “We all know the old adage: last hired, first fired,” she notes. “It is unlike any other time since I’ve been working. Pressure is on the news business, and when that pressure gets high, things like diversity are not at the top of people’s minds,” she observes. “No one is saying that they don’t care about diversity. It’s more like ‘we have to make our numbers; we have to trim and cut.’ So all the discretionary spending on ancillary programs that were supported in flush times is not supported now. It’s a bad decision, and we can see that diversity is heavily impacted.”

But for NBC Universal, spending on diversity is not discretionary, says Madison. And NABJ’s most recent annual survey of broadcast news management found that NBC Universal has the most African-American vice presidents, general managers, news directors, senior and executive producers in its Network News Division and in its owned-and-operated stations than any broadcast or cable network in the country.

“Diversity is integral to what we do. Our CEO Jeff Zucker made diversity one of his five operating imperatives. I can tell you that the budget NBC has for diversity, at a time when others’ budgets are shrinking, has grown by millions. Our CEO says he believes in diversity,” she states. “It’s not here today, gone tomorrow. It is ingrained in our business.”

Madison noted that Michael Jack, an African American, was recently named the new GM for WNBC, the company’s biggest and most profitable station in its biggest market.

NBC Universal is able to keep its diverse workforce despite layoffs because it has had diverse people working for the company for a long time, says Madison. “So last hired, first fired doesn’t work here,” she observes. “Every division head meets with Zucker, the EVP of human resources and me to look at succession planning and who among females, people of color and LGBT are in the pipeline for jobs and promotions.” Every executive, from the CEO on down, mentors managers and directors to help prepare them for that next job, she adds.

While Madison, the honorary chairwoman of this year’s convention, says she was “thrilled” to receive NABJ’s Legacy Award, she was more excited that NBC Universal was lauded for its diversity efforts. “I have a full-time job working on diversity, with 15 people on my staff and managing another 300 people on NBC Universal’s diversity councils,” she says. “I feel like I’m a coach, and any coach is happy to lead a winning team. I’m honored to be recognized, but I’m much more honored that my company has been recognized. That, to me, is the biggest moment of pride for me.”

Benét J. Wilson is Online Managing Editor-Business Aviation for Aviation Week Group. She also blogs at http://benet_world.blogspot.com/
Michael J. Feeney:
Keeping it fresh and current

By Monica Peters

Reporter and blogger Michael J. Feeney of The New York Daily News, this year's Emerging Journalist, represents the full embodiment of what journalism is today for our young members. “This is a tough time for young journalists trying to break into the field,” Feeney said. “I just want to be an example to others, and show young journalists that you can still have great success if you work hard and follow your dreams.”

Feeney is a former breaking-news reporter for The Record of Bergen County, N.J, and multimedia journalist for NorthJersey.com. He joined the staff of The New York Daily News last year. His career began at the Associated Press in Baltimore and then moved to Detroit. He also attended the Knight Multimedia Journalism workshop at the University of California, Berkeley.

Perhaps Feeney’s recent success has everything to do with staying fresh and current in addition to hard work. He understands the evolution of journalism is through various multi-media platforms. Journalists like Feeney who truly understand this will continue to be successful in this industry while others will fail.

“I remember Michael as a young student from Delaware State and a NABJ newbie, he was hungry and wanted to succeed,” NABJ Treasurer Gregory Lee Jr. said recently. “He is the success story that we hope for in each of our students.”

Feeney also keeps it fresh on his multimedia pop culture blog, Mfeenz.com, where he recaps stories from his news beat and also shares his personal stories. Readers can enjoy stories such as Feeney reconnecting with fellow alumni from his alma mater Delaware State University at a skating party; and info on celebrity couple break ups. The blog also offers Mfeenz TV for those who love to watch celebrity interviews and performances.

“I’m honored and thrilled to receive such a prestigious award,” Feeney said. “I’ve been to these (NABJ) conferences since 2002, and I know what these awards mean. This means a great deal to me.”

Feeney will be in San Diego during NABJ’s 35th Annual Convention and Career Fair where he will be honored on July 31 for the association’s Salute to Excellence Gala.

“I’ve overcome a lot of obstacles, but I’ve never let anything stop me,” said the Teaneck, N.J native. “I’m just thrilled to be living my dream and I know if I can do it so can others.”
ABJ Founder Paul Delaney is among a vanishing group of black journalists who integrated the nation’s newsrooms at the height of the Civil Rights Movement in the late 1950s and 1960s. Like many journalists of his era, Delaney began in the black press before being hired by white newspapers in major cities.

After leaving the military and graduating from Ohio State University in 1957, Delaney worked briefly for the Baltimore Afro-American newspaper’s national desk, performing mundane tasks that failed to meet his ideals for journalism. That changed in 1959 when he landed at the Atlanta Daily World on Atlanta’s Auburn Avenue where the Movement was in full throttle. “Everybody who was anybody came to Atlanta,” recalls Delaney, who was born in Alabama and raised in Ohio. “(Among the) high points was seeing the Atlanta movement form,” with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the helm.

Soon, however, Delaney noticed that many of Atlanta’s old-guard leadership, which he says included the Atlanta World, worked closely with white leaders to “keep the movement from blowing up.” His frustration with the newspaper erupted to the point of him being fired.

Meanwhile, students from Atlanta’s black and white colleges and universities were restless for change, and many joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) affiliate in Atlanta that was led by activist Julian Bond. Inspired by the 1960 student sit-ins at lunch counters in Greensboro, N.C. in 1960, SNCC was founded that same year at Shaw University by Ella Baker.

“I got a job as a probation officer, but at night I helped students put together a newspaper,” Delaney says, recalling how Bond promised him anonymity for his reports, only to see his byline appear as P. Delano Lane.

“I used to joke how he really covered my tracks,” Delaney says.

As the movement progressed, larger white-owned papers began seeking black reporters. Delaney returned to Ohio and joined the staff of the Dayton Daily News where he stayed for four years mainly covering courts. In 1967, he moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the Washington Star where, once more, pivotal moments of the Movement included King’s assassination. Delaney also witnessed the rise of politician Marion S. Barry, who arrived in Washington in 1965 to open a SNCC office and ultimately become the District’s second black mayor.

“He was good at first,” Delaney says of Barry. “He was a strong politician…and he had a great reputation.”

Despite the constant struggles blacks faced in their quest for equal opportunity and political power, Delaney says he enjoyed covering and watching the nation change. “I kind of bought into the ‘We shall overcome, black and white forever’ ideal,” he says. “But I did not realize how strong racism was. It’s still rampant and today we’re in terrible shape.”

Delaney next joined The New York Times in its Washington, D.C. bureau, where he covered urban affairs,
politics and civil rights. He served in the Chicago Bureau of The New York Times, as bureau chief in Madrid, Spain, and as an editor on the national news desk and senior editor for newsroom administration. Delaney spent 23 years with The New York Times as an editor and correspondent where he rose to national prominence.

Delaney also served as the first African-American chair of the University of Alabama’s journalism department, editor of the editorial page of Our World News and wrote editorials.

As an editor and correspondent Delaney spent 23 years in reporting in Chicago and other cities. He served in the American Times as bureau chief in Madrid, Spain, and as editor on the national news desk and eventually doors opened in mid-size markets, too. In 1975, Delaney was among 44 men and women working in mainstream news media who helped create NABJ.

“We saw what was happening in newsrooms,” he recalls. “No promotions, no great assignments and that prompted us to do something about it. It was difficult, long and hard. But our goal was to influence what was happening in the newsroom.”

Progress came almost immediately, although only large dailies dared to hire blacks, Delaney says. NABJ kept pounding and eventually doors opened in mid-size markets, too. Today, 35 years after NABJ’s founding, the organization and industry often appear to be moving backward.

“As newsrooms shrink, they lose blacks and other minorities,” says Delaney. 77. “For NABJ, it’s very difficult because it no longer has the same support as in the early days.”

ASNE’s 2010 census report shows that Delaney is correct: From 2008 to 2009, the number of full-time minority journalists working for newspapers declined from 6,300 to 5,500, a decrease of 12.6 percent. In 2007, some 7,400 minorities worked for daily newspapers.

Today, 35 years after NABJ’s founding, the organization and industry often appear to be moving backward.

“Hiring our voices” Swanston: Hiring our voices

The Ida B. Wells Award is named in honor of the distinguished 19th century journalist and publisher who won international acclaim for her fearless crusades, especially against the lynching of black Americans. Wells was also a suffragist, a women’s rights advocate, a journalist, and well-known speaker. This year’s honor is bestowed on someone who embodies the principles held so dearly by Wells: Walterene “Walt” Swanston, the former director of diversity management for National Public Radio. Swanston was selected as “a media executive who made outstanding efforts to make newsrooms and news coverage more accurately reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.”

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) made the selection with the assistance of co-curators Loren Ghiglione and Charles Whitaker, of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, who administered the award and nominees. The selection committee included NABJ President Kathy Times, Vice President-Print Deirdre M. Childress and Region I Director Katina Revels. We reviewed a stellar group of candidates.

Swanston’s contributions to diversity include widely acknowledged efforts to recruit, to promote and to educate minorities and women at newspapers, radio and television stations within the media industry for more than 25 years.

NABJ Vice President-Broadcast Bob Butler spoke highly of the impact that Swanston, while diversity director of NPR and the first executive director of UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc. had on his career development. Her guidance aided Butler as he moved from the newsroom to a position as diversity director. She fought “a good fight” for so many people and their career development, Butler said.

Swanston exemplifies leadership through her involvement with the Newspaper Association of America Foundation and the Radio Television News Foundation. Shortly after the announcement of her selection, Swanston was honored at a dinner by long-time member Richard Prince who also feted NABJ Founder Paul Delaney, this year’s recipient of NABJ’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and long-time member Milton Coleman, the new president of the American Society of News Editors.

Congratulations to Walterene Swanston this year’s honoree for the Ida B. Wells Award. Thank you for your dedication and willingness to give of yourself.

NABJ will present the 2010 Ida B. Wells Award and its Hall of Fame honorees during a special event coordinated by the NABJ Founders Task Force.

Katina Revels is NABJ’s Region I Director and a photography editor for the Associated Press.
From the late newsmen Ed Bradley and Vernon Jarrett to current NABJ President Kathy Times, historically black colleges and universities have always been places where African American students interested in learning journalism could gain the knowledge they needed in a nurturing environment.

This year, the students and teachers of two prominent HBCUs, Howard University and Florida A&M University, are being honored for their accomplishments as part of the National Association of Black Journalists’ Salute to Excellence Awards. Howard University’s Phillip Lucas is this year’s Student Journalist of the Year, FAMU’s Dean James Hawkins is this year’s Educator of the Year and the student chapters of both schools are finalists for NABJ Student Chapter of the Year.

These honorees pay tribute to the consistent excellence of HBCUs, said Times, a graduate of FAMU. “It’s amazing, but it’s not surprising,” she said. “As a graduate of an HBCU, they have always been a feeder for top-notch newspapers. FAMU’s School of Journalism and Graphic Communication was the first to be accredited and Howard University has a strong program. This speaks volumes about HBCUs and the potential of their graduates.”

The Mentor: Dean James Hawkins

When Janelle Carter Brevard walked onto the campus of Florida A&M University and its School of Journalism and Graphic Communication in 1993, one of the first people she met was Dean James Hawkins.

Carter Brevard, who is currently working as a consultant for the firm Booz, Allen, Hamilton and has also worked for the Associated Press and as a speechwriter for former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, was a work-study student in the department. She had the chance to interact with Hawkins regularly, she said.

“He has this unassuming style,” Carter Brevard said. “But he’s a true motivator. When he speaks you really listen. As a student, he taught me how the business worked. He was a straight, no-chaser kind of guy.”

But while Hawkins was direct, he was honest with his students because he knew what they would face in a business where being a journalist of color wasn’t always easy, said L. Lamar Wilson, a 2001 graduate currently working for The Washington Post.

“He’s a practical man who has the big picture in mind at all times,” Wilson said. “He has an open door policy and was a good advisor for us as students of color.”

Practicality, a demand for excellence, and a willingness to help his students become the best journalists they could be are just some of the reasons why Hawkins is being honored as this year’s Educator of the Year.

After graduating with his Doctorate from The Ohio State University, Hawkins was looking for a place to teach when he connected with FAMU, he said. He thought that he’d be there for two years before returning to OSU to teach, but instead decided to stay at FAMU.

“But I thought that the FAMU students needed me more,” Hawkins said. “I thought I’d be more able to make a contribution here. I thought I’d be able to meet the needs of the students at FAMU better.”

And it’s a need that he’s met for the last 33 years. Through finding mentoring opportunities for his charges, offering advice on how to make it in a tough business and sending students to NABJ Conventions for the chance to connect with the kinds of professional and educational opportunities that ensure success, Hawkins has been contributing to FAMU students.

“Dean Hawkins is like a father to me and many other students,” said Georgia Dawkins, NABJ’s Student Representative.
“He’s always the first person I share good news with. Sometimes I go in his office to vent and sometimes we just talk golf. I owe my NABJ experiences to him.”

Hawkins says that being named NABJ’s Educator of the Year represents an affirmation of his contributions to creating the next generation of journalists.

“You know that people appreciate what you do,” he said. “But it is rare that they take the time to show you. It’s humbling. I’m honored to be a recipient of this award. This is a special place to do what I do, which is work with talented young people and see them do well.”

**The Go-Getter: Phillip Lucas**

What makes someone leave their home in Seattle and travel 3,000 miles to Washington, D.C., to come to Howard University? If you’re Phillip Lucas, the motivation for you to make a move like this is the chance to realize your dream of becoming a journalist.

“Living in Seattle, there aren’t as many news markets as there are on the East Coast,” Lucas said. “Going anywhere east of Washington (State) is good for your career.”

Armed with that realization and a love for journalism, Lucas headed to Howard. Before graduating in May, Lucas was a 2009 participant in The New York Times Student Journalism Institute, and he was an intern with The Buffalo News’ Washington Bureau.

This summer, Lucas is participating in the Freedom Forum’s Chips Quinn Scholars Program and as an intern at The Washington Post.

Lucas said he almost didn’t go to college. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do after high school, so I didn’t want to waste my parent’s money by going to college.” Lucas said. “But I took a journalism class as an elective in high school. I loved to write, but I found out that journalism is more than that.”

Lucas went on to edit his high school newspaper, intern at a local bi-weekly newspaper, and become a Dow Jones newspaper intern. He considers journalism his classroom without walls.

“What I like most is that I learn something new everyday,” he said. “As a journalist, there are insights that you get exclusively.”

And he went out in search of these insights every day, said his professor Yanick Rice Lamb. As a student in a reporting class that required students to cover one of eight Washington wards and an intern, Lucas was focused enough to do it all, she said.

“He was a joy to have in class,” she said. “He was diligent about covering his ward while also doing an internship. He was one of the most diligent students in my class.”

When he was notified that he had received NABJ’s Student Journalist of the Year Award, Lucas was surprised. “I got the call and said, ‘How did I win this? I didn’t know that I was being considered. I was surprised and honored. It’s good to know that there are people who recognize people who are trying to do their best.”

A part of this year’s Salute to Excellence Awards, NABJ is honoring an educator from FAMU and a student from Howard. But the NABJ affiliates at both schools are vying for the honor of being recognized as Student Chapter of the Year for their efforts.

Both chapters have distinguished themselves in the arena of community service. FAMU’s chapter mentored high school students interested in journalism, and went to a homeless shelter to serve meals to the homeless, according to Immediate Past President Letitia Skippps.

The Howard Chapter volunteered with the Washington Association of Black Journalists Urban Journalism Workshop, mentoring potential high school journalists. The students also volunteered at the JSPEA National Journalism Convention for high school students, said Mary Goldie, HUABJ president.

The students from both chapters also spent the year connecting their fellow students with opportunities to learn about the profession they are entering.

The Howard chapter started off the year by taking freshman journalism majors on a tour of the monuments and landmarks in Washington D.C., which gave them a chance to hear from HUABJ’s executive board and to hear what the chapter had planned for the year. The chapter also held a panel discussion entitled, “Broadcasting in the Obama Age,” which connected reporters, anchors, and a member of the Washington Association of Black Journalists with the students for the purpose of answering questions about the journalism as it stands now. There was also a multimedia tour of New York City that split the students into broadcast and print teams and took the students to newspapers and television stations.

Students from FAMU went around campus to recruit their fellow students, including those who aren’t necessarily journalism majors, into the chapter so that they could learn more about the media. The chapter also took their high school mentees on a trip to the local ABC affiliate, WTXL, and provided lunch afterward, Skippps said.

The winner of the Student Chapter of the Year award will be announced during the convention at the Manchester Hyatt in San Diego. For ticket information, go to NABJ.org.

**The Next Generation: The Student Chapters of Howard and FAMU**

*By Denise Clay*

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Why the Tampa Bay chapter should be the 2010 NABJ Chapter of the Year!!!

By Ken Knight

Tampa - The Tampa Bay area, encompassing miles of glistening white beaches, luxury hotel accommodations and amusement parks with hair-raising rides, is a convention and visitor’s paradise.

Its jewel city, Tampa, welcomes tens of thousands of tourists to its sunny shores each year. Along with St. Petersburg and Clearwater, two world-renowned vacation destinations fronting the Gulf of Mexico, the bay area embodies sand, fun and a relaxed lifestyle – everything Florida represents.

The three cities nestled on Florida’s Suncoast also serve as home base for most members of the Tampa Bay Association of Black Journalists, a finalist for the 2010 NABJ Chapter of the Year.

“Tampa is a convention and visitor’s paradise. It’s a destination for tourists from around the world, and it’s also a place where our chapter members can thrive professionally and personally,” said TBABJ President Camille C. Spencer. “Our dedication has shown through in the programming we’ve offered and the fundraising we’ve done. I think we’re very deserving of the award.”

Founded as the Suncoast Black Communicators in 1980, the group became the Tampa Bay area’s affiliate of the National Association of Black Journalists a decade later. TBABJ now represents journalists in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Pasco, Sarasota, Manatee, Hernando and Citrus counties sprinkled along the state’s West Coast.

Under the leadership of Eric Deggans, who served as chapter president during the 2009 convention, TBABJ welcomed 2,000 journalists to the annual Convention and Career Fair last year. Deggans said the challenges actually began in 2008, when the chapter organized a kick-off party in Chicago.

“Despite having a year’s worth of work wrapped up in presenting two excellent parties in 2008 and 2009, while hosting the national convention and distributing $5,000 in scholarships to deserving area journalism students of color, we also managed to hold a multimedia workshop, a separate workshop for displaced journalists looking for job seeking skills, a poetry slam and much more in a single calendar year,” Deggans said of the chapter’s activities in 2009.

The convention marked the first time the Tampa Bay area took center stage for the organization’s annual convention. The chapter’s Beach Jam fundraising party at the Florida Aquarium that featured the “flyjock” Tom Joyner, superstar DJ Kid Capri and new R&B artist Tyler Woods.

With an active membership of about a dozen journalists, TBABJ organized a successful media access seminar last year, providing hundreds of residents the opportunity to network with area broadcast, print and online media photographers.

Journalists and residents took part in multimedia and career building workshops held at The News Center, home of multimedia partners The Tampa Tribune, TBO.com and WFLA, News Channel 8, the local NBC affiliate station.

The Tampa Bay chapter continues to prove it can do amazing things. It’s already at work building its resume for 2010. The chapter raised $2,000 for Haiti relief efforts. It hosted a career workshop to assist area journalists impacted by local media layoffs. And, TBABJ invited three generations of public officials and community activists to take part in a public forum focused on the state of African American leadership in the Bay area.

The time has come for the Tampa Bay chapter to be recognized for its outstanding efforts and selected the 2010 NABJ Chapter of the Year.

“Put simply, the TBABJ family lives up to the national organization’s highest standards every day, providing a shining example of how powerful our group can positively affect journalists, journalism and the community,” Deggans said.
PHILADELPHIA - As NABJ's founding chapter, the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists always represents strength - in its leadership, programming and goals. The chapter was founded two years before the national organization and it remains the home chapter of Founders Acel Moore and Sandra D. Long, both well respected executives of The Philadelphia Inquirer. As NABJ's 2008 Chapter of the Year, PABJ has the opportunity to capture the award for the second time in three years at the 2010 convention.

"PABJ is a mighty, albeit medium-sized, chapter," said President Sarah J. Glover. "PABJ grows its grass roots every day through its community outreach and training programs. I'm proud to say that PABJ has momentum and is as strong and as determined as its founders were back in 1973."

A group of Philadelphia journalists founded the chapter and PABJ president Chuck Stone became NABJ's first president in 1975.

"As a relentless incubator of history, Philadelphia enjoys a pre-eminent distinction equaled by no American city," Stone said during the 30th anniversary celebration in Philadelphia. "It was here that a group of colonialists convened in Constitution Hall to inaugurate the birth of the United States. It was here that Richard Allen founded the African American church.

"And it was here that the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists was founded 30 years ago when three journalists in the African Diaspora - Claude Lewis of The Philadelphia Bulletin, Acel Moore of The Philadelphia Inquirer, and Chuck Stone of The Philadelphia Daily News - met together for the first time at the University of Pennsylvania's African American Studies House of the Family."

Led by the successors of these great journalists, PABJ offered an impressive list of special programs, training and activities in 2009 while holding to its core message of "a family that supports one another."

The chapter joined with Region III of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists to present "La Nueva Frontera Digital: A Multimedia Experience for Journalists," which drew attendees from throughout the Northeast to Temple University for multi-media training. PABJ also participated in a super networking mixer with other black professional organizations.

Staying on top of efforts to fight discrimination in the media, PABJ issued a statement on the controversial New York Post cartoon of a monkey, discussed the fallout on a local radio show and then offered members a discussion on race and politics moderated by the Poynter Institute's Keith Woods Sr.

Opening up its energies to other NABJ goals, PABJ assisted NABJ with a bowling event that raised $4,000 for the On the Move Campaign for the new national headquarters at the University of Maryland and it also judged the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation's media awards contest.

In 2010, PABJ has offered a series of events planned to strengthen the chapter which will host next year's Convention and Career Fair. PABJ will offer a kickoff party Saturday, July 31 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego and will welcome NABJ to the Philadelphia Marriott and newly expanded Pennsylvania Convention Center Aug. 3-7, 2011.

"PABJ is grateful for the opportunity to host the 2011 NABJ convention," Glover said. "Philly in 2011 will be another convention to remember, as Philly is a great destination city with an amazing, vibrant black community and culture. PABJ has taken its role seriously and began forming internal committees in 2009 to ensure a successful and memorable event for NABJ, its members and their families."

Deirdre M. Childress is a PABJ member, NABJ's Vice President-Print and the editor of the Home & Design and Weekend sections of The Philadelphia Inquirer.
A stronger sense of purpose.

My mom was the smartest person I have ever known. She raised the seven of us on her own after my dad died when I was only 11. We never had much money, but I realize now that because of things she taught us, we were rich. I carry her wisdom with me throughout my daily work.

I also watched my mom struggle with diabetes. Thanks in part to Lilly, I shared 25 years with her that otherwise would not have been possible. And now I have the opportunity to do the same for other people.

Once, in a VA hospital, I was approached by a Vietnam veteran. He told me how his life was transformed by our medicines. And that’s when it clicked for me — the REAL impact of what we do here and the dramatic effect we have on peoples’ lives. After that meeting, I had an even stronger sense of purpose. Lilly’s done so much for my family and for many others. And I hope the work I am doing today will help my three children overcome some of the challenges they might face tomorrow.

For more information about Lilly’s partnerships and resources for better patient outcomes, visit lillyforbetterhealth.com.