How can we help COMMUNITIES that don’t GO TO THE DOCTOR as often as they should?

“I SEE real health problems in our communities. Asthma, diabetes, heart disease,” says Thais. “And too many folks don’t see a doctor in time. So GSK is working with community groups to offer free health screenings and connect local doctors with the people that really need help. That does my heart good, too.” To find out more visit www.gsk-healthycommunities.com
Features

7 – Facilitating Change: Learning the lessons from the multimedia battlefield.

8 – New York State of Mind: President Ciara and her vice presidents travel to the Big Apple to meet with industry executives.

24 – Churches Help Address Africa's Need: Katti Gray traveled to Malawi and South Africa as an Ethel Payne Fellow to note how American churches are serving the continent.

26 – NABJ/N.Y. Times program bears fruit: Unique academy aims to create new newsroom leaders among our members.

28 – The Black Press in Chicago: With the Chicago Defender and Johnson Publishing, Chicago has long been a black journalism mecca.

34 – Luther P. Jackson: A life remembered.

Cover Story

10 – Journalist of the Year, Leonard Pitts, Jr. Despite death threats, Pitts continues to serve as the voice of a people.

Special Honors Awards

12 – Educator of the Year – Nagatha Tonkins
14 – Emerging Journalist of the Year – Sarah Hoye
16 – Lifetime Achievement – Harry W. Porterfield
18 – Legacy Award – Evelyn Cunningham
20 – Student Journalist of the Year – Sidney Wright IV
21 – Community Service Award – Margaret Bernstein
22 – Best Practices – The Chauncey Bailey Project
23 – Percy Qoboza Award – Missing Eritrean Journalists

Departments

President’s Column .............................................................4
Executive Director .............................................................5
First Question ....................................................................5
NABJ News .................................................................6
What’s on your iPod/TiVo.........................................................29
Passages ............................................................................35
Comings and Goings........................................................36
Greetings NABJ,

If you haven't already, now is the time to renew and register in support of your beloved NABJ.

I feel our association is like one big family, and it’s important to have family support to grow and thrive.

Toward that end, membership support is a top priority for your president and board of directors. We are keeping pace with changes in the industry by offering professional development opportunities year round in different parts of the country.

The NABJ family reunion will be in Chicago this year for UNITY 2008. There you will find a choice of more than a dozen intensive, hands-on daylong and half-day sessions. Don’t miss an opportunity to hone your skills and become the kind of journalist who is in high demand.

Some NABJ family members are doing better than others, and to address that, your NABJ is offering adult scholarships for journalists who have lost their jobs due to industry cutbacks. The scholarships will cover registration costs at UNITY 2008.

NABJ will attract world attention at UNITY ’08 with the scheduled visit of Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade. He is the first international world leader to appear before the National Association of Black Journalists.

We are now launching our “NABJ on the Move” campaign to prepare for our relocation to the University of Maryland campus. In the Fall of 2009, NABJ will be housed at Knight Hall, a new state of the art facility complete with digital media technology and expanded learning venues. NABJ will have access to signature spaces which include: a two-story Great Hall; The Richard Eaton Broadcast Theater, the Gaylord Journalism Resource Center; a multi-media “news bubble” lab, four 18-seat news labs; three seminar rooms; two 30-seat classrooms; and multiple meeting spaces for formal and informal gatherings.

The NABJ office suite is designed to accommodate the future growth of the organization, serving as a learning center for Media Institute programming.

As we raise the $150,000 to sufficiently move the office, look for us to come to a city near you and hold “NABJ On The Move” fundraisers to ensure the legacy of our beloved NABJ.

Now more than ever, NABJ is an important resource for its members.

Get to know us…Learn to use us!

Yours in service,
Barbara Ciara,
President, National Association of Black Journalists
Dear NABJ,

Next fall, a moving van will back up into a ranch style single-family dwelling—an oasis in the woods two miles behind the University of Maryland campus that houses the national office of the largest minority journalism organization in the country.

For many of you who have visited 8701 Adelphi Road, you understand the association’s excitement as we head to a new space on the campus of University of Maryland.

The plan to relocate has been in the works for more than two years and before it’s over, the university will have invested $30 million dollars for a building that will house the journalists of tomorrow.

The NABJ Office suite will offer a state-of-the-art facility for staff operations, enabling this hard working crew with the ability to effectively train members through NABJ Media Institute programming, access to journalism faculty and students and further support the NABJ mission.

We continue to listen to you to better understand what you need to do your job, better yet, to help you hold on to what you have. However, this support can’t continue without your input.

NABJ needs your influence and ability to inform others to gain the financial support we need to make this move happen. We understand that you may not be able to give during this difficult time, however, you probably know individuals or organizations that would be willing to contribute. Please ask them for their support. Our move can’t happen unless we all pull together as a team.

Review this wonderful issue of the Journal and see the services your organization provides. If you’re looking at a career move, work the NABJ network or navigate the NABJobs Online service. As you take advantage of all NABJ offers, think about how you can help your organization become an even stronger force than it is today. As I said to you when I first came aboard, “the success of this organization will come from the efforts of everyone.”

The First Question
Should NABJ continue to participate in UNITY?

I see no reason for NABJ to end such a partnership. I think it’s important for an organization such as ours to show commitment to diversity as a whole, not just when it benefits African Americans. Failing to do so would be a show of discrimination in itself.

Veronica Miller, National Public Radio

I think it’s time for NABJ to either withdraw from UNITY or change the terms of the agreement. It appears that UNITY is trying to become an umbrella organization that oversees all the organizations for journalists of color. That wasn’t the original intention of UNITY or NABJ’s involvement with the group. I know, because I was on the NABJ Board of Directors that held some of the first meetings on UNITY in 1990. We never thought that UNITY would grow into an organization that would be actually competing with NABJ for funding and sponsorship dollars, at a time when corporate money has gotten so tight. I also think that the importance of our convention is minimized at UNITY. Our Awards banquet and other important NABJ functions almost seem to disappear at UNITY, which is unacceptable for an organization with our history of dedication to excellence and to each other. I support the goals of UNITY. But I don’t think the arrangement we have is working in the best interest of NABJ.

Ray Metoyer, Executive Producer
Townhall Productions
Du Cille wins third Pulitzer

Led by Michel du Cille, the Washington Post won six Pulitzer Prizes for 2008, including the prize for Public Service. Du Cille, a photographer and assistant managing editor for photography at the Post, was on a team of journalists that won Pulitzer’s top prize for exposing the mistreatment of wounded veterans at Walter Reed Hospital. The series evoked a national outcry and produced reforms by federal officials.

“This is one more example of how NABJ members are always in the forefront in producing great journalism,” said NABJ President Barbara Ciara. “It should send a message to industry leaders that when you seek quality in content look to our membership to fill the bill.”

The 2008 win was du Cille’s third Pulitzer. He won for Spot News in 1985, for the Miami Herald for his coverage of a volcanic eruption in Colombia. He won again in 1987 for a photo essay on crack cocaine addicts in a Miami housing project.

More than 2,400 left the business last year, including 300 journalists of color

According to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, an estimated 2,400 journalists left newsrooms in 2007 through a combination of buyouts and layoffs. Nearly 300 of them were journalists of color. The ASNE figures, self-reported by newspapers, show a work force of 52,998, consisting of 7,113 journalists of color and 45,885 whites.

The journalists of color include 2,790 blacks, 2,346 Hispanics, 1,692 Asian Americans and 284 Native Americans. According to ASNE, the percentage of minority journalists working at daily newspapers grew slightly to 13.52 percent from 13.43 percent of all journalists. But that figure is still way below ASNE’s diversity goals and it doesn’t mirror the general population’s minority population of 34 percent.

26 NABJ students to participate in UNITY ’08 Converged Student Projects

NABJ has chosen 26 students to participate in the UNITY ’08 Converged Student Projects. The students, selected through NABJ’s SEED Program, will work side-by-side with professionals and mentors to produce innovative journalism across several media platforms in a convergence newsroom. They will be assigned to six areas including television, print, web, photography, video and radio and will produce innovative journalism across several media platforms in a convergence newsroom. The series evoked a national outcry and produced reforms by federal officials.

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Black journalists pick up prestigious fellowships

At least six African-American journalists, some with deep connections to NABJ, have earned 2008-2009 fellowships at Harvard, Stanford, Michigan and Columbia. The fellowships are designed to give about a dozen American journalists in each program a subsidized, mid-career break.

Here are the African-American fellows from each university.

The Harvard University Nieman Fellows are Hannah Allam of McClatchy Newspapers, Carla Broyles of The Washington Post and Ernie Suggs of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Allam will study sectarianism within Islam; Broyles will study the power of images in the media and the impact they have on ethnic communities; and Suggs will study the significance, history and future of HBCUs.

The Stanford University John S. Knight Fellow is Diane Cardwell, City Hall bureau chief at the New York Times, who will study how cities in the U.S. and abroad can meet the challenges of growth.

The Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan is Darrell Bowling, senior video producer, MSNBC.com, who plans to study how diversity in the newsroom influences diverse news coverage.

The Knight-Bagehot Fellow in Economics and Business Journalism at Columbia University is Richard Jones of the New York Times. In 2003, Jones was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for a year-long investigation into the failings of New Jersey’s child welfare system.
Facilitating Change:

LESSONS FROM THE MULTIMEDIA BATTLEFIELD

By Sybril Bennett, Ph.D.

When it comes to embracing multimedia change, the PBS slogan, "It's all in how you look at it" seems to be an effective way to determine a journalist's level of acceptance, adoption and success in learning new media tools. The reality that traditional media has to change has finally taken hold of obsolete minds. Unfortunately, it has taken the powers-that-be so long, that many non-media companies such as Google and Yahoo! have invaded the legacy media's space.

Now, the question is will news leaders facilitate multimedia change? The short answer is that most media executives probably will not. And the ones who do, will not do nearly enough in order to get in the same arena, let alone catch up to the multimedia innovators. Therefore, journalists MUST take it upon themselves to become more familiar with new media terminology, tools and technology. John Girton, director of Multimedia Services at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tenn., sees the virtual vision.

"I look at it as hope. The reason I look at it as hope is because I’m a pseudo renegade. I’m not into big media, these big players monopolizing the space," Girton said.

For Girton, the media landscape has turned into a battlefield where survival is definitely a matter of man versus self. "I just believe that outsourcing of the future is where individuals who understand their lane in technology, who learn how to manage themselves and their time will be able to be more competitive," Girton said.

It boils down to control. For decades, the fourth estate has served as a gatekeeper and agenda setter. This role has now been assumed by the audience the media once served.

As a result, Girton pointed out, "These large companies have a decision to make and unfortunately for them as the technology advances, those of us who are out here in the trenches taking the new technology and testing the new technology, we are the ones who are really dictating where the media is going.

"The multimedia freelancer will be able to produce content globally and compete with offshore journalists from other countries."

From the industrial age until now, American workers have been trained to be passive. Most journalists are either too busy or lack the financial resources to take advantage of multimedia training. Ju-Don Marshall Roberts, managing editor for washingtonpost.com, said that journalists must make it happen.

"Journalists can’t afford to wait for their organizations to get behind their training needs. Invest in yourself. If you’re a copy editor, and there’s no way you’re going to convince your supervisors to send you to a multimedia boot camp, save up the money and send yourself. Negotiate for your training. Maybe you pay and they give you the time off," Roberts said.

When asked what it would take for more journalists to seek multimedia training, Rick Hancock, assistant dean at Quinipiic University School of Communications and owner of Potpourri Media, a multimedia content and consulting company, stated, "The easy answer would be to say more layoffs. I think a better answer is journalists who are determined to stay relevant to the craft and want to continue telling people important stories."

Val Hoeppner is the manager of Multimedia Education at the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute in Nashville, Tenn. Hoeppner, a veteran with 20 years of print experience and formerly multimedia director at the Indianapolis Star, shares one of the lessons she’s learned in the multimedia game so far: "We are not thinking big enough right now. As journalists, we are not seeing the big picture. It is an on-demand world and we either give our audience news when they want it or they will find someone who will. Consumers of news do not want their news only at noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. And they certainly don’t want it at 6 a.m. the next day."

The audience can now choose when, where and whether to get their news and information in print, broadcast, online, mobile, satellite or from a number of other ways.

Ironically, when it comes to acquiring multimedia skills, journalists don’t have a choice. If they stand still, their skill set will become obsolete. If they move slowly, they will never make it to the virtual playing field. And even if they run as fast as they can, they will not make it to the front of the new media locomotive.

Roberts believes "They cannot be passive about their role in responsibility in becoming new media journalists. It’s not enough to think, ‘I’m happy doing what I’m doing, let somebody else worry about the new media stuff.’ Anyone still holding on to that mentality will find themselves left behind. I want people to realize they can create their own opportunities for success."

Remember, you are still on the field, your position is still in play, don’t become a casualty of fear, complacency or indifference. The best a journalist can do is to do something since catching up is virtually impossible.

A National Association of Black Journalists Media Institute focusing on multimedia training will be held Oct. 23-25, 2008, at the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute in Nashville, Tenn.

More information is available at www.nabj.org.

Dr. Sybril Bennett, is the executive director and associate professor of the New Century Journalism Program at Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn. To learn more about the NABJ Media Institute, log on to www.nabj.org/mediainstitute

Cobb, Davis, Jarrett & Payne inducted into NABJ Hall of Fame

Charlie Cobb, Belva Davis, Vernon Jarrett and Les Payne will be inducted into the NABJ Hall of Fame at a ceremony to be held Thursday, July 24, at the UNITY ’08 Convention.

"Black journalists owe so much to these trailblazers who made it possible for journalists of color to have a voice in today’s newsrooms," said NABJ President Barbara Ciara. “We are grateful for their tremendous impact on journalism and service to the black community. Their induction into the NABJ Hall of Fame is our homage to their legendary contributions."

Cobb, founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and NABJ, began his journalism career in 1974 as a reporter for WHUR-FM in Washington, D.C. An expert on African affairs, he joined National Public Radio (NPR) as a foreign affairs reporter providing the network with its first regular coverage of Africa. In 1985, Cobb became National Geographic magazine’s first black correspondent, writing about Eritrea to Russia’s Kiril Islands.

Davis began her career as a freelance writer for JET magazine and later became the first African-American woman news reporter/broadcaster on the West Coast at KPIX-TV in 1966. While there, she created and hosted "All Together Now," one of the country’s first primetime public affairs TV programs.

A founder and the second president of NABJ, Jarrett was one of the nation’s most prominent newspapers, radio and television commentators on race relations, black culture and history. A legend in Chicago journalism, Jarrett reported on political and social issues in the Windy City and throughout the country for 60 years. He was the first black syndicated columnist for the Chicago Tribune, the producer of nearly 2,000 public affairs broadcasts on WLS-TV and a member of the editorial board of the Chicago Sun-Times.

A founder and the fourth president of NABJ, Paye has been a reporter, associate editor and columnist for New York Newsday for 35 years. A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, Payne has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe and the Caribbean to report on major stories and political developments, from the 1976 Soweto uprising to the 1990 release of Nelson Mandela.
A (few) New York Minute(s)

Words by Kathy Times, Vice President of Broadcast
Photos by Gerald Peart

The number of blacks in senior level management positions can be counted on one hand in most television network news operations. On March 11, NABJ President Barbara Ciara, Vice President of Broadcast, Kathy Times and Vice President of Print, Ernie Suggs met face-to-face with the men and women who can improve those numbers.

They discussed hiring, retaining and promoting African-American journalists with the management of ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, Fox News Channel and The New York Times. It was an amazing, chilly day in New York. NABJ’s leadership left the city with warmer relationships, a few surprises and mixed emotions.
10:00 a.m. 47 W. 66th Street: ABC News President, David Westin, said the week prior to our meeting, he announced an important goal to increase his diversity numbers from 12 to 25 percent within five years. He also expressed an interest in supporting Media Institute training and introduced staff that could support NABJ’s mission.

11:00 a.m. 1211 Avenue of the Americas: Fox News Channel Chairman and CEO, Roger Ailes, talked at length about recruiting and retaining black journalists through his apprentice program. He said Fox News would sponsor NABJ convention programming. Executive Vice President John Moody, said he wasn’t getting enough black applicants for on-air positions, but was eager to work with NABJ.

12:15 p.m. Vice President Ernie Suggs reflects on the morning meetings.

1:00 p.m. 620 Eighth Avenue: New York Times Vice President of Diversity Desiree Dancy and Senior Editor Sheila Rule hosted our meeting. Dancy and Rule discussed the successful NABJ/New York Times Leadership Academy and other ideas for training NABJ members. Afterwards, Rule showed us the Times’ Pulitzer Wall.

2:00 p.m. President Barbara Ciara goes over the organization’s partnership agreements with the Times.

3:30 p.m. 524 W. 57th Street: We failed to see eye to eye during our meeting with Sean McManus, President of CBS News and Sports who said he would think about setting specific diversity goals. Crystal Johns, CBS Director of Talent Development and Diversity enthusiastically agreed to work with NABJ to recruit black applicants and to apprise NABJ of openings at the network.

5:00 p.m. 30 Rockefeller Center: NBC News President, Steve Capus and Vice President, Elena Nachmanoff, discussed their diversity numbers and leadership training for NABJ members. We were told to expect a big announcement. Since our meeting, two NABJ members have become news directors at NBC owned and operated stations in New York and Washington, D.C.

6:00 p.m. At NBC, we ran into Mara Schiavocampo, NABJ’s 2007 Emerging Journalist of the Year. Immediately after last year’s convention, Mara was hired as a Digital Journalist with “NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams.”

6:15 p.m. Vice President Kathy Times chatted with NBC News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent Andrea Mitchell.

7:00 p.m. Outside 30 Rock: After a hard day’s work, Suggs, Times and Ciara took a moment to pose before the statue of Prometheus, the Greek Titan who stole fire from Zeus and gave it to mankind. Then headed to LaGuardia.
NABJ JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Leonard Pitts – The Writer

Photo by Mark Gail/The Washington Post
Leonard Pitts Jr. — syndicated newspaper columnist, Pulitzer Prize winner, author, chronicler and curator of the human condition — knew he wanted to be a writer by the time he was 5 years old. Even in the mind of a child who still watched cartoons and wrote in awkward, loopy letters, Pitts knew there was something powerful about words, something affecting about the language.

“I always thought getting paid to tell stories was the coolest thing,” says Pitts, who writes a twice-weekly column for The Miami Herald from his home in Maryland. “I always knew I was a writer. It was not a matter of deciding, it was a matter of accepting what I already was.”

Pitts, 50, says this without a whiff of arrogance.

“There’s absolutely no ego involved in Leonard’s writing. He genuinely wants to be better,” says The Herald’s Shelley Acoca, who has edited Pitts’ the past six years, that black-on-white crime is under-reported. “Leonard yanks the words out of his soul. He chases his passion and what you get are columns that are lyrical. He is an artist.”

In April, the National Association of Black Journalists named Pitts Journalist of the Year.

“Leonard is truly the voice of a people crying out for change,” said NABJ president Barbara Ciara. “His columns speak to those silenced by poverty, violence and discrimination.”

A columnist for the Herald since 1994, Pitts is syndicated in more than 254 newspapers and reaches 30 million readers. He beautifully connects with America, offering uncommon honesty on a broad menu of subjects including culture, family and politics.

It was through a January 1996 column that we learned his daughter, 18 and single, was having a baby boy. That she had hidden her pregnancy from Pitts and his wife, Marilyn, because she did not want to disappoint them. That Pitts was hurting, wondering what he could have said or done to change things. That even in all the pain, he already felt a bond beginning to form with a grandson named Eric.

Perhaps, most significantly, Pitts deftly explains and explores race relations, mostly because he understands the kaleidoscopic legacy of slavery and the complicated hues of blackness.

In column after column, Pitts writes about the black and white Americas and the intersections at which they meet. He writes about white indifference and entitlement and black self-pity and self- destruction. No one escapes his unerring eye. Not George W. Bush or the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

“I write about race because I am an African-American man and father of African-American children and I know how race affects quality of life,” he says. “The other thing is that race fascinates me as an intellectual puzzle and not just race, per se, but the issue of human differences. There are still people who believe that by the act of being born, they are somehow better than someone else. This is one of the great failings of humankind.”

His most famous column was the sum of all those themes. It was penned the morning of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, a hauntingly simple, galvanizing column written from the gut, calling for unity in the nation’s saddest hour. Like most Americans, Pitts watched the Twin Towers spill. He sat down and began to write. In two hours, he had finished an open letter to the terrorists called “We’ll Go Forward From This Moment,” a column about survival and loss, resilience and healing.

Pitts described America as, “a vast and quarrelsome family, a family rent by racial, social, political and class division, but a family nonetheless ... On this day, the family’s bickering is put on hold. As Americans, we will weep, as Americans, we will mourn, and as Americans, we will rise in defense of all that we cherished.”

He stopped counting the e-mail responses at 30,000, and the column became one of the enduring symbols of the national tragedy, set to music, reprinted in poster form, quoted by politicians.

“Leonard’s greatest gift is that he is more than a writer, he is a communicator,” says Michelle Jones, a former television writer who worked for Pitts in his radio years. “He was a mentor, the one who made me know I was a writer.”

Last year, Pitts was targeted by neo-Nazis angry at a column he wrote about a white couple brutally murdered in Tennessee, for which five African Americans were arrested. The column challenged claims that black-on-white crime is under-reported.

His family received death threats after a white supremacist put Pitts’ personal information — name, home phone number, address and his wife’s name — on the Internet.

“The fact that these people are out there doesn’t stop me from taking my daughter to school, taking my wife to the doctor, planning a family vacation or meeting deadlines,” Pitts told USA Today. “I can’t let it stop me.”

Pitts was born and raised in Southern California. He and his wife have five children and seven grandchildren. He is an undying fan of Marvel comics and old-school music — Gladys Knight reigns at the top of his list of great artists.

Pitts started writing professionally as an 18-year-old freelancer for Soul, a national black entertainment tabloid. Two years later, he became its editor. Pitts spent a decade or so in radio, including writing for Casey’s Top 40 with Casey Kasem and producing an award-winning radio documentary on the history of Black America.

Pitts joined The Miami Herald in 1991 as its pop music critic, his first newspaper job. He became a columnist three years later. In the time since, Pitts has won nearly every national feature and columnist award: He is a five-time recipient of the National Headliners Award; Editor & Publisher’s Feature of the Year Columnist; and the inaugural Columnist of the Year by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.

He was a Pulitzer finalist in the commentary category in 1992 and won in 2004.

In between columns, Pitts wrote “Becoming Dad: Black Men and the Journey to Fatherhood,” a bestseller. He’s now working on his first novel, “Before I Forget,” a story about generations of fathers and sons and reconciliation.

And twice each week, as he has done nearly 15 years, he delivers his columns to America.

“I like to think that I am finding the truth and telling it without fear or favor,” says Pitts. “When you have a forum like this, a megaphone, it’s your responsibility to leave it elevated in some way. It’s my job to bring not just the heat, but the light.”

Audra D.S. Burch is a southern correspondent for The Miami Herald.
NABJ JOURNALISM EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Nagatha Tonkins – The Saint

Photos by Octavio Jones
Aggie Pride: Professor urges flock of students to soar

By Bonnie Newman Davis

Nagatha Tonkins winces when she hears someone successful recount how a teacher once said they “never be able to do that.”

For Tonkins such words cut to the core of a person’s being, likely to remain a scar for life.

Long before she entered the classroom as a broadcast journalism professor at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, N.C., Tonkins vowed to never say those words to anyone, let alone her students.

Rather, Tonkins, a tall, regal woman who is internship director and electronic media and journalism coordinator at A&T, says her unwavering faith enables her to cajole, coach and mentor her flock of students whom she routinely brings to NABJ conventions each year. Mind you, the students don’t earn the trips unless they have met Tonkins’ strenuous standards and high expectations.

Come to class. Do your best. Never settle for less.

“I let them know it will take hard work and perseverance for them to succeed,” she says in a telephone interview shortly after the end of the university’s 2007-08 academic year. “I let them know I can help you, but you have to do the work.”

While she admits that “you can’t reach everybody,” her record of achievement speaks for itself. Her roster of former students who now work in news media outlets include Anzio Williams, news director for KCRA-TV in Sacramento, Calif., Jonathan Lowe, a reporter for News Carolina 14, and Addie Whisenant, who works for NPR.

Williams, who has worked in and directed news teams in several cities, vividly recalls working with Tonkins while he was a student at A&T. Tonkins was not above reading him the riot act if he missed class or wasn’t living up to his potential, he says.

“For a long time we were like, ’this woman is crazy.’ But she had high expectations for us. She knew the ins and outs of the business and would give us big projects to work on. She always stressed the importance of communicating and building relationships.”

Williams, who graduated in 1994, said he landed his first two jobs because of Tonkins. He also credits her for contributing to a substantial number of black producers, adding that he has hired 15-20 A&T students during his management career.

“She’s the best,” Williams said, noting that he still carries a print out of an e-mail Tonkins sent him when he was considering a career move. The lengthy e-mail basically advised Williams to “pray for guidance and always trust in the Lord with all your heart.”

Tonkins, who likes staying in the background so that her students can shine, agrees that her students don’t understand her toughness and tenacity until long after they’ve left college. While her methods may be old school, they apparently work.

“I’m not there to be their buddy,” she says. “I’m paid to make sure they know the content and knowledge to survive in the world.”

Tonkins’ passion is triggered by the same halls, now updated and refurbished, that provided her own college education. Back in the day, circa late 1970s, A&T was said to be relatively easy to get into but hell to leave. Professors were afraid to be tough and challenge students. Speech and theatre arts major Nagatha Tonkins was Nagatha Dixon. The Greensboro native turned heads when walking into A&T’s student union building, not so much because of her good looks and physical stature. Back then classmates likened her to the era’s reigning black princess, Jayne Kennedy, the first black Miss Ohio to compete in the Miss USA pageant and the first black woman sportscaster on CBS’s NFL Today.

Like Kennedy, Tonkins also was making history in North Carolina’s Piedmont Triad area of Greensboro, High Point and Winston Salem. She was among the first black female reporters in the region and was the first to report consumer advocacy at the ABC-affiliate. Tonkins credits a good news director who provided her opportunities for additional training after A&T. The few obstacles she experienced came later when she had seven different news directors in a short time span.

Her biggest obstacle was “trying to prove myself with each news director...trying to get serious stories as opposed to stories about ribbon cuttings,” she says.

Tonkins’ decision to enter academia wasn’t planned. Her pursuit of a master’s degree eventually led to a meeting with Mary Tuggle, then chair of A&T’s mass media department. Tuggle informed Tonkins of an opening in the department. Tonkins, reflecting how student interns tended to gravitate toward her when she worked in television, applied for and received the teaching spot in 1986.

Since then, Tonkins has failed to slow down. Here’s how her colleague Gail Boone describes her.

“Mrs. Tonkins has developed an outstanding Internship program, designed new courses to keep up with modern technological trends, organized educational programs intended to enhance broadcast journalism skills and coordinated opportunities for students seriously interested in careers in electronic media.

“(She) has inspired, motivated and taught many students around the country, who are now fulfilling their dreams and making their place in the industry.”

One tool Tonkins has used to train journalists for 16 years has been NABJ’s Student Broadcast Short Course that seeks to encourage more African-American journalism students to pursue television management as a career. The project annually provides some 50 students access to African Americans who currently work as news directors, producers, writers, assignment editors, directors and the like, at some of the top television stations in the country, as well as give them hands-on experience and a practical understanding of what these jobs entail.

Anzio Williams and countless other young broadcasters are products of the short course, notes Anthony Wilson, lead instructor for the short course, and a reporter and anchor at WTVD-TV in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. Wilson refers to Tonkins as the program’s “patron saint.”

Tonkins, says Wilson, is more than deserving of NABJ’s Educator of the Year award.

“The thing about Nagatha is she never seeks the spotlight,” he says. “She defers to other people and has such quiet strength that you don’t want to disappoint her. A&T doesn’t really get enough credit for having and keeping Nagatha on staff.”

Students and professionals note that A&T hasn’t always had state-of-the-art equipment to produce the short course. Tonkins has written and received numerous small grants to help purchase much-needed equipment.

“There have been times when we had to use cast-off equipment to put a show together,” Wilson says. Yet she’s always been very cool and calm working behind the scenes to make sure we got upgrades.”

At the same time she’s educating others, Tonkins keeps her own skills sharp by attending Poynter Institute’s convergence seminars and returning to a local television newsroom for an internship stint. She also was a visiting professor at the Advertising Education Foundation, and last summer completed an internship at BBDO Advertising Agency in New York.

Tonkins, a wife and mother of two, takes her accomplishments in stride. A&T drastically has changed since she was a coed who preferred writing term papers over partying. But Tonkins is content to wave the banner of excellence and keeping Nagatha on staff.”

Bonnie Newman Davis is an associate professor of journalism at Virginia Commonwealth University.
NABJ EMERGING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Sarah Hoye – The Voice
By Mara Schiavocampo

Drawing from a multicultural heritage, Hoye adds eclectic flare to craft

Life has a funny way of preparing you for unknown challenges; creating covert training regimens for a race you never expected to run. For reporter Sarah Hoye, the journey to journalism was a little like that: paved with life lessons and serendipitous turns that have given her a strong start out of the gate.

As a features reporter for The Tampa Tribune, Hoye writes about a range of topics, covering everything from fraternity brothers to grieving mothers. Thanks to the range and strength of her work, Hoye was named NABJ’s 2008 Emerging Journalist of the Year. Though it may seem hard to believe, just a few years ago, Hoye wasn’t even sure she wanted to go into journalism. But, as life would have it, when the time came, she was ready.

ECLECTIC ROOTS

In December 1974, just five months before the fall of Saigon, a baby boy was born in Vietnam. He would soon be adopted by a loving and committed white couple a world away in Milwaukee, Wisc. Tom and Letty Hoye were unable to have biological children of their own. So they opened their home and their hearts to children from all over the world.

Tom, Jr., from Vietnam, would be the first. Two years later the Hoyes adopted John, of mixed Jamaican and Italian heritage. After two more years they welcomed Sarah, of South African and Italian parents. Five years later came Anne of Nigerian and European descent. Four children, four different backgrounds: brought together in the heartland of America.

That’s where Sarah, the middle child, first started paying attention to people and stories.

“Having grown up in that household teaches you about people,” she says. “I’m not afraid to go to certain places. Certain people don’t freak me out … that kind of upbringing truly prepared me for the real world.”

Hoye’s early days foreshadowed her future in other ways too. For one, she was always around newspapers, thanks to a paper route run by her and her brothers.

“In delivering those papers, obviously you look at [them]. And there were no stories about us in there,” she recounts, referring to a lack of articles about minorities and women. “I remember having conversations and saying, ‘When I grow up I’m going to make sure I’m a voice for the voiceless.’”

Hoye took a slight detour on her way to fulfilling that pledge. While studying at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee she started working at the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, not as a writer, but in advertising sales. She continued the job until 2002, the year after graduation.

Then Hoye decided it was time for a change. She would either move to New York or go to journalism graduate school. She applied to four schools and was accepted to three. So school it was, and she headed off to the University of Maryland at College Park to start her career as a reporter.

WOMAN BEHIND THE WORDS

These days, so many first impressions are made online. Type a name into Google and poof! You’re introduced to a virtual person made up of social networking profiles and professional pages.

Hoye’s cyber-self appears as free and unfettered as the mane of loose curls on her head. She laughs in photos. “Mood: Happy.” Her writing is fresh and fun.

The real Sarah Hoye, the three-dimensional one, comes across as outgoing and fun, yes, but also introspective and calm.

“People say I’m an old soul,” she muses.

Hoye prefers real newspapers to the online version. She generally avoids blogs. She strives to read a book a week. Her idea of a good time is sitting with friends, talking over a beer.

“I really like to connect,” she says. That effort to reach people — from friends to readers to interview subjects — may be what makes journalism such a natural fit for Hoye. As she puts it, “I’m just a people person.”

EMERGING JOURNALIST

After graduate school, Hoye was hired as a reporter for the Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader. One of her first editors remembers Hoye as a woman who was committed to her writing, right from the beginning.

“She is dedicated and energetic and pretty much willing to do whatever it takes to get the story,” says Monica Richardson, now a senior editor at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. “She’s someone who will teach herself whatever she needs to be taught.”

From the Herald-Leader, Hoye went back to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, this time as a reporter. After two years she moved on to The Tampa Tribune where she met Kevin Walker, a fellow reporter.

Walker was so taken with Hoye’s work he decided to nominate her for NABJ’s Emerging Journalist of the Year Award, presented each year to a promising journalist with less than five years of experience.

“[I] was impressed by her commitment to cover stories that not only opened a window into an entire community for our readers, but also provided compelling stories,” Walker wrote in an e-mail. “She’s always willing to make that extra phone call or do that extra rewrite. And through it all, she has enthusiasm to spare.”

NABJ’s Board of Director’s agreed with Walker’s assessment. “[Hoye] has a great command of the written word and presenting what she’s covering in a way that attracts readers,” says Ernie Suggs, vice president of print and a reporter for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. “NABJ and the future of black journalists is in great hands with this new emerging journalist.”

Hoye’s own vision for the future is simple. “I’m in journalism to tell good stories,” she says. “I just want to keep growing and learning.”

Mara Schiavocampo is a digital journalist for NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams. She was last year’s NABJ Emerging Journalist of the Year.
NABJ LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Harry W. Porterfield – The Classicist

Photos by Bob Black
Twice a week, during the 5 p.m. newscast on ABC7 in Chicago, viewers are entertained and educated by a segment called “Someone You Should Know.”

The piece, which began at WBBM-TV in 1977 as a way to fill space during the weekend newscast, introduces viewers to people in the community through their stories of success, hope, struggle and kindness.

More than 2,000 people have been featured in the human-interest reports. However, there is one man – the one behind the microphone – who is as worthy of recognition and praise as any of those he’s interviewed.

On July 24, “Someone You Should Know” host and ABC7 feature news reporter Harry Porterfield will be awarded the National Association of Black Journalists’ Lifetime Achievement Award.

“Given the previous recipients of the award, I was completely overcome with surprise,” says Porterfield from his home office in Gary, Ind.

For those who have watched the longtime journalist over the years, there is no question as to whether or not he should be honored. Unassuming and laid back, Porterfield’s deep, soft voice tells stories that allow people an escape from a world filled with economic crises, wars and natural disasters to see the good that is happening.

Porterfield said his viewers are as much a part of the series as he. About 95 percent of the stories he shares have come from them. And the diversity of the segments reflects the richness of the Windy City.

Like the former public school teacher who felt her skills could be better used to teach English to Spanish-speaking adults. Or the woman who created a home for unwed mothers and homeless women, the group that helps people reconnect with society through farming, or the nonprofit founder who makes sure U.S. servicemen and women receive a little love from home during the holiday season.

His most memorable segment?

Porterfield says there are several, but one that stands out is an interview a few years ago with Dr. Richard Kinney.

“At the time, he was president of The Hadley School for the Blind in Winnetka, Ill.,” remembers Porterfield. “He was deaf and blind and we communicated through a device known as a teletouch machine… he could read my questions through his fingertips. He answered in a voice that gave no indication he could neither see nor hear.”

Porterfield’s own story began Aug. 29, 1928, in Saginaw, Mich., where he also was raised. A former U.S. Army sergeant, he was content as a deejay and commercial writer for a small radio station in Saginaw, when he says he fell into journalism by accident.

“I applied for a job as a writer in Chicago and got hired. At that point my career as a journalist began,” he says. “Everything I have learned about journalism has been on the job.”

Porterfield’s numerous awards and honors by his peers prove he has learned well. He’s received the Outstanding Journalist Award from the Chicago Association of Black Journalists, the Distinguished Journalism Award from the Coalition for United Community Action, the Black Book Award as an outstanding black professional in communications, a Certificate of Merit from the National Catholic Association for Broadcasters and Allied Communications and was inducted into the Chicago Television Academy’s Silver Circle in 1998.

A recipient of 11 Emmy awards for his news reporting and his “Channel Two: The People” and “Two On Two” features, Porterfield also has been honored with the duPont-Columbia Journalism Award for his “Someone You Should Know” series, and in 1996, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernadin presented him with an archdiocesan plaque citing the “Someone” program as an outstanding TV series.

Porterfield also has been recognized for his longtime involvement in the community through the Richard J. Daley Police Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Award from the Gary, Ind., NAACP. He is the recipient of an award for outstanding community service from the Calumet Council of the Boy Scouts of America and was designated an honorary state representative in the Indiana General Assembly.

It is, however, not all work and no play for the Eastern Michigan University graduate. Porterfield is an amateur photographer – he can be found carrying his camera to his assignments – who loves to jog and lift weights in his free time. He is most notably an accomplished jazz violinist, and has performed at various jazz venues in Chicago. He is a board member of the Jazz Institute of Chicago, an honorary board member of the Merit Music Program, a member of Phi Mu Alpha Music Fraternity and a member of Chicago Federation of Musicians.

Porterfield says he believes he has stayed in journalism all these years because his job has evolved, always presenting “new challenges to confront.”

“At one point, I found myself covering a lot of court cases. so much so until I began to feel I needed to know more about the law in order to give more depth to my reporting,” he says.

In 1993, he obtained a law degree from DePaul University in Chicago.

“I was also motivated by a sense that the TV news business was changing so fast that the future was not clear,” he continues. “I thought having a law degree would be a good just-in-case back up.”

With more than five decades under his belt in a field that is rapidly changing, Porterfield says he is not sure what the future of journalism holds for him and other journalists.

“Technical changes are coming rapidly to the media... and the impact on journalism will be significant,” he says. “There is an ever increasing concentration on utilizing the Internet and that will bring changes, as well. Just as we had no thought about the power of the Internet yesterday, I suspect we have no idea about the influence it will have tomorrow.”

In the meantime, Porterfield is dedicated to his craft and sharing those untold and little-known stories of metropolitan Chicagoans. He playfully questions whether those on the nominating committee got it right.

“At first I thought it was some sort of a mistake,” says the ever-modest journalist. “I am still wondering whether or not the right individual was chosen for the honor.”

Michelle Fitzhugh-Craig is the City Editor for the Oakland Tribune.
At 91 years old, news still runs deep in Evelyn Cunningham’s blood.

She reads the New York Times, USA Today and The Washington Post every day and remains sharp and eager to share her thoughts and opinions about current events.

“I think Barack Obama is going to be the first black president and it’s not wishful thinking,” said Cunningham from her New York City apartment.

Cunningham, who spent most of her career working for the Pittsburgh Courier, the largest and most influential black newspaper in the country for several decades, has been named NABJ’s 2008 Legacy Award winner.

She worked for the Pittsburgh Courier as a reporter, columnist, editor and city editor from 1940-1962 covering the civil rights movement in the Deep South.

“What kept me going was I saw how important the Pittsburgh Courier was then. I saw how important it was for black people to get a taste of what was happening out there. It gave them hope, it intensified their anger and relieved some fear. It was like the Bible, no question about it,” Cunningham said.

Yanick Rice Lamb, editorial director of Heart and Soul Magazine and an associate professor at Howard University, said for her
time, Cunningham was a rare breed.

“There were not many women doing what she did then,” said Rice Lamb, who nominated Cunningham for the NABJ Legacy Award.

“She didn’t want to do typical assignments. She wanted to be a witness to history and chronicle it. It’s remarkable how much she’s seen, how many people she’s met and how much history she’s lived through,” said Rice Lamb.

Cunningham started her career in Harlem, writing for the New York edition of the Pittsburgh Courier, before moving to the company’s headquarters in Pittsburgh.

She was not initially thrilled with the move.

“I didn’t want to move from New York to Pittsburgh to cover women’s club meetings. I said that this is boring. I want to cover theynchings,” she said.

The Pittsburgh Courier granted Cunningham her wish and sent her to Birmingham. While in Alabama, Cunningham covered many risky stories not assigned to women at that time.

She reported on the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the school desegregation fight. Cunningham recounted one of the most frightening moments of her career. She said with her pen in hand, she took a slow walk toward Eugene “Bull” Conner, Birmingham’s notorious police commissioner.

“As I got closer to him I was really scared and he stood there a long time,” Cunningham recalled.

She said the conversation was brief.

Cunningham: “May I have an interview.”

Conner: “Where are you from?”

Cunningham: “The Pittsburgh Courier.”

Conner: “You work for that nigger paper up North?”

Cunningham: “Yes sir.”

“Then he just walked away,” she said.

Though afraid, Cunningham says she never feared for her life.

“I just can’t imagine anyone taking out a gun and killing me. God wouldn’t let that happen,” she said.

Cunningham never got an interview with Bull Conner, the man seen as a symbol of racism and segregation. However, she did get numerous interviews with many of the most prominent political figures of her time.

“I loved Martin Luther King Jr., and he was my hero of all times. He called me feisty and said ‘I never struck you as nonviolent or someone who would be interested in writing about nonviolence.’ We instantly became buddies,” Cunningham said.

She produced a three-part series on King and his family and interviewed several other figures including Malcolm X and Thurgood Marshall.

However, Cunningham never wrote about the Deep South without feeling the pain of the struggle. They called her the “Crying Editor.”

“At first, I was embarrassed about crying because I thought it made me look like an amateur. But no one would laugh at me. So, I learned to let the tears flow and I would always get a better story. People would open up to me and tell me the truth,” Cunningham said.

Despite the personal pain she felt while covering these historic events, Cunningham would find a way to make controversial stories easier to read.

“I was a witty writer and I made fun of black people, inside kind of things. I made Negroes interesting,” said Cunningham.

But it has taken Cunningham some time to realize she’s a trailblazer.

“I am really excited because I think I had a ‘small’ hand in the country that women could cover anything,” Cunningham said.

But Cunningham’s mark on history goes beyond journalism. She pursued a second career in government service, working for New York governors Nelson Rockefeller and Malcolm Wilson, as well as President Gerald Ford as a special assistant.

She served as an administrative assistant to Jackie Robinson and President Richard Nixon appointed her to the Task Force on Women’s Rights and Responsibilities. She was also a founder of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, a nonprofit organization committed to assisting women, young adults and children.

But her true love has always been journalism.

She has this advice for today’s journalists: “Good journalists work hard to get the facts straight without having to apologize the next day for a mistake. Journalists, not just black journalists, need to be more passionate about the stories they cover,” said Cunningham.

“An award winning journalist has a love for the job, without caring what the salary is and works around the clock to get the story.”

Kimberly Easton is a News Reporter for WPXI-TV, Cox Broadcasting.
Sidney Wright IV is determined to get to the top

Two years ago, thousands of protesters gathered at Tallahassee’s Leon Civic Center to protest the death of Martin Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old who died after he was beaten, kicked and tortured during his first day at a state boot camp. The air crackled with anger and sadness at what many since then have likened to the death of Emmett Till. Led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton, the crowd waved poster-size photos of the youth and demanded justice for the incident.

And in the midst of it all was young Sidney Wright IV, marching with the protesters, armed with a camera and searching for a source. Besides finding a knowledgeable and heartfelt individual, his one concern was that the multimedia package didn’t look like college material.

The 22-year-old senior at Florida A&M University with a love for SIMS — the popular virtual reality computer game — is determined to be excellent in all he does and says that Martha Stewart taught him how to fold the perfect T-shirt. Set to graduate in August and off to his first job at the ABC Network in New York, Wright’s journey as a journalist began, according to his mother, in seventh grade. There was a hostage situation in his neighborhood, and he was the first on the scene:

“When a young man in our neighborhood took a woman hostage, Sidney picked up the phone and called the newspaper. He kept calling them and keeping them abreast of what was going on,” said Lucinda Wright, with a laugh.

He majored in journalism at FAMU and worked for the campus radio station, climbed the ranks at the campus newspaper and is currently working for WTXL-ABC 27 in Tallahassee, where he produces the weekend 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts.

“I get to take the theories I learn in class and put it into practice at the news station,” Sidney said. “I produce the 6 and 11 on the weekend. At those times, there are no managers there. I am reliant on myself to produce something that is not only informative but professional.”

Behind his intense dedication and willingness to work ruthless hours on his craft, there is an amazing vulnerability to Sidney, who was faced with the murder of one of his staff members at the FAMU over Thanksgiving break. Sidney got the call while at dinner with his family in Tampa.

“When I heard, I broke down and cried for a long time. I didn’t want my staff members to hear through rumor, so I had to tell them and hear their reaction over and over again. Still to this day, it touches a lot of people,” Sidney said. “I had to plan her memorial after Thanksgiving. That forced me to grow up and be the support system for myself. We were all broken down. I didn’t know what to do. Now I am a lot better about it, but it still hurts me that her family had to lose her so early. I know that things happen for a reason, and it may not be up to me to know that reason.”

While he has been supportive of his friends and staff, the self-proclaimed workaholic admits that his journo friends are the ones who keep him balanced. He can most often be found at home, shops at Wal-Mart at close to midnight when he’s hungry and refuses to quit projects he puts his mind to. He and last year’s NABJ Student of the Year, Eddie Cole, have had a healthy competition going on for years and says that he was quite “salty” at some of Eddie’s victories.

Despite his confidence, he couldn’t help but feel shocked at Barbara Ciara’s call telling him that he had received the award; he thought that she was calling to tell him he hadn’t paid his membership dues. But when he learned of the honor, he felt humbled that he was chosen.

“The whole time I was on the phone, my mouth was on the floor. It was the classic response, ‘Are you sure?’” he said.

To young journalists coming behind him, Sidney stresses learning every skill possible in order to stay marketable; he has a minor in graphic design and prides himself on being able to produce and report. Most importantly, would-be journalists need to stay “hungry” in order to succeed.

While Sidney starts his career at the top of his game, future plans include starting a media company.

“At some point in life, I want to own my own media company. I would love to be the next Ted Turner, start off small then build up to the next Turner Broadcasting, Clear Channel or News Corp,” Sidney said. “I know it’s a big dream, but ideally, that’s what I would like to do.”

Winter Johnson is a recent graduate of Northwestern University and the NABJ Journal’s book editor.
The Plain Dealer’s Bernstein has redefined the meaning of community service

Find a scholarship winner. Get a location for the high school journalism workshop graduation. Help a mentee get a car. Catch son’s Shakespeare performance. Help daughter’s class bind books for class project.

The list is a typical week for Margaret Bernstein, so when she was asked to pitch in on her nomination for NABJ’s Community Service Award, her first thought was to see the task as just another to-do.

“I really was just looking at it like an annoyance,” Bernstein admits. “I’m just more into getting the goal achieved than getting the award. I guess I didn’t think I might win this.”

Which is exactly why the Cleveland Plain Dealer feature writer is the right choice for the honor.

Bernstein rolled up her sleeves in her adopted city not long after she arrived in 1989, getting involved in the newspaper’s Urban Journalism Workshop, and has been involved with the seven-week program ever since.

She turned her passion for black history into the African-American Heritage Trail, a self-guided tour of black Cleveland. In 2000, she was named National Big Sister of the Year.

Juggling family, career and volunteering can often make for long days and hectic schedules, but Bernstein has remained committed to serving others inside and outside of her newsroom.

“I can’t believe more people don’t volunteer,” she said. “Young, black kids today desperately need role models. I honestly can’t understand why more people don’t get involved.”

For Bernstein, her service to others has also been an asset to her career.

“I recognize a good story that’s going to make a difference,” she said.

As Editor Susan Goldberg wrote in her nomination letter for Bernstein, “Her writing for The Plain Dealer intersects with her passion for the community.”

Last year, she wrote a five-part series, “Can We Save Our Neighborhoods,” which focused on the Mount Pleasant community, one of the city’s most troubled boroughs. Her award-winning series, “The Power of One,” published over 10 months in 2005, helped raise more than $100,000 in supplies and uniforms for poor children in Cleveland’s public schools and prompted readers to action in their communities.

One story in the “Power of One” series focused on a group of black males who were inspired by the New York Times bestseller “The Pact,” which told the story of a trio of determined black boys who went on to become doctors and role models for others looking to overcome similar odds. The story prompted hundreds of dollars in donations and moved the doctors who wrote “The Pact” to invite Bernstein to author their second book, “The Bond,” a memoir on fatherlessness published in October 2007.

Stuart Warner, now the writing coach and projects editor at the Plain Dealer who worked with Bernstein on the “Power of One” said he became inspired by her example.

“She’s what this town needs: Someone who puts aside their own ego and wants to see others helped,” he said. “Sometimes it’s what we’re taught not to do, not to get involved. She’s not that kind of journalist. In this changing world, maybe more of us should be like that, especially in a city like this, where poverty levels are just overwhelming.”

Bernstein said that over time, volunteerism has come to have an impact on her work.

“I do think I’ve carved out a path that’s somewhat unique,” she said. “I never saw anybody really showing how you can take a commitment to community and combine it with journalism. I’m kind of making this up as I go.”

And Bernstein often recruits her colleagues to help with her efforts. Once, at an NABJ convention, Bernstein printed and distributed flyers asking members to serve as big brothers and sisters. And co-workers still drop off hotel toiletries at her desk, months after she solicited contributions to donate.

Black journalists make some of the best role models and volunteering can be a mutually beneficial experience, Bernstein said.

“We get displaced and put in these cities where we don’t know anybody and don’t have much else to do besides go to work,” she said.

It has worked on colleagues like Warner.

“She doesn’t take no,” he said. “She tries to be that power of one, to show that one person can make a difference.”

Errin Haines is a newswoman for The Associated Press based in Atlanta.
The Chauncey Bailey Project

By Karen P. Moody

Courage. Solidarity. Excellence. These are the tools that drove a group of journalists to carry on the work of Chauncey Bailey, a lifelong journalist brutally murdered on the streets of Oakland in August 2007.

At the time of his death, Bailey, editor of the Oakland Post, was investigating members of Your Black Muslim Bakery, a 40-year-old Oakland-based business.

Together, the editors, reporters, students and other professionals of the industry, who vowed to complete their slain colleague's work, call themselves the Chauncey Bailey Project.

That collective is the winner of NABJ's 2008 Best Practices award. The group's mission is to continue Bailey's undaunted work of uncovering the shady financials, alleged crime, and power-gone-awry of the leaders and members of Your Black Muslim Bakery.

“We are sending the message that you cannot stop the message by killing the messenger,” said Bob Butler, a freelance journalist and founding member of the Project.

Conceived during the aftermath of the 1968 riots, Your Black Muslim Bakery became an icon of black pride rhetoric and economic self-sufficiency. Garnering the support of local businesses and politicians for its efforts, the bakery over the years became mired in a myriad of criminal allegations ranging from fraud, extortion, assault, kidnapping, murder and rape.

The Bakery's founder and CEO, Yusef Bey, was awaiting trial for 27 counts of child molestation when he died of colon cancer in 2003.

Colleagues say Bailey pursued allegations involving the bakery, believing that the community deserved to know the truth about an institution often shrouded in secrecy and fear.

At the time of his murder, Bailey had been investigating the circumstances surrounding a $1.1 million loan that the city of Oakland had made to the bakery in 1996.

Ten years later, the bakery had not made efforts to repay the loan and had requested bankruptcy protection. Bailey's crusade to shed light on the organization's fiscal inefficiency were met head-on with an assassin's bullet on the morning of Aug. 2, 2007 as he made his daily walk from his Oakland home to his office at the Post.

According to Butler, Bailey was shot twice with a sawed-off rifle by a masked gunman.

Journalists involved with the Project are “looking at who killed Chauncey Bailey and why, we're looking at the police investigation to make sure that the police have the right person,” said Butler, referring to the suspect, Devaughndre Broussard who confessed to the murder.

Broussard later recanted alleging that Yusef Bey IV, a powerful Bakery leader, ordered him to confess to having murdered Bailey.

Two months after Bailey's assassination, the Chauncey Bailey Project was born, transcending conventional industry mantras to get the story first, focusing instead on collaborative efforts across media lines and organizations to investigate suspicious practices often hushed by the bakery's far-reaching political and social power in and around Oakland. The results are impressive.

“In a period of cutbacks, and contractual (work arrangements), it shows that when people collaborate, great journalism can be produced,” said Dori Maynard, CEO and president of the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and a Project fundraiser.

The Project has already won the Investigative Reporters and Editors award for its groundbreaking investigative work. The Project's Internet Web site chronicles the bakery's 40-year connection to criminal investigations. The Project has successfully pressured local law enforcement agencies to re-open long dormant investigations such as the 1968 unsolved murder of a couple in Santa Barbara who were part of an organization headed by Bey and his brother, Billy X. Stephens.

Also, Project members obtained a 2003 deposition in a civil lawsuit for damages brought by three sisters who alleged that Bey raped them. The deposition included testimony about an employee who had been murdered days after he told fellow employees in 1986 that he saw Bey molesting a child. No charges were brought for the murder. As a result of the Project's commitment and dedication, local law enforcement officials now have information on who may have been responsible for that murder.

The Project's vision to pursue truth and justice in the face of intimidation and rogue violence is loosely modeled after the Arizona Project, which was formed after Arizona Republic reporter Don Bolles was killed by a car bomb in 1976 while he was investigating the Mafia.

It is also a reflection of the life that Bailey lived every day of his 37-year career as an American journalist.

The Project's Web site can be found at www.chaunceybaileyproject.org.

Karen P. Moody is a D.C.-area attorney and freelance writer.
The winners of the Percy Qoboza Award aren’t likely to attend
the ceremonies this year.
In fact, the honorees may never know that they received the
award.
For nearly the last seven years, 10 journalists have been jailed
unlawfully in Eritrea for speaking out against the government.
Some are presumed dead. None have been heard from since they
were arrested.
This year, the National Association of Black Journalists is
honoring the group with the hope of bringing attention to the
situation in Eritrea, said John Yearwood, co-chairman of the
World Affairs Task Force.
“If you look around the continent, there are a lot of other
situations we could have recognized,” he said. “In this case, we’re
sending a message we hope not only to Eritrea but to the rest of
the world. These journalists are also heroic and imprisoned in
Eritrea and it’s time they be freed.”
The award recognizes foreign journalists who have over-
come tremendous obstacles in their work on issues in the African
Diaspora. The award’s namesake was a journalist and critic of the
South African apartheid government. Qoboza, the editor of The
World newspaper in Soweto, was jailed and later exiled for writing
editorials critical of the apartheid administration.
The task force chose the jailed journalists in Eritrea to receive
the award because their situation and perseverance exemplifies
Qoboza’s spirit, said Yearwood. “[Qoboza] more than anyone else knew what it took and the
difficulty of going out, getting information and putting it out there,
and also how dangerous it could be and the risks you take in doing
that,” he said. “It’s clear in this case that these 10 journalists took
extraordinary risks and the least we could do is recognize that.”
Eritrea, a small country on the Horn of Africa, is the worst
place for press freedom, according to the 2008 World Press Free-
dom Index published by Reporters Without Borders. The country
ranks last on the list — after North Korea. The index is compiled
through a survey filled out by journalists, researchers, human
rights activists and free speech organizations around the world.
Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after a
30-year civil war. Eritrean residents were optimistic of the pos-
sibilities for their country, said Yearwood, who traveled to the area
just after the war ended.
“There was such hope,” he said. “People were hoping they’d
have a new democratic government, and were yearning to live
good lives and have good communication with the outside world.
People were happy to interact with people from the outside.”
That optimism began to fade as new President Issaia Af-
worki began to clamp down on critics of the government and
its practices. News and information that did travel from the area
especially slowed to a trickle in September 2001, when all of the
privately owned newspapers were shut down by the government
and their offices raided.
Free speech was a threat to national security, officials said.
Newspaper offices were raided. In the sweep, 15 journalists —
along with politicians and military officials — were arrested. All
were jailed. Some reports say a few had been forced into military
service. The others, who continue to be held without charge, were
transferred to secret detention centers after asking to be put on
trial. They have not been heard from since.
At least four of the honored journalists are presumed dead.
Yusuf Mohamed Ali, the editor in chief of the weekly newspaper,
Tsigenay; Medhanie Haile, associate editor of Keste Debena, a
weekly newspaper; Fessehaye Yohannes of Setit; and Said Ab-
dulkader of Admas magazine.
Also honored are Mattevos Habteab, editor in chief of Meqa-
leah; Dawit Habtemichael of Meqaleah; Temesgen Gebreyesus,
board member of Keste Debena; Emanuel Asrat, editor in chief
of Zemen; Dawit Isaac of Setit and Seyoum Tsehaye, a freelance
photographer.
According to Reporters Without Borders, those journalists
who continue to work in Eritrea or who report on the situation
within the country risk having their work licenses revoked, and
sources imprisoned. Any criticism of the human rights conditions
within the country is grounds for expulsion.
The hope, Yearwood said, is for the award to shed light on
the situation in Eritrea and mobilize journalists elsewhere to get
involved in the cause. The task force is considering a trip to Ethio-
opia to help call attention to the plight of those in Eritrea. But for
now, the award at least brings news of the jailed journalists to the
membership of NABJ.
“This is one way we thought we could send a strong message
that what the government is doing there is being noticed by the
rest of the world,” Yearwood said, “We’re calling for the journalists
to be freed.”

By Talia Buford

Talia Buford is a reporter for the Providence Journal and a former NABJ Student
Journalist of the Year.
Making a Missionary Mark on Africa

Words and images by Katti Gray

On the road to Mtunthama Orphanage there comes a point when paved asphalt recedes into rock-hard, ruddy-blonde dirt. The dust of it rises faintly as a two-car caravan, with Bishop Charles Blake as its chief passenger, wheels toward Mtunthama’s wide open front door. The sun shines high in a translucent Malawian sky. It beats hard against this building made of red brick and thatched roofing, utterly jam-packed with infants, preschoolers, primary schoolers, near teens, their scant belongings, chairs and beds and classroom desks.

To the left of the doorway hangs a banner of welcome for Blake, pastor of celebrity-studded West Angeles Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles. A chorus of children, often shoeless, and the adults who supervise these AIDS orphans is lifting a sacred song in Chichewa, the national language of multilingual Malawi. The singers stomp and clap a greeting to Blake. They embrace the bishop as if he is a far-off father arriving home again.

If an air of paternity hovers here, it is suffused with an understanding of what Blake, his lieutenant clerics and lay parishioners have invested in this country through Save Africa’s Children, a non-denominational philanthropy launched out of West Angeles COGIC.

“We are children of Africa,” Blake says. “If we don’t care about Africa, how can we expect anyone else to be concerned?”

The advent of Save Africa’s Children is but one marker in what is a relatively recent but historic surge of endeavors formed and fueled by a far-flung network of African-American churches, both mega and modest in size, on behalf of Africa. It is a movement abetted by the growing affluence of a subset of African Americans, says the Rev. Dr. David Goatley, secretary-treasurer of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention in Washington, D.C. “People are concentrating now on more than just making a living, a college education, leisure travel … Churches are becoming better able to engage in much larger ways internationally,” Goatley says. He also is day-to-day director of Lott Carey, which consults with mission-minded congregations.

Their models of Africa-focused charity are varied.

The Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton’s Seattle congregation, the renamed New Beginnings Christian Church, partnered with Scenery Park National Baptist Church in South Africa’s less-traveled Eastern Cape, fully underwriting construction of its new facility and regularly donating to its community outreach programs.

Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey, donated $500,000 to “Home of Hope,” an in-patient treatment center and halfway house for recovering substance abusers, male and female prostitutes in their teens and 20s in Cape Town, South Africa. Fountain, which also is paying tuition for school kids in Kenya, has sought as well to ensure a more equal, transcontinental exchange of ideas and talents, ferrying to Fountain the pastor/executive director of Home of Hope, an outgrowth of Teen Challenge, and some of its clients. They shared with the New Jerseyites some details of how Capetonians were, with South African police also intervening, curbing gang-related forced prostitution.

From Dallas, Bishop T.D. Jakes’ Potter’s House not only is convening its annual Megafest spiritual and personal development jamboree in Johannesburg in October 2008, but it has devoted itself to physical projects such as digging water wells in reaches of the continent where locals were hauling it, kilometer upon kilometer, because their own villages lacked the resources to tap underground reservoirs.

“People are people all over the world. They have similar needs for survival,” says the Rev. Ronnie Guynes, who oversees Potter’s House foreign missions.

Five years ago, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn began hosting South African schoolchildren for summers in New York City as part of its longer-range plan for more substantial development projects in that nation and elsewhere on the continent. (Several of the South African students have since been grafted into New York households, with the aim of earning a high school diploma from the United States.)

For their fourth annual trip to South Africa in summer 2008, Emmanuel travelers are slated again to assist at day-care centers, AIDS hospices or primary schools for the deaf, to renovate tumbledown shanties, to make daily rounds with home-health care workers serving the infirm in Cape Town and Johannesburg townships and so on. Beyond those efforts, architects, engineers
and construction workers from Emmanuel will fan out to the strikingly underdeveloped Eastern Cape to lay the groundwork for building new homes for South African families.

Post-apartheid, black South Africa has bounded up the development ladder but, in many areas, still goes wanting. “Jesus said, “I must work the work that is within me, while it is day,” says the Rev. Anthony Trufant, Emmanuel’s pastor. “We’re not coming [to Africa] with the intent of proselytizing. We’re sharing our witness through our work … thinking globally and acting globally.”

Emmanuel member Ernesha Webb, a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University and public health administrator for the City of New York, spent five months starting in the summer of 2007 in South Africa training others and volunteering. At this writing, as Webb waits for South African immigration officials to approve a work permit that will allow her long-term re-entry into their nation, she is incorporating a U.S.-based non-governmental organization for which she is a co-founder.

Beyond donating one’s money and/or volunteer sweat, what Africa demands is a level of professional and vocational mastery that decreases its reliance on outside benefactors. Imani Works/Faith in Action, her fledgling NGO, will target 25- to 45-year-old professionals with transferable skills, and a heart for Africa.

“We’ve thrown money at what we have defined as Africa’s problems but not done nearly what we can do in terms of actual development there, individual and institutional,” Webb says. “We need to connect what we’ve been able to achieve as African Americans to what Africans need. Like the Bible says, we need to teach a man how to fish for himself.”

In a similar vein, Save Africa’s Children is trying to import a Western notion that orphanages should be a secondary alternative for parentless kids. It aims ultimately to help AIDS orphans remain connected to families within a community, not be warehoused.

There is some distance to go in that effort, says social worker Rufaro Kangai, one in a small coterie of on-the-ground Malawian field workers — Save Africa’s Children also has tapped workers in South Africa — receiving a stipend from the organization.

“What Save Africa’s Children is doing here for the people — for free — is magic,” Kangai says. “It is a miracle. It’s support we desperately need.”

New York City-based freelance journalist Katti Gray is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church. Note: DeShong Smitherman, a producer at WTHR-TV in Indianapolis, and Cynthia R. Greenlee, a freelance journalist and Duke University doctoral student were named 2008 Ethel Payne Fellows.
About 10 years ago, Jeffrey Martin was a 23-year-old sports editor for The Times Argus in Barre, VT. Most would consider that to be a young age for someone in management. And Martin would agree.

“While I consider myself to be a people person, looking back on that experience today, I did not know anything about problem solving or dealing with employees,” he said.

Those interested in being a part of the next class should contact Leadership Academy Director, Mike Smith at smithmi@nytimes.com. Applicants must be able to meet the time requirements including two days in New York in November or December; a week at Harvard University in January and March; and the NABJ convention in August. Applications must be postmarked by October 1 and mailed to: Mike Smith Senior Editor/Training and Development, The New York Times, 620 Eighth Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10018.

LaSharah Bunting, Merissa Green, Mike Green and Jeff Martin participated in the NABJ/New York Times Leadership Academy.
So when he heard about the partnership between NABJ and the New York Times to start a leadership academy intended to help journalists develop their careers in newsroom management, he jumped at the opportunity.

Even though he was no longer in management, the opportunity still held appeal. The experience really helped him develop the necessary managerial skills, he says, especially as he considers whether or not to get back into management.

“Writing is my passion,” said the Kansas State/Big 12 writer for the Wichita Eagle in Wichita, KS. “I love writing too much to give it up now, but at some point I may end up on the management side. After that week at the academy, I can now see myself in management.”

LaSharah Bunting, who at The Times is a fairly young manager, was able to take the next step in her career. At a time where the industry seems to be more about “gloom and doom,” according to Martin, the academy has shaped the perceptions of these four. They are more optimistic about the future.

Bunting believes there is a need to get creative and not be afraid to totally throw out conventional wisdom.

“We need to encourage innovation and ask the tough questions that it requires,” she said. “For example, the Web is the future of our business. But there are still quite a few newspapers that will not dedicate the money, personnel and resources needed for it to grow.”

Where companies spend their money is a clear indication of their priorities, she said. “I wish more newspapers and editors understood that. The academy has given me the confidence to be a voice for change in the newsroom.”

Merissa Green’s perspective on the future of the industry is based on the type of leaders in command. “The daily challenges that my classmates face are not so different from the obstacles that I have to overcome. There is a common thread,” she said. “If leaders would listen and develop those in the trenches, the goals of existing in a new multimedia world wouldn’t be so hard to reach. Leadership plays a very important part of this transition that the industry is now undertaking.”

The program did more for Mike Green, he said, than just teach him. As a military veteran with 12 years of experience in the Navy, he said he has been exposed to all sorts of leadership styles; even spending time as a leader himself.

“In looking back on my experience in this program, I would venture to say that the military [has] a thing or two [to learn] about leadership,” he said. “In the span of three trips and a very limited amount of time, this program did more than merely teach me things I did not know and refresh those ideas I already contained… It offered a new perspective — an epiphany of sorts — that broadened my mental horizons, removed the blinders that would have kept me from reaching my maximum potential in this industry and gave me the tools I did not know were missing.”

The academy is segmented into four parts.

Launched in November 2006, the NABJ/NYT Leadership Academy is roughly a yearlong fellowship. To date, there are a total of eight academy graduates. Martin, along with LaSharah Bunting of The New York Times; Merissa Green of The Ledger (Lakeland, Fla.) and Mike Green of Ashland Daily Tidings (Oregon) make up the second class to participate. Their graduation takes place at July’s UNITY convention in Chicago.

The Leadership Academy was born from a desire to do something specific that would have a direct professional benefit for real journalists, said Times Senior Editor/ Training and Development, Mike Smith.

“This program provides superior practical training which will help prepare Academy journalists to take the next step in their careers. Meanwhile, it can make them better managers now. That can only help an industry that clearly needs strong leaders who come in all colors from diverse backgrounds,” Smith said.

At a time where the industry seems to be more about “gloom and doom,” according to Martin, the academy has shaped the perceptions of these four. They are more optimistic about the future.

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The academy is segmented into four parts.

The first part, a three-day December trip to New York to meet program directors at the The New York Times, consists of academy fellows participating in newsroom activities, rotating through various desks, and sitting in on editorial meetings and lectures.

Parts two and three take place at Harvard University in January and March. At Cambridge, the academy fellows attended week-long sessions where case studies on leadership, negotiating, ethics, business management and other issues were taught by professors from Harvard Business School and other universities.

Publishers, editors, executives and consultants “are brought in to share industry-specific knowledge and insight into making the leap from middle management to executive leadership,” Green said. “Additionally, valuable tools are given to academy fellows, such as the 360, which provides an in-depth perspective of each individual as they see themselves as well as comparison of that personal perspective with the opinions of others working in the same environment.”

There are group projects, competitions, brainstorming and mentoring sessions. The training culminates during the UNITY convention, where the fellows will be panelists, presenting portions of their experiences to attendees.

They say they’ve not only learned about the industry and the business of management, but also about themselves.

Bunting, who at The Times is a fairly young manager, was able to step out of the role of editor and learn what it takes to be a great businesswoman.

“I’m working with people who started at the paper before I was born. And this program gave me a certain level of aplomb and strength needed in the newsroom of The New York Times,” she said. “I’ve realized that to be truly successful in this business, you must rethink what you think you know.”

It was the personality surveys and feedback from her classmates that helped Merissa learn a thing or two about herself. To be able to see and hear an objective view of her skill set makes her career outlook even more promising.

Mike learned that he had done a poor job managing his relations with his bosses. He walked away with knowledge of the importance of “managing up” and the tools to do so.

As for Martin, he learned the importance of taking an active part in solving problems. He also realized that if and when he is to become a manager, he will be more than capable of doing so.

Developing leaders for today and tomorrow’s industry is the aim, said Smith. They thought it was possible back when the academy was created. And they still believe it today.

And if some of these “leaders end up back at The Times some day, that would be wonderful,” he adds. At the end of the day, “it’s clear that their contributions are already making a difference.”

Mashaun D. Simon is a freelance journalist in Atlanta.
The black press in Chicago

by Lolly Bowean

When Lynn Norment, managing editor of Ebony magazine, reflects on the publication’s rich history, her voice is filled with pride but also excitement about what is happening with Ebony today. At the same time, when Lou Ransom, executive editor of the Chicago Defender, talks about the tabloid-sized publication he oversees, his voice booms with confidence and optimism about the paper’s future.

As long as the mainstream media ignore stories about the African-American community, there will always be a need for the black press, they both agree.

“Johnson Publishing Company remains the world’s largest African-American-owned and-operated publishing company,” says Norment, “and in order for us to continue the legacy of celebrating the achievements and unique experiences of black America, we have taken the necessary steps to provide relevant, current and innovative content for our readers. The magazine was founded because no one else was telling our stories. This is what we have always done, and what we pride ourselves in continuing to do.”

Ransom emphasizes that such is also the mission of the Defender. “We are still telling stories that we think no one is telling and covering a community that is not covered well,” he said. “In 1827 Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm started Freedom’s Journal and it was with the admission that we should plead our own cause. We are still trying to tell our own story and not have it filtered through other organizations.”

For more than 65 years, Chicago has been home to these two iconic African-American publishing organizations, both created to serve an overlooked audience.

Founded by Robert S. Abbott in 1905, the Chicago Defender is still one of the largest black newspapers in the country. At the time the Defender was created, Abbott sought to tell unique stories about the black community.

The paper is responsible for the migration of thousands of African Americans from the south to Chicago. Not only did the paper advocate that African Americans move to Chicago, when they arrived, the paper helped them find employment and places to live.

“We have sensitivity to the community that no one else has,” Ransom said.

When John H. Johnson launched Negro Digest in 1942, he envisioned a magazine that celebrated the lifestyles and accomplishments of African Americans. Today Johnson’s publishing empire, run by his daughter,
Linda Johnson Rice, produces Ebony, the No. 1 African American magazine in the country, and Jet magazine the nation’s largest Black weekly.

Like most publications, the Defender, Ebony and Jet magazines have struggled to maintain their circulation, advertising revenue and grab the attention of young readers. But both news organizations have been able to thrive in the face of adversity, mainly by staying true to their original mission and by using technology to reach a broader audience, media experts say.

At the Defender, the news focus is still on issues relevant to African Americans. But now that the paper has gone from being published four days a week, to once a week, advertising sales are rebounding, Ransom said. And though the staff size has shrunk, more resources have been put into developing the paper’s online Web site and producing video and audio components.

“A lot of people get their news from TV and the internet,” Ransom said. “We have to be in those places. It’s not a matter of dumbing down the content, but recognizing what you are dealing with. It’s about presentation, choosing the right kinds of stories and realizing who your readership is.”

At the South Michigan Avenue headquarters of Johnson Publishing Co., the offices continue to pulsate with energy. In recent years, both Jet and Ebony magazines have undergone transformations to make the publications look more sleek and modern.

The content continues to cover topics ranging from the economic needs of African Americans, extensive coverage of Africa to more controversial topics like use of the N-word.

The company has beefed up its Web site, EbonyJet.com, with regularly updated blogs, opinion columns and video content. JPC also is in the process of digitizing its extensive and valuable photo archive to make its images available for purchase.

“Since we live in a world that’s fast-paced and ever-changing, Ebony magazine has worked very hard to stay on the pulse of what’s important to our readers,” says Norment. “Whether it’s capturing the sentiments of a homeless mother holding her child during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina or seeing Forest Whitaker win an Oscar, we’ve been there to capture it all—and will continue to do so.”

“There are a lot of places people can go for information,” says The Defender’s Ransom. “We’re laying the groundwork so no matter how news is delivered, the Chicago Defender will be there.”

Lolly Bowean is a staff writer at the Chicago Tribune.
TUESDAY, JULY 22
NABJ Board of Director’s Meeting
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, Columbus A & B

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
NABJ Student Members Meeting
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: McCormick West Convention Center, Room W195.

THURSDAY, JULY 24
NABJ Hall of Fame Banquet & Inductions
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (New Time)
Location: McCormick South Convention Center, Room S100
Join host Lester Holt of NBC News in honoring the 2008 inductees to the NABJ Hall of Fame and the winners of the Special Honors Awards. The Hall of Fame recognizes black journalists who have made outstanding contributions to the journalism profession – from those who blazed the trail – to the ones who fought to make sure our stories were told, even in the face of adversity. Don’t miss NABJ’s most prestigious event!

Associate Members Meeting
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: McCormick West Convention Center, Room W192C

NABJ Council of President’s Meeting
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: McCormick West Convention Center, Room W473

FRIDAY, JULY 25
NABJ Business Meeting
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Location: McCormick West Convention Center, Room W182

NABJ Founders Meeting
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location: McCormick West Convention Center, Room W473

NABJ Regional Caucus Meeting
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: McCormick West Convention Center, Room W192C

NABJ Film Festival
7:00 p.m.
Tickets available at the Expo Hall
Hosted by the NABJ Arts & Entertainment Task Force, the NABJ Film Festival screens independent, documentary and major motion pictures with particular interest to African Americans before they hit theaters across the country. Members of the A&E Task Force moderate discussions of the film with primary talent, producers and directors. Be the first to preview some of the newest releases from Hollywood and indie filmmakers.

“The Express” (Universal Pictures)
Location: Lowes Chicago, tickets required
Starring Rob Brown (“Coach Carter”), Dennis Quaid, Omar Benson Miller, Clancy Brown and Charles S. Dutton. Based on a true story, “The Express,” follows the extraordinary life of college football hero Ernie Davis, the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy. His fight for equality and respect forever changed the face of American sports and his story continues to inspire new generations. Football legend Jim Brown and star Rob Brown will do a Q&A session after the film’s screening.

“Trouble the Water” (Elsewhere Films)
Location: To Be Determined
An aspiring rap artist and her streetwise husband, trapped in New Orleans by deadly floodwaters, survive the storm and then seize a chance for a new beginning. It’s a redemptive tale of self-described street hustlers who become heroes. The film takes you inside Hurricane Katrina in a way never before seen on screen. Executive Producer Danny Glover will take part in a Q&A session along with the film’s directors after the screening.
NABJ-Chicago Chapter Party
11:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.
Location: Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers
Join our local hosts, NABJ-Chicago Chapter, as they give us a taste of Windy City hospitality.

SATURDAY, JULY 26
NABJ 5K Walk/Run
7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Proceeds will support the NABJ Scholarship Fund.

Digital Task Force Meeting
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: McCormick West Convention Center, Room W473

NABJ “On the Move” Fundraiser Reception
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (by invitation only)
Location: Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers
This reception is in support of NABJ’s move to its new headquarters at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Salute to Excellence Awards Gala
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago Ballroom
Be sure to attend the only national awards ceremony in the U.S. recognizing unsurpassed coverage of the black experience and issues affecting the worldwide black community. Hosted by Kevin Frazier of “Entertainment Tonight” and broadcaster Diann Burns, NABJ’s National Media Awards will be given to the best in print, broadcast and online journalism in 2007.

Tampa 2009 Kick-off Party
10:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago Ballroom
Come party with the Tampa Association of Black Journalists as it closes down UNITY with an eye toward next summer’s 34th annual convention in sunny Florida.

NABJ Would like to thank the following Sponsors for their support at NABJ@UNITY programming and special events.
(as of June 15th)
- Cox Enterprises
- Zeitgeist Films
- Touchstone Pictures
- RiseUp Publications
- Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club
- Media General
- Meredith Broadcasting
- State Farm
- Tampa Convention and Visitors Bureau
- TheRoot.com
- Toyota
- Fox Searchlight
- Universal Pictures

TURNER SPORTS IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH THE NABJ SPORTS TASK FORCE AT THIS YEAR’S UNITY CONFERENCE.

Visit our booth at UNITY
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.

**Full Members**

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| Willie Allen   | Anna Daetz    | Wiley Hall | Tiffany Leonard | LaToya Smith |
| Jerome Ashton  | Tracy Dahlby  | Corrie Harding | Connie Leslie | Jason Spells |
| Claudia Banks  | Dustin Daniel | Henry Harmon | Carl Little | Collins Spencer |
| Jamel Barriner | Abigail Daniels | Felicia Harrell | Errol Louis | Anthony Springer |
| Megan Bell     | Belva Davis   | Demetrious Harris | Jarrod Lowe | Fionna Spruill |
| Bernard Bell   | LHD.         | Crystal Hearm | Joel Lyons | Nikita Stewart |
| Rhea Bernard   | Nancy Day    | Orville Hector | Malcolm Maddox | Douglas Stewart |
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| Saundra Booker | Elisa DeFoe  | Steven Holmes | DavaN Maharaj | Carol Taylor |
| Chere Boone    | LaToya Dennis | Theodore Holtzelaw | Coleen Marren | Donna Terrell |
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| Christina Brown | Dean Ellington | Kai Jackson | Allison McGevna | Geraldine Tucker |
| Lisa Bryant    | Janice Ellis  | Andrea Jackson | Sean McLaughlin | Delores Tullous |
| Erica Bryant   | Robert Ellis  | Crystal Jenkins | Ty Milburn | Ismail Turay |
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| Kenneth Cummings | Ademah Hackshaw | Timothy Lee | Thomas O'Brien | Lavoisier Bering |

**Student Members**

Luther P. Jackson: 1925 – 2008

There are a lot of things that I will always remember about Luther P. Jackson, my friend and mentor and the first black professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism who passed away on April 22 after a long illness.

While I don’t know the exact number of journalists who came into contact with Professor Jackson, I do know that the list was long. Hundreds according to one source, and that it included, among others, Lena Williams, the former New York Times reporter; Reginald Stuart of Knight Ridder and McClatchy; Rehema Ellis of NBC News; Gayle Pollard-Terry formally of the L.A. Times; Wayne Dawkins who teaches journalism at Hampton University; and my friend and classmate Alexandria King, a close Jackson family friend.

I’m tempted here to recount that old and worn cliché “To know Luther was to love him” but that’s not so.

To have known Luther was to be enamored of a man so thorough and precise, so committed to the craft of journalism and teaching it to young people that to know him, if one watched closely, was to witness drama and poise and precision in action.

Anyone who saw Luther sitting at his desk in his fifth floor office at the J School pouring over copy and looking up only momentarily knew this. Anyone who visited him in his office as I did often since he was my Reporting & Writing I (RW I) teacher recognized immediately that Luther was a man on a mission when it came to training young people.

Luther was a member of one contentious faculty, which included Penn Kimball, Norman Isaacs and Richard Baker, then the secretary of the Pulitzer Prizes, and Luther’s longtime friend and ally, the late Phyl Garland.

Following my year at the J School I took a job as an editor at McGraw-Hill and I stayed in touch with Luther. With some regularity I would come back to the building and visit with him since I lived only blocks away on Riverside Drive. As our meetings increased and our talks got deeper I realized that there was a Luther P. Jackson that few of us ever saw when we sat in front of him and as we served almost as fodder for him and his RW I adjunct Wayne Barrett.

I realized that there was a swinging, musical side to Luther (most notably his love for jazz and his affinity for big bands and Ben Webster), a sartorial side to Luther which came across through his classic and classy dress, and a soft side which emerged whenever he talked about his beloved wife Nettie or either of his two sons, Luke (Luther Jr.) and Lee, the first black treasurer of the city of Boston, who died in the plane crash over Croatia which also claimed the life of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown.

I also learned – and sensed – though he never talked about it, how difficult it was for Luther being the first black professor at our school. Luther took it all in stride. Perhaps it was the Marine in him that helped him do this or perhaps it was just that inner reserve that he had that oftentimes made him just focus on what we were doing and nothing else.

From Luther I also learned something else: how to, with passion and caring, teach young people the craft of journalism in such a way that they learn to value not only the craft of reporting but also that of writing.

Luther taught me that through the many pieces of mine that he edited and through his thoughtful analysis at the end, which always included a little ditty from him.

I remember one piece where at the end he told me this: “Quite good, Mister. But remember to never rest on your laurels. And then came his signature: “LPJ,” the name that my students at North Carolina Central University came to call him when Dr. Patsy B. Perry ran interference and helped me get LPJ to come and spend a year with us as we began to build NCCU’s Media-Journalism program.

I didn’t have much trouble convincing Dr. Perry that Luther was the man we needed to show my students how the craft of journalism was taught and what it was all about but I worried how they would take him.

Their list included a group of journalism luminaries of today: Ernie Suggs, NABJ’s Vice President-Print and NCCU’s first Nieman Fellow; Demorris Lee of the St. Petersburg Times; Greg Childress of the Durham Herald Sun; Alan Wilson of the Buffalo News and Johnnie Whitehead of USA Today.

Luther won all of them over almost immediately with his easy going manner but more so because he let them know that they were important – that they were as important to him as were the students at the J School who came from very different backgrounds and schools and had different temperaments.

Luther never told my young charges they were black and that they carried the added burden of race in whatever they did, especially as reporters, but they got the sense from him that he could look into their souls and see what they wanted and who they wanted to become.

Today, they are who they wanted to become, thanks to LPJ.

Ask any of them, I’m sure they’ll tell you.

Today in Durham, Luther became a fixture in our house. He didn’t do much in the way of things like housework or the like. He was just there – just LPJ pouring over his students’ copy and playing with my young daughter. He and my wife and I ate and drank and talked—about everything.

One of Luther’s other life passions, in addition to jazz, history and education, was civil rights, a charge I’m certain he inherited from his parents, Luther P. Jackson Sr. who headed the history department at Virginia State College and his mother, Johnella Frazier Jackson, who taught music at Virginia State.

I witnessed this at work one afternoon when I got to sit in the company of Dr. John Hope Franklin and Luther when he interviewed John Hope for a project that he was working on.

Over the years I have developed a set of courses, Journalism I and Journalism II, which I have modeled after the RW and RW II sequence that we had at Columbia, which Luther taught. In part I, my students learn how to think like reporters, act like reporters, learn to use the Stylebook and how to write short, straight stories. In part II, they go more in depth and learn to develop areas or coverage and beats that they are interested in.

In both courses they write, for better or worse, and in both courses I provide written critiques of their work – for better or worse.

I have yet to provide for a student as thorough a critique as Luther P. Jackson provided me with and which helped me learn my craft immeasurably.

And I have yet to be able to feel as comfortable signing the critiques that I turn back to my students as I do when I hand out the one that I use as a model for them, the one which shows them what all of us know — there in nothing as valuable as a good edit and a good editor.

At the end of the one that I hand them to examine, and which comes from a work folder that I keep in a special drawer in my desk is the simple, three letter signature: “LPJ.”

Kip Branch is a journalism professor at Elizabeth City State University and the 2005 NABJ Journalism Educator of the Year.
Vivian Edmonds, the long-time editor and publisher of the Durham-based Carolina Times and the first black woman inducted into the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame, died May 11 in Chapel Hill. She was 80. A Durham native, Edmonds worked alongside her father, Louis Austin, who founded the paper in 1922, to cover the civil rights movement and Durham successful black middle class. After her father’s death in 1971, she became the paper’s publisher. She was inducted into the N.C. Journalism Hall of Fame in 1988 and has a journalism scholarship named after her at UNC.

Christian Ewell, a reporter for The Baltimore Sun, who had written about sports since his college days, died May 11 of brain cancer at a hospice in Kansas City, Mo. He was 33. A former Chips Quinn scholar, Ewell joined The Sun in 1997, working as a sportswriter and news reporter in Baltimore and in Howard County. His sports assignments took him to Super Bowl in 2001 and to the men’s college basketball Final Four in 2001 and in 2002.

Thomas A. Johnson, a Vietnam War correspondent and pioneer black journalist who for a time in the 1960s was the only identifiable black reporter at The New York Times, died June 2 in New York. He was 79. A native of St. Augustine, Fla., and an army veteran, Johnson worked at the Pittsburgh Courier and Newsday, before joining the Times. There, he traveled to Vietnam where he covered race relations among the troops and accepted a job as assistant city editor when he returned. He left the Times in 1981 and started his own public relations firm, Thomas A. Johnson & Associates.

Bob Moran, a sportswriter in Arizona for his entire professional career, died March 4 at his home in Chandler. He was 55. One of the first black sportswriters in the area, Moran covered Arizona State athletics for the East Valley Tribune from 1987 until 2004, when he was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He worked for the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson from 1974, after graduating from Ohio University, until joining the Tribune.

Michelle Parker, a reporter for KCII-TV in Des Moines, Iowa, died May 4 of heart failure. She was 52. On May 3, Parker fell ill at a birthday party of a co-worker and was taken to the hospital. A native of Des Moines, Parker had just won a first place award from the Associated Press Broadcasters of Iowa about a soldier returning home from Iraq.

Ishma Stewart, a journalism student at Loyola University Chicago was shot and killed May 4. She was 20. Police say that Stewart was driving in Chicago when another car pulled alongside hers and fired several shots. Police had not determined a motive, or made an arrest as of press time. Stewart was scheduled to graduate in December and was actively seeking internships for this summer.

Paul Louis Taylor, a CBS News director, whose credits include “Face the Nation,” died of cardiac arrest Jan. 31 at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was 66. One of the first African-American directors at CBS, he spent 38 years at the network. He became senior director of “Face the Nation” in the late 1970s. He retired in 1999, which gave him more time to pursue his interests in music, painting, photography, gardening and cooking.

Pat Tobin, a widely respected public relations executive and the co-founder of the National Black Public Relations Society, died of cancer at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles on June 10. She was 65. In a statement released by her company, Tobin and Associates, she was described as a “dedicated activist for causes that impacted minorities, women and youth and she secured financial support from corporations and philanthropic organizations for a variety of important initiatives.”

Tobin was a fixture at NABJ conventions, co-chaired its public relations task force for many years and was a longtime member of the Black Journalists Association of Southern California.

“Pat Tobin revolutionized the public relations industry by increasing the visibility of African Americans working in the field,” said April O. Turner, NABJ Associate Member Representative. “As a co-founder of the National Black Public Relations Society, Ms. Tobin will forever be regarded as a standard bearer for public relations professionals of all races due to her innovative, hard-working and compassionate nature. A true giant in the world of PR, she will truly be missed.”

In 1988, her firm represented Toyota for brand building, community relations and publicity in the ethnic community when the company sought to repair its relationship with African-American customers. Her efforts began a 20-year relationship with Toyota that resulted in countless community partnerships.

Her firm’s other clients include filmmaker Spike Lee; Judge Mablean Ephriam (FOX-TV’s “Divorce Court”); The Cochran Firm; Los Angeles NAACP and Urban League; Los Angeles African American Women’s Political Action Committee; the BET Awards among others.

Passages and Comings and Goings represent a sampling of items gathered from Richard Prince’s “Journal-isms.” To read more about the daily happenings in the news industry, log on to: http://www.maynardije.org/columns/dickprince/.
COMINGS AND GOINGS

**DAVID ALDRIDGE**, a sports columnist at The Philadelphia Inquirer, left the paper to concentrate more on his television work.

**CATHIE ANDERSON**, business editor for the Sacramento Bee, has been named the paper’s features editor.

**CHARLES BLOW** returned to The New York Times in a newly created role on the op-ed page and Times Web site after a brief stint with National Geographic.

**LORRAINE BRANHAM** has been named dean of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

**STEPHEN BUCKLEY** has been named publisher of tampabay.com, a new position designed to sharpen and accelerate the Times’ push into electronic publishing.

**VICKIE BURNS** has been named vice president of news and content at WNBC-TV in New York.

**MARK CARTER** has been named executive director of the Committee of Concerned Journalists and the Goldenson Chair in Community Broadcasting at the Missouri School of Journalism.

**CARI CHAMPION**, a weekend Atlanta anchor who was fired in November after she was said to have uttered the word “m-----f-----” during her newscast, but was reinstated after contending her superiors misheard what she said, has left WGCL-TV for an on-air job in Los Angeles.

**ANISSA CENTERS**, joined WSB-TV in Atlanta as an anchor and reporter. The former WALA-TV anchor from Mobile, Centers was twice voted NABJ’s Southern Region Anchor of the Year.

**EDWINA BLACKWELL CLARK** has been named publisher of Cox Ohio Publishing’s Southwest Group, which includes the Journal News of Hamilton, Ohio, and the Middletown (Ohio) Journal.

**BARBARA DARKO** has been named executive editor of the Afro-American newspapers in Baltimore and Washington.

**OSCAR DIXON** has been named The Associated Press’ assistant sports editor for the South region.

**FRANKIE EDOZIEN** has been named director of New York University’s Reporting Africa. He had been a city hall reporter for the New York Post.

**CAMILLE EDWARDS** has been named news director of WRC-TV in Washington.

**KIA GREGORY** joined the Philadelphia Inquirer as a city desk reporter. She had been a columnist and reporter for the Philadelphia Weekly.

**BYRON HARMON** has been appointed to the newly created position of senior executive producer at CNN International to coordinate the global network’s live news programming and breaking news coverage.

**SHERRY HOWARD**, executive editor for special projects at Philadelphia Inquirer online, resigned from the paper.

**ALLISON HUNTER** has been named interim news director at KTLA-TV in Los Angeles.

**EYOBONG ITA**, a reporter for seven years at the Kansas City Star, has joined the Springfield (Ohio) News Sun as associate city editor. The city editor is **ISMAIL TURAY**, a Liberian-born journalist, meaning two African-born journalists are running the city desk. The Nigerian-born Ita is president of the National Association of African Journalists.

**ANDRE JACKSON** has joined The Atlanta Journal-Constitution as an editorial writer specializing in business. He had been the St. Louis Post-Dispatch’s assistant managing editor for business.

**MAURICE JONES** has been named publisher of The Virginian-Pilot.

**GREGORY LEE** has been promoted to the number two position in the sports department for the Boston Globe.

**CRAG MELVIN** has joined the NBC-owned WRC-TV in Washington D.C., as a reporter and anchor.

**WILLIAM RASPBERRY**, Duke University’s Knight professor of journalism and public policy studies, retired after 13 years.

**MARTIN G. REYNOLDS** has been named editor of the Oakland Tribune and managing editor of the Bay Area News Group.

**DENNIS RICHMOND**, who spent 40 years at KTVU-TV in San Francisco, has retired. Richmond started working at the station as a clerk and retired as anchor.

**GLENN RICE**, a reporter for the Kansas City Star and former NABJ treasurer, has been elected Omega Psi Phi’s 30th Eighth District Representative.

**Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications**, has earned the Wood Badge, scouting’s top training recognition.

**KELEFA SANNEH**, a music critic for The New York Times since 2000, has left the paper to write about culture for The New Yorker magazine.

**Jan Simpson**, the first African-American assistant managing editor at Time magazine, announced her retirement as its arts editor.

**DANNY SPRIGGS** has been named vice president of global security for The Associated Press. He was a former executive in the U.S. Secret Service.

**WILL SUTTON**, Scripps Howard endowed chair at Hampton University’s Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications, has earned the Wood Badge, scouting’s top training recognition.

**RENE SYLER**, former CBS News’ “The Early Show” anchor, has joined Parents TV as the host of the channel’s first long-form show, “It Moms.”

**KATHY TIMES** has been named anchor for WBBD, Fox 40 in Jackson, Mississippi. Times, NABJ’s vice president of broadcast had been an investigative reporter for NBC 13 in Birmingham.

**Lee Thornton** has been named interim dean of the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism. Thornton is a former CBS News White House correspondent, National Public Radio program host and CNN public affairs program producer.
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

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

   First Name         Middle Initial         Last Name
   __________________ ______________________

   Date of Birth (mm/dd)
   __________________

   Title                              Company/School
   __________________                 ______________________

   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
Membership Invitation

6. PROGRAM INTERESTS MARK ALL THAT APPLY.
- Speakers Bureau
- Mentor Program
- Student Development Program
- Other ________________________
- Media Institute
- Internship Program
- Scholarship Program

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; acknowledgment 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.
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- You may still save if you take medicines not made by Pfizer. We connect you with the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) for help.

Some restrictions apply.

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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS