**National Association of Black Journalists** 

## I AB journal

## Jemele HILL

Journalist of the Year

SUMMER ISSUE 2018



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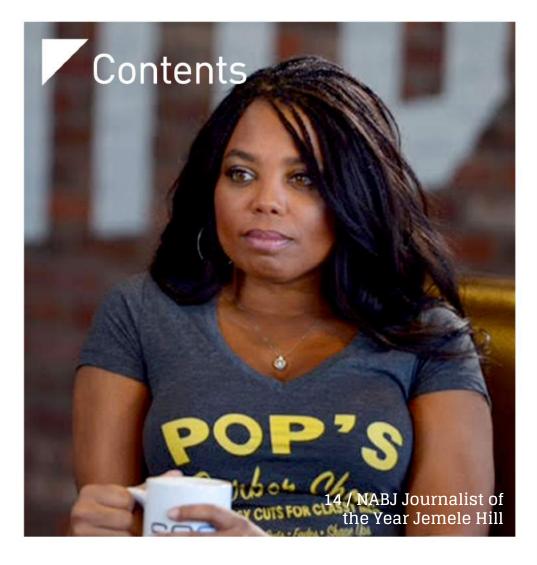


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National Association of Black Journalists

ABJ

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#### From the President

Dear NABJ Family:

I am delighted to welcome you to the Summer 2018 edition of the NABJ Journal. We are happy to bring the NABJ Convention back to the Motor City for the first time since 1992.

Among those joining us in Detroit this year are legendary actor, producer and director Tyler Perry; political commentator Roland Martin; and hometown hero Jemele Hill of The Undefeated, who is also NABJ's Journalist of the Year.

This issue of the Journal will celebrate NABJ's best and brightest as they receive the association's highest honors, including Everett L. Marshburn of Milwaukee Public Television for Journalist of Distinction, long-time Detroit Free Press executive editor Robert G. "Bob" McGruder for the 2018 NABJ Legacy Award and NBC Southern California/KNBC's Beverly White for the 2018 Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award

We will also induct five honorees — Albert Dunmore (posthumous), Victoria Jones (posthumous), Louis Martin (posthumous), William Rhoden and Bob Ray Sanders — into the NABJ Hall of Fame for their lasting contributions to journalism and the impact they made in the communities they served.

This year's convention theme is "Driving Journalism, Technology and Trust", and our workshops are designed to provide invaluable training that members can use to help them remain relevant in their newsrooms. Our plenary sessions will cover technology, new media, civil rights and race.

It's been a busy year for NABJ so far. We kicked off 2018 off by announcing a \$200,000 grant from the Democracy Fund to help NABJ build up its national office staff. The board of directors chose Miami and Houston to host our 2019 and 2021 conventions. We mourned the loss of Founder Les Payne and long-time diversity advocate Walterene Swanston-NuevaEspana.

We held successful regional conferences in Atlanta, New York City and Indianapolis and continued to offer training for our members via our webinar series. We advocated for black journalists in newsrooms across the country and helped the Associated Press further advance fair coverage of blacks and other communities of color by incorporating changes to its respected Stylebook.

NABJ produced its second Black Male Media Project, with concurrent programs in two dozen cities nationwide produced by NABJ affiliate chapters. And our members also offered support for black women in media on social media with the advent of the NABJ Black Women's Media Project following the New Orleans convention.

NABJ continues to be relevant to both it's members and the journalism industry as a whole by serving both groups with passion, power and purpose. I hope you all enjoy this year's NABJ Journal convention issue and that you'll feel energized to continue to tell the stories of our communities after reading the many stories of black excellence in media.

Yours in Service,

Sarah Glover

President, National Association of Black Journalists @sarah4nabj

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## National Association of Black Journalists Celebrates 44th Anniversary in 2019



As NABJ celebrates its 44th year of existence, we are pleased to honor the vision of our 44 Founders and those who continue their legacy today. The sacrifice and commitment shown by our founders on Dec. 12, 1975 stands the test of time. Over the last four decades, NABJ has grown into the largest organization representing journalists of color in the nation.

We continue to foster an exemplary group of professionals that honor excellence and the outstanding achievements of black journalists, media professionals and students. NABJ also works to ensure fair news coverage of black and minority communities. NABJ remains powerful, purposeful, passionate and relevant today.





# 3,000 journalists of NABJ to descend on Detroit in August

#### By Rochelle Riley

Detroit has spent years on a roller coaster of demographic, financial and cultural highs and lows leading to a bankruptcy and now renaissance that has gained national attention and drawn real estate prospectors to Motown like gold prospectors to Sutter's Mill.

The city is attempting to reinvent itself as a 21st-Century mecca for millennials as well as a long-awaited better place for longtime residents who didn't give up on the Motor City.

As residents debate whether the renaissance is reaching all Detroiters, the city will get a report card from outsiders in August, when one of the largest gatherings of journalists and newsmakers in America convenes here for the National Association of Black Journalists' annual convention.

About 3,000 reporters, editors, producers, photographers and students landed at the GM Renaissance Center Marriott for five days of workshops, forums, panel discussions and conversations. NABJ, like Detroit, is working on reinventing itself in a digital age and rebuilding relationships between journalists and consumers in

the Age of Trump.

"I am thrilled that the NABJ has chosen Detroit for its national conference this summer and can't think of a better place for it," said Mayor Mike Duggan a member of a Host Committee that rivals the one convened for the 2006 Super Bowl. It includes Quicken Loans Founder Dan Gilbert, former mayor Dennis Archer, Motown Museum CEO Robin Terry and Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau CEO Larry Alexander.

"Professional journalists play a vital role in our democracy, and it's so very important that our newsrooms, like our government, reflect the diverse communities they serve," Duggan said.

As honorary co-chair of the convention with my friend and ESPN star Jemele Hill (the last time they turned us loose we took 900 kids to see "Black Panther", I can't wait to say at convention's end, with a nod to Kool Moe Dee: How ya like us now?

The annual convention comes as media outlets nationwide struggle to maintain audiences that increasingly get much of their news coverage on mobile devices and from social media sites such as Facebook. We are literally fighting for the soul of journalism and fighting to maintain diversity in that industry.

The convention's theme is "Driving Journalism, Technology and Trust"

"There will always be a need for stories to be told; the only thing that will change is how they're delivered," said Convention Chair Eva Coleman, an executive producer with the Frisco (Texas) Independent School District's television station. "As technology rapidly changes, we understand the need to evolve. We're ensuring our members are equipped with everything necessary to remain a driving and trusted force in an everchanging technological world."

Conventioneers will see a Detroit whose downtown and Midtown have been transformed into a bustling urban destination, drawing hundreds of residents and tourists to new restaurants, clubs and stores in properties mostly owned by Gilbert, who owns or controls about 100 properties downtown. Moving his employees into downtown's 7.2 square miles has revitalized the area

Local planners said conventioneers also may be surprised by what they see away from downtown: iconic locations such as Baker's Keyboard Lounge, one of the oldest continuously operating jazz clubs in the world; the Motown Museum where Marvin Gaye and the Supremes got their start; the dueling Lafayette and American Coney Islands (yes, we've got hot dog wars), and Belle Isle, run as a state park with a beach, conservatory and aquarium.

"The working journalists visiting Detroit for the NABJ convention will find a city on the mend," said Vincent McCraw, president of Detroit NABJ and an editor at the Detroit News. "There are



nuances to Detroit's revival, and it can be seen not just downtown and Midtown, but in some of the neighborhoods. We encourage people to come see us with fresh eyes and open minds."

The convention won't draw just journalists and media. Among

in a special fund-raising concert at Chene Park co-sponsored by Nissan and the Detroit NABJ chapter.

NABJ meets in a different city every year. This year's convention will be the first time some journalists have seen the



A view of downtown Detroit.

celebrities booked for the convention are: actor, producer and director Tyler Perry; actor, comedian, activist and Detroit native Brandon T. Jackson, son of Bishop Wayne T. Jackson of Great Faith Ministries International; civil rights and social activist Shaun King; political commentator Roland Martin, and hometown hero and singer Kem, who will perform

city since Detroit hosted the 1992 NABJ convention.

That convention generated a lot of buzz, said WWJ reporter Vickie Thomas, a member of the NABJ national board, because it featured a lineup of political, entertainment and sports figures that included then-presidential candidate Bill Clinton, director Spike Lee and tennis legend

Arthur Ashe.

"As a member of the local board at the time, I just remember everyone being blown away by the convention and the Detroit hospitality," Thomas said. "We hope to exceed expectations again this year." NABJ also will salute its best and brightest, who include new inductees into the NABJ Hall of Fame and Detroiter Jemele Hill of ESPN.

"We are pleased to honor hometown hero Jemele Hill as our Journalist of the Year, and offer professional development training topics that cover politics, social justice, investigative reporting, entertainment, sports and education as well as lessons learned from the Flint water crisis," said NABJ President Sarah Glover, who works for NBC News

Conventioneers also will participate in a day of service to leave their mark on some part of Detroit.

NABJ was founded in Washington, D.C., in 1975 by a group of 44 journalists. Its mission is simple: It doesn't just train current journalists. It nurtures new ones and advocates for veterans.

In its 43 years, the organization has given scholarships to — and helped nurture — hundreds of students through college workshops, high school programs and a student newsroom that allows collegiate journalists to cover each year's convention.

Called NABJ babies, those students learn to cover plenary sessions, interview news subjects and produce television newscasts, a daily newspaper and a 24-hour website.

The convention also will boast one of the largest career and exhibition fairs in the country. Dozens of media companies and journalism schools from across

the country will set up shop to interview or share information with convention registrants. NABJ has a long-standing reputation as the place where many black journalists landed their first job.

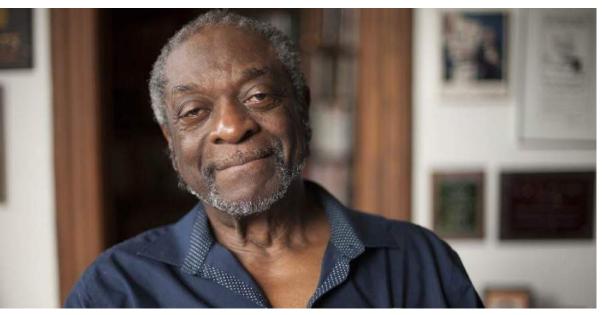
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Rochelle Riley is an awardwinning columnist with the Detroit Free Press and cohonorary chair of this year's NABJ convention. This article originally appeared in the Detroit Free Press and was republished with permission.

## Trailblazing black journalist Les Payne showed no fear in pursuit of the truth

He'll be remembered as an NABJ founder and Pulitzer Prize winner and a mentor and role model to many. **By DeWayne Wickham** 



NABJ Founder Les Payne.

 $M_{\text{y}}$  friend Les Payne is dead.

During his 38-year journalism career, Les had many close encounters with death. He once escaped the Mediterranean island of Corsica just minutes ahead of the thugs whom a drug dealer sent to his hotel to "turn out his lights."

Then, while in California trying to make contact with the Symbionese Liberation Army, a black revolutionary group that kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst, Les was confronted by a gunwielding SLA member who ordered him into a phone booth. Les had only minutes to live, the man said, if he couldn't get someone on the phone at Newsday, the Long Island, New York, newspaper where he spent his entire career, to prove that he was a journalist.

And there was the late-night run-in that Les had with two of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's secret policemen that produced another life-threatening experience for him. But when Les Payne died on March 19 at age 76, it was a heart attack that quickly snatched the life from his body as he stood on the steps of his home in Harlem — not the wrath of those who hated his fearless brand of journalism.

I can't think of a better ending for a man who was, arguably, the most consequential American journalist of the past 50 years.

Les didn't just report the news; he often uncovered the story behind the headlines that many journalists missed. He was a bareknuckles reporter who braved the dangers of journalism.

More often than not he worked alone, far away from stampeding herds of journalists. "Wherever you see groups of journalists milling about, there is no news. All you'll find in places like that is the stuff that people in power want you to know, not the stuff they're hiding from you," he once told me.

In four decades of reporting and editing, Les found a lot of what powerful people were hiding.

In 1970, he went undercover to get an up-close look at the mistreatment of black migrant workers on a potato farm on Long Island, A native of Tuscaloosa. Alabama, Les was no stranger to that kind of labor. As a child, he picked cotton alongside his grandmother on an Alabama farm where the poorly paid black workers were expected to work from dawn to dusk - or, as the old-timers say, "from can't see, to can't see." Les' story brought improvements to the conditions under which Long Island's migrant laborers worked.

When heroin deaths spiked in New York City during the early 1970s, Les and two fellow Newsday reporters tracked the flow of heroin, as he often said, "from the poppy fields of Turkey, through the French connection and into the veins of junkies in Harlem." The 33-part series won them the 1974 Pulitzer Prize for public service.

The following year, Les came together with 43 other black journalists in Washington, D.C., to create the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). They wanted to use their collective muscle to push for the hiring of more black journalists and better coverage of black communities across the nation.

But when Chuck Stone, the group's first president, called for the drafting of bylaws, Les, who questioned the need for such organizational structure in the fight for black rights, snapped, "We don't need bylaws. We need to kick some behinds."

Using his journalistic voice to kick butts was something Les delighted in doing. He kicked butt in his coverage of South Africa's Soweto uprising when he visited funeral homes throughout that black township to prove that the death toll of blacks killed by the gendarmes of that pigmentocracy was substantially higher than what the white apartheid government was telling the world.

Les was no sycophant for any politician. I remember standing with him in Denver's Mile High Stadium on the night of Aug. 28, 2008, when Obama accepted the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. After allowing himself to smile broadly at the end of Obama's speech, Les turned to me, and with a tilt of his head and a stare he said: "Just remember, the job of the black journalist is to be a watchdog, not a lap dog."

History should not be allowed to forget Les, as it has so many other blacks who championed the race. We owe it to him not only to thank him for his service but also to emulate his determination to be a truth-teller in a profession that more than ever before needs a Les Payne.

NABJ Founder DeWayne Wickham is dean of the School of Global Journalism and Communication at Morgan State University. For 30 years, until his retirement last year, his syndicated column appeared weekly in USA TODAY. This article originally appeared in The Undefeated and is republished with permission.

We're working to ensure our political system can withstand new challenges and deliver on its promise to the American people.





# A City on the Rise: What to Expect in Detroit

#### By Katrease Stafford

Once billed a cautionary tale of a Rust Belt city gone wrong, the city of Detroit has become a symbol of resiliency more than four years after emerging from the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history.

Yet, in the midst of the city's widely heralded revitalization efforts, some continue to wonder: Is Detroit's comeback story real?

As thousands of National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) members prepare to descend upon the 139-square mile city, they can expect to see Detroit in the midst of an economic resurgence, burgeoning neighborhoods and areas of booming redevelopment, according to Detroit's Director of Planning Maurice Cox.

"For the black journalists coming to town, they will see the rejuvenation is happening in a city that had been kind of left for never being able to recover," Cox said. "Instead, in many ways, we're leading the revitalization in a way that very few cities have done. They will see people of color ... and they will see neighborhoods that are predominately African American coming back."

However, many challenges persist in the city.

About 35 percent of its population remains in poverty and the recovery has yet to spread to some of the city's neighborhoods. The city remains an overwhelming African-American majority city—or 79 percent of its population, according to the U.S. Census.

When the convention was last held in Detroit in 1992, the city looked much different. Downtown visitors will be greeted by a bustling downtown and dozens of new amenities

including the reimagined Detroit International Riverfront, which is about 5 ½ miles of riverfront property that includes the Detroit RiverWalk along with public plazas, pavilions and other green spaces.

Cox said the Dequindre Cut, which is about a 2-mile greenway, is also among some of the vibrant public spaces and amenities in the downtown area.

"I think people are starting to occupy public spaces again and we have the extraordinary riverfront promenade where people come all across the city," Cox said. "We've taken what appears to be a hunger for quality space and see it popping up. A lot of our effort is looking at what that looks like going into the neighborhoods."

Cox urged convention attendees to consider stepping outside of the downtown area and venturing into some of the neighboring communities, which he says are rich and history and an all-around good time.

"I think the national story has been focused on the revitalization of the heart of the city, its downtown and Midtown areas but increasingly, that energy is flowing over into the adjacent neighborhoods like Brush Park, Lafayette Park and Corktown," Cox said. "So what we have been doing is trying to learn the lessons of what worked in those adjacent downtown neighborhoods and apply them really to the soul of the city which really are the dozens and dozens of neighborhoods outside of the core.'

One of the city's most wellknown jewels is Belle Isle Park, a historical 982-acre island park that has been beloved for generations, according to Michele Hodges, president of the Belle Isle Conservancy. Belle Isle is the most-attended state park in Michigan—and the country, officials claim.

"If individuals are looking to capture the heartbeat of Detroit, Belle Isle is it," Hodges said. "It's embedded in our DNA and our culture."

The island boasts views of two skylines — Detroit's as well as international views of Canada — and Hodges said the park is also home to the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Belle Isle Nature Center, the James Scott Memorial Fountain and many more amenities.

"It really does have broad appeal," Hodges said. "It's a culmination of everything that gives our community its richness."

#### Other hot spots

· Check out the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, located in the heart of Detroit's Cultural Center at 315 East Warren Avenue at Brush Street. The museum is home to some impressive collections and exhibits that highlight and pay homage to African-American accomplishments and leaders.

· The Motown Museum, nicknamed Hitsville, is a small museum nestled on West Grand Boulevard, packed with a lot of Detroit history. The museum is home to a collection of memorabilia and artifacts, that highlight the Motown era. Late last year, a \$50 million effort to create a world-class tourist destination was announced. In between a few sessions, convention attendees should also consider the Detroit Institute of Arts, which boasts world renowned artwork including famous Picasso pieces.

Katrease Stafford is an awardwinning journalist and the Detroit government watchdog reporter for the Detroit Free Press.



Detroit's iconic Fox Theater.

#### **Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award**

#### Beverly White: Witness to Journalism History

By Chastity Pratt Dawsey

Beverly White tells the kind of stories that can get even the most jaded journalist to sit head-inhand, eyes wide, enthralled.

White, a general assignment reporter at NBC Southern California/KNBC in Los Angeles has, after all, been witness to the kinds of historic stories that grip hearts and raise tempers. She was there for the sagas of O.J. Simpson, the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the deaths of Michael Jackson and Prince, just to name a few.

White is described by an admirer on the National Association of Black Journalists awards selection committee as an "amateur historian" for her storied career and a "den mother" for her commitment to mentoring young reporters.

White, who in November 2017 marked her 25 th anniversary covering the news in Los Angeles, is the recipient of the 2018 Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award. The award will be presented at the national convention in Detroit in August.

"I'm blown away by this honor," she said.

White said she cried after NABJ President Sarah Glover called her to tell her she'd won the award named for Stone.

The key to capturing the historic story, or any story for that matter, is to be sincerely curious, respectful and to believe in people's basic humanity,

White said. "I still meet wonderful people at awful stories. That's what sustains me." White was raised in Killeen, Texas, one of the four children of a retired Vietnam War-era Army officer and a public school cafeteria worker.

She attended journalism school at the University of Texas at Austin and was the first in her household to graduate from college.



White on the scene of a fire.

She started covering the news in Texas before moving up to larger markets in Cincinnati and Miami, where she covered Hurricane Andrew.



"White and her husband Xavier Higgs with Muhammad Ali."

It was the beginning of a storied, trailblazing path. In 1992, White arrived in L.A. months after the riots, and about a year before the Northridge earthquake.

But when asked about her favorite stories, one character stands out: Ray Charles. She covered the story when a post office was named for the African-American musical genius and innovator.

But more important, her influence became clear when she convinced her station to cover his funeral in 2004. And then other stations followed suit.

"Ray Charles was on Channel 4 news for 90 minutes in early weekday TV time. Ray Charles got that block of time, here in his backyard, because this little black girl loved Ray Charles," she said. "I'll take that to glory with me."

And in between camera shots, White served three terms as the president of NABJ-Los Angeles. She also has served as a scholarin-residence at Citrus College and an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California. It's the kind of work and volunteerism that has earned her a following of young reporters who look to her for advice.

Her advice to them: multi-task, learn to shoot, write and report the news. Don't make yourself small when you are meant to soar. And ignore the noise and dream big.

"If you suck, I'll help you as gently as I can because I don't want you making us all look bad," she said. "None of us is born knowing this stuff it's learned. It's taught," she said of journalism and storytelling.

White got similar guidance listening to, watching and looking up to NABJ stalwarts such as Carole Simpson, Les Payne, Max Robinson, Bill Whitaker and Paula Madison.

"NABJ was my rocket fuel. NABJ changed my life," White said. "I am honored to be among people who care about storytelling."

Chastity Pratt Dawsey covers Michigan's cities and urban affairs for Bridge, which provides news and analysis from The Center for Michigan.

#### **NABJ Legacy Award**

#### Robert McGruder: Champion of Fair Journalism, Mentoring Those of Color

By Morris Thompson



Robert G. McGruder gave up his early ambition to play the trumpet like Miles Davis and became a reporter and editor. That was good, as he helped those who practice journalism do so better, in part by empowering reporters and editors who reflect their diverse communities.

He rose to executive editor of the Detroit Free Press, then ninth-

largest newspaper in the country, before his death from cancer at age 60 in 2002. He was the first black reporter at the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 1963 and first black president of Associated Press Managing Editors in 1995.

Bob McGruder has been gone 16 years. You may think you didn't really know him, but then maybe you do, through the people he helped make who they are. He

may have helped make you who you are. There was a long string of 'firsts" as an African American. At the Plain Dealer, he covered city government and politics, became an assistant city editor in 1971, city editor in 1978 and managing editor in 1981. He was named deputy managing editor of the Free Press in 1986, managing editor/news the next year, sole managing editor in 1993 and executive editor in 1996 during a bitter strike. The one-time Newspaper Guild negotiator in Cleveland termed that the most painful time in his career.

Sixteen years after his death, you may think you didn't know him, but maybe you do. Through people, he helped make who they are, and who helped make you who you are.

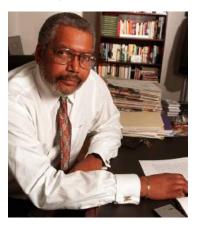
Two examples:

Greg Moore led the Denver Post to four Pulitzer Prizes. He was first raised into editing at age 28 by Bob at the Plain Dealer. McGruder, he said, "taught us how to act, how never to separate ourselves from our community and its interests..." Moore will accept the posthumous 2018 NABJ Legacy Award in Detroit on behalf of Annette McGruder, Bob's widow. Greg got NABJ's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

Julie Topping, eventually a managing editor of the Free Press, said she was first spurred by Bob's perceptive critique when she was the only reporter of color at the little Sandusky Register in 1978 and he was city editor of the big Plain Dealer. Years later, he first promoted her into editing at the Free Press. There, she learned from him "how to be patient yet demanding, how to listen, how to edit a story, how to treat people. And how to be in charge – especially as a woman of color."

Born in Louisville on March 31, 1942, and reared in Dayton, his divorced mother worked two jobs to help keep him in school through his graduation from Kent State University in 1963. He was editor of its newspaper.

"It took a while for us to realize the indignities he had endured over the years, but he never flinched, never showed anger," said Michael Frisby, later White House correspondent for the Wall Street Journal. "I believe Bob had committed his life and career to a greater purpose: delivering quality, fair journalism and mentoring other blacks."



His modesty about his great talent ran deep. His widow, Annette, would learn he got a distinguished journalism honor by reading it in the paper.

When Bob received Knight Ridder newspapers' top award in 2001, he said, "Please know I stand for diversity. I represent the African Americans, Latinos, Arab Americans, Asians, Native Americans, gays and lesbians, women, and all the others we must see represented in our business offices, newsrooms, and our newspapers if we truly want to meet the challenge of serving our communities."

Recognized for Lifetime Achievement by NABJ in 2002, the year he died, his legacy endures.

Morris Thompson was a Free Press editorial writer from 1990-93.





# TABJ SALUTE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Salute to Excellence Awards Gala honors exemplary coverage of black people or issues and highlights the work of media organizations and individuals in print, broadcast and online journalism, marketing and communications. This year, NABJ honors Jemele Hill of The Undefeated with its Journalist of the Year Award. Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. will be the guest speaker and Motown's Kevin Ross will perform.

#### SATURDAY, AUG. 4, 2018

6 to 10 p.m.

Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center Renaissance Ballroom

#### TICKETS: \$100

Ticket purchase in advance required. No door sales.



**Jemele Hill** 2018 NABJ Journslist of the Year



Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. Keynote Address



**Kevin Ross**Motown Performance

Presented by:





## **JEMELE HILL**

#### NABJ Journalist of the Year

By Kelley L. Carter



 ${
m I}$ t's not easy interviewing Jemele Hill.

Forget that I've known her since we were teenagers. Forget that we were college roommates. And pretend that we haven't been traveling around the world together for more than 20 years. Not at all what I'm talking about.

This particular interview is tough because Jemele is one of the best journalists I've ever known; she has a way of tapping into her subjects, gaining trust and intimacy fairly quickly and when she's ready to share her findings with her audience, her prose is the stuff that should be — and is — studied in top J-schools.

She's my best friend, but she's also one of the best journalists around. She'll never make such a declarative statement as that; she's always shied away from career accolades and anyone attempting to bestow kudos in her direction.

Which is why this honor — 2018 Journalist of the Year — from her beloved National Association of Black Journalists is so special. In a year of her ever-increasing platform, it's the one time she's dropped everything to drink that moment in. Once

she got the news that she was being honored — and in her hometown of Detroit, no less — she took pause from her dinner that night to shoot me an ohmygodicantbelieveit text message. She shared that she was almost in tears at the thought that her contemporaries — the very group that cultivated a community that enabled her to grow into becoming the top-notch journalist that she is — were going to celebrate her; it was an exclamation point for this last 12-month cycle.

"It feels weird," Jemele shares with me one Saturday afternoon. "I think right now I'm probably suffering from a little bit of imposter syndrome because I know that there are so many great journalists who have had an amazing year. I have had many moments where I'm just like, 'how did I get this award looking at their body of work.' And maybe because I never see myself in that vein as somebody who's supposed to win things for things that come naturally. It's not that I don't think I'm deserving, it's just that I don't ... I'm not very good at celebrating myself. Anybody that's close to me knows that because despite the fact that I'm on a platform where the very nature of it draws attention to you - and even doing TV everyday — I don't necessarily like being the center of attention. It all feels very weird to me."

She's telling the honest to goodness truth. Jemele would much rather celebrate those around her, or, as what really feels most natural to her, she'd rather reach back and look behind her and pull up whomever is there so that they can stand right next to her. I think the worst thing in the world would be for Jemele to look up and realize that she's the only one there — she's moved quite comfortably being one of few women or being the

only black woman in stridently white and largely male spaces, but I assure you she doesn't want to be. A fail for Jemele would be that she remains the lonely only in spaces because she did nothing about it. So much of her essence is in making sure that once she walks through the door, she not only leaves it open, but figures out a way to invite others to move as comfortably as she does. Since she was a teenager, she's been trumpeting the beauty of NABJ and how she learned from other black journalists the importance of reaching back while moving forward.



It's why this accolade is so powerful for her. And so significant.

"I'm grateful and I'm humble so I don't want people to think that this is some kind of torture for me, but in a way it's very ... it's extremely foreign because I guess I just saw myself as part of a larger narrative. I never saw myself as somebody who was creating the narrative," she says.

But she is. By now we're all well-versed in the most recent chapters of the Jemele Hill story. Back last September, when her tweets — those tweets — were heard 'round the world, much of how she operated shifted. She suddenly had a larger audience – people who didn't know about her or were not wholly aware of the platform that she had before, which is one that dealt with some of the more challenging issues in sports, given that she never shied away from taking on racism, sexism or quite frankly any kind of ism — and it grew to be far more encompassing.

It had to grow. She had to grow.

"I'm a little uncomfortable with being known as an activist because I don't consider myself an activist in the traditional regard. Having been a



Photo Caption Here

journalist for as long as I have been, activism is not necessarily something we do. We do it in a way that's very different. We bring the truth to the light. We bring awareness. We cover — and to some degree protect — some of the most vulnerable people in our society, but we're not the ones that necessarily hold the picket signs, and we're not the ones who march, we're there to document all of that so that years from now when people look back and they are searching for context or meaning we've provided it, and that's our role in society," she says. "For people to think of me as actively a part of the story is a little bit odd. It's only changed me, not in terms of my opinion or perspective, but I think a little more carefully now about what I'm saying. Not because I fear retribution from ESPN or anybody else, but understanding that the platform is so much bigger so there's more responsibility that comes with it."

That understanding is significant. Her presence in social media is now that almost anything she tweets out or shares goes viral, capturing almost immediately an audience who doesn't hesitate to hit that retweet button to share. "If I step out there and say something I have to truly feel passionate about it, I have to know what I'm talking about because there are a lot of people

waiting for me to have that moment where I don't," she says. "I'm just more aware of what this enlarged platform means now in the wake of everything that's happened."

Outside looking in, this is good to hear. I've been interviewed a few times about Jemele, and one of my driving narratives about her is that Jemele Hill doesn't realize she's Jemele Hill, which is, perhaps, one of the most beautiful things about her.

She's humble — she always has been - and unlike many of us, doesn't need the at-a-girl, occasional or not, to move forward. She doesn't look for green lights or signs that she's on the right track, especially with regard to thought process. Her recognizability is stronger than ever, so I've experienced the rounds of drinks and hat tips from strangers at airport bars, the pleas of cell phone picture-taking from fans or people wanting her to quickly weighin on a weekly hot take in the sporting world. I've seen the look of delight from folks just because they're able to meet her in person; she's become an unlikely heroine and has earned respect from some of the country's most important influencers — all because she is an unfiltered opinionist.

with being known as an activist because I don't consider myself an activist in the traditional regard.

"I'm a little uncomfortable

Even still, there are times where I can tell she doesn't quite understand the pomp and circumstance surrounding her, and I'm not entirely sure that she ever will grasp her own evolution.

Not that that's a bad thing. It isn't. It's one of the qualities that makes her so endearing, and quite frankly it's one of the things that makes her such a strong journalist. It's because of that, that she still can approach telling other people's stories with such strong conviction.

And with such a strong voice; the voice that she missed having. She walked away from the anchor desk at SportsCenter — her choice, as she presented ESPN with a plan to move her to ESPN's The Undefeated to become the Senior Correspondent and Columnist for the digital site — to go back to the thing that got her here in the first place: writing and weighing in on stories that matter most to her.

Stories that matter to us most. The narratives that black journalists are telling all across the country right now. She wanted in on those stories and throwback Jemele Hill is back.

The Jemele Hill who can turn a phrase so fierce it'll make your head spin. Those

who knew her back when missed that. Jemele herself missed that.

"It's very invigorating," she shares. "It was funny, because when I left writing to do TV full-time, I was actually really mentally tired. Writing was great. Writing — as another far more intelligent writer said before to me — is like giving birth, every single time. It takes a lot out of you. It's a very personal exercise. I had gotten to the point where I was doing so much TV, I felt like writing was my side chick, and I never wanted to treat it that way, because it was my first love."

"I was sort of relieved to give it up before, because I felt like I was losing my fastball; I was running out of energy. It was tough to do both. Now it's the opposite feeling. I've been away from it for so long that I have all these ideas and things I want to do," she says. "I feel like I sort of reunited with the high school boyfriend."

Welcome back home, Jemele.

Kelley L. Carter is a senior entertainment writer at The Undefeated. She is chair of the NABJ Arts & Entertainment Task Force.





## Celebrating 30 years of the NABI Student Projects

## In 2019, NABJ will celebrate the 30th year of targeted student development and training at its annual convention.

In 1990, the Student Projects, under the direction of Dr. Sheila Brooks, began as a one-week intensive training for aspiring journalists at the NABJ Convention. Today, the NABJ Student Projects



continues to provide top-notch core skill development, mentoring, and a platform that has helped to launch the careers of hundreds of journalists. The beloved Student Projects participants are known as "NABJ Babies."

NABJ provides scholarships, professional development opportunities, and internships to the next generation of journalists through the Student Education Enrichment and Development program, the Black Male Media Project, Poynter – NABJ Leadership Academy for Diversity

in Digital Media and the ASNE – NABJ Emerging Leaders Program to name some. NABJ is appreciative of The Knight Foundation's support of the NABJ Student Projects.

Visit NABJ.org to learn more about student programming and commemorating events.

Presented by:



#### **Everett Marshburn:** Cultivating an **Informed Public**

#### Journalist of Distinction

By Joyce Philippe

 $oldsymbol{\mathrm{I}}$ n this fast-paced world of journalism, each day brings a new article or expose that reveals another issue that affects the black community. It doesn't take long before the striking barrage of headlines begins to lose its sting, leaving those who follow the news resigned with the idea of misfortune and frenzy as the new normal.

As news outlets routinely point out the problems faced by society, veteran journalist Everett Marshburn uses public television to find answers among false narratives and simple misunderstandings.

It's what lead him to produce his first award-winning piece, "Burglar Proofing," a series that taught people how to protect their homes from thieves during the dawn of the drug crisis. That drive also pushed him to document the growing HIV/ AIDS epidemic in the 1980s with a focus on how the disease disproportionately affected black and Latino communities. He strived to work "with an eye toward not just identifying the problem, but also what people are doing to solve it."

Marshburn's signature, community-conscious news style is why NABJ named him the recipient of the 2018 Journalist of Distinction Award.

For the past 12 years, Marshburn has worked as the senior producer of "Black Noveau," a public affairs show that airs on Milwaukee Public Television.

job at the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting. The station wouldn't have its first broadcast until a year later, which gave him the room to learn the ins-and outs of the business.

He quickly developed a passion for working in public television after noticing its grassroots appeal and ability to bridge the gap between news media and the communities they serve. "He is the kind of person who gives a lot of himself up willingly. He thinks of telling stories in ways

PBS. When it comes to work. Marshburn holds a strong commitment to objectivity and nuanced storytelling. "One of the biggest mistakes a journalist can make is go in thinking he or she knows the story," he stated firmly. "Your job isn't to make people believe what you think. Your job is to help people understand what you find out the truth is." Marshburn's skill in bringing the truth to light has won him four Emmy Awards, two CINE Golden Eagles, a duPont Silver Baton from Columbia University Journalism School, and more than a dozen NABJ Salute to Excellence awards. Over his career, his segments and documentaries have been

> He still carries that same spark for news as he did when he began as a photographer 50 years ago. He still believes in the power and influence of journalism despite fierce criticism of news outlets by the government, shifts in technology and an audience of people hungry for the truth.

> consistently picked up by PBS for

but for the sake of cultivating an

national distribution. For him,

it's not about the recognition,

informed public.

crop of journalists. He recalled a

time in the mid-1970s when he

a show called "Maryland News

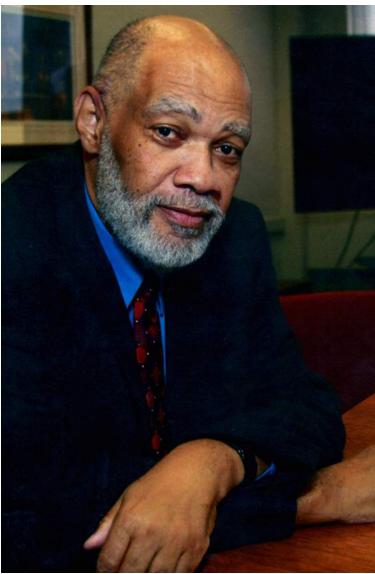
Wrap," which featured the late

Gwen Ifill, who went on to report for the New York Times, NBC and

recruited fresh talent to work on

Let history show that moments of hardship and resistance have later proved to be periods of great change, said Marchburn. "A lot of people think of this as a dark time. This is the best time for us as journalists, because it gives the opportunity to shine a light in places we might not otherwise have thought of," he said. "We are the gatekeepers, and if we do our jobs well, we can make a difference."

Joyce Philippe is a digital content producer at WLOX-TV in Biloxi, Miss.



Every week, it highlights topics like the importance of boosting performing arts programs and the state of black fatherhood.

Marshburn is a Baltimore native and a proud graduate of Morgan State University. In 1968, he got his first journalism that many of us overlook, but still are critically important," said Greg Morrison, NABJ's treasurer and a long-time friend of Marshburn.

More than just developing stories, Marshburn has a special interest in mentoring the next



## Rhoden Serves as Lighthouse for Generations of Sports Reporters

By J.A. Adande

When William C. Rhoden did things that appeared unprecedented, they really weren't unfamiliar.

In the early 1990s, he was an African-American sports columnist at the New York Times, back when only a handful of African Americans held that position at America's large-circulation newspapers. He credits his time at black institutions — from his professors at Morgan State to his mentors at the Baltimore Afro-American and Ebony magazine — for providing him the "lighthouses" to guide him

"I knew there was a path," Rhoden said. "I knew there were tons, loads of great black journalists. I knew that we could do it, that we did do it. It was just a matter of getting an opportunity."

By making the most of his opportunity, Rhoden once again finds himself in rare territory. He is just the fourth sports journalist selected for the NABJ Hall of Fame — following Larry Whiteside, Wendell Smith and Stuart Scott — and the only one who was not inducted posthumously.

The inference that this makes Rhoden the greatest living black sportswriter is not a stretch. It fits right in with the description of him by his contemporaries. Rhoden is "exceptional," said Ron Thomas, director of the journalism and sports programs at Morehouse College and recipient of the 2017 NABJ Legacy Award.

He's the "the dean of black sports journalists," said Kevin Merida, editor-in-chief of The Undefeated.

"He's the Godfather," said Kevin Blackistone, a professor at Maryland's Merrill College of Journalism and a long-time sports columnist.

You're more likely to read those kinds of words about Rhoden than from Rhoden. He never engages in the hyperbole typically found on the sports page, the myth-making or the scapegoating.

"It wasn't as if he felt like he needed to bang the drum louder," said Neil Amdur, former New York Times sports editor, "as much as to make the music sound that much more authoritative."

That style was a natural fit for the New York Times, where he wrote the "Sports of the Times" column from 1990 to 2016. What was unusual, for both the newspaper and its primary audience, was Rhoden's persistent and firm approach to writing about racial issues. He was there to challenge readers, not comfort them.

Even though he had not written extensively about sports at his previous jobs, Rhoden could draw on his experience playing football in high school and college. And for his approach, he simply adapted the same approach from his jazz music column at the Baltimore Sun.

The concluding sentence of Rhoden's first Times sports

column became a central theme of his work there: "The issue, as it turns out, is not who wears the gym shoe but who owns the gymnasium."

While Rhoden used his platforms in the Times and his appearances on ESPN's "The Sports Reporters" to make his points in a national forum, he also worked behind the scenes to mentor and connect black sports journalists. One example was the networking and informational sessions with black coaches and black reporters that Rhoden used to organize at the NCAA Tournament's Final Four.

What Blackistone noted when he attended those sessions was that Rhoden seemed to occupy the same plane as the biggest names in the room, with coaching legends such as John Thompson and John Chaney.

"There's reverence without deference, because he has that gravitas," Blackistone said.

Rhoden hasn't slowed down, not even at age 68, not even after leaving the Times in 2016. He was at the NFL Draft, writing a column on deadline for The Undefeated, when he got the call about his NABJ Hall of Fame spot.

His latest vehicle is the Rhoden Fellows, in conjunction with The Undefeated. Each year the program selects students from historically black colleges and provides them a mixture of lectures, video training, trips to games and practices, behind-the-scenes looks at organizations such as the Southeastern Conference and National Football League. When the students return to their campuses they serve as correspondents for The Undefeated.

The biggest value of all might be the time spent around Rhoden and all of his experience.

"When Bill talks about Jim Brown and the activism of Bill Russell and others, he's not really speaking from the history books, he's speaking from having talked to them and reported on some the events," said Merida. "That's of great benefit."

J.A. Adande is Director of Sports Journalism and Associate Professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. He was a columnist for ESPN.com for nine years.

#### Sanders on Speaking Up, Changing Minds

By Marissa Evans

When Bob Ray Sanders was growing up during the Jim Crow era, a black man would only make the front page of the newspaper for two reasons: killing a white man or sexually assaulting a white woman.

But Sanders, a Fort Worth, Texas native, inspired by the fearlessness of his parents and the Civil Rights Movement, became a journalist — complete with his photo on the front page accompanying his columns for the Star-Telegram.

"They taught me not to be afraid and to speak up and I saw what journalism could do with Civil Rights Movement and helping to change minds," Sanders said. "I told editors and publishers don't ask me a question if you don't

want to hear the answer."
Writing about a variety of topics including race, the death penalty, criminal justice and more, Sanders' journalism career has spanned more than 40 years across newspapers, television and radio. After graduating from North Texas State University in 1969, he joined the staff of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. He was one of the first three African-American reporters ever hired by the newspaper.

Sanders said the Kerner Commission report, released in 1968 and pointed to the importance of the media covering communities of color, was a gateway for journalists of color to get a foot in the door at newspapers.

"That's what caused the media to think 'we have to go get one," Sanders said. "The surprising thing was seeing the media probably because we had people of color start covering issues important to the black community and not just from white point of view."

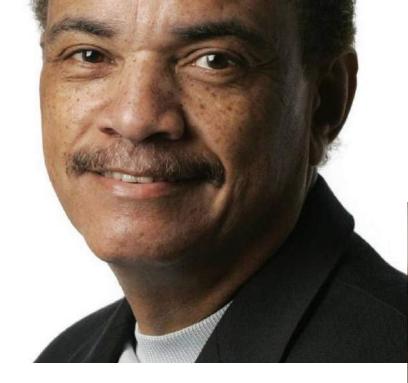
In 1972, Sanders pivoted, taking a reporter job at KERA-TV, a public station in Dallas. He moved all the way up to vice president/station manager for television and radio. He also served as host

and producer of the station's award-winning program, "News Addition," and as executive producer of the PBS series "With Ossie & Ruby," starring legendary stage and screen performers Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

In 1986, Sanders returned to the Star-Telegram and retired in 2015 as an

associate editor and senior columnist. Known as the "dean" of journalists in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, he is past president of the Press Club of Fort Worth and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists and the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists.

Right now, he's "cautiously optimistic" about the media landscape for black journalists,



but concerned about young black journalists graduating from college with shrinking media prospects. He expressed dismay that newsrooms are slowly reverting back to the way they used to look — with few black reporters. He said it's important to have black storytellers in newsrooms and that the industry needed to find a way to keep the doors open for them.

"I don't want them to get discouraged," Sanders said. "We still need those black journalists and the issues are not going away and the same issues are back full throttle...I'm afraid we may not have the people in there to tell those issues particularly in midsize and small communities."

Sanders was a staunch proponent throughout his career of raising issues about newsroom coverage, particularly when it impacted the black community. He said a publisher once told him "I've never seen anyone as brave as you." He said that's part of being one of the few black people in his newsrooms.

"There was a time where I thought 'I hate to be the only one to raise this issue' but if I don't raise this issue nobody else will," Sanders said. "The community sees you and depends on you to look out for them whether you're doing the story or not."

Marissa Evans reports on health and human service policy issues for the Texas Tribune.

### Jones Put Underserved Communities in Front of the Camera

By Maniko Barthelemy



The moment Victoria Johnson put on a new pair of career shoes and closed the books on teaching in the classroom, it was time for lights, cameras, and awareness.

Through television news programming as a producer in her adopted hometown, Boston, Jones thrived as an executive producer of 30-minute news show, daring documentaries and shocking special segments. All of her work was produced with a touch of the style reminiscent of shows like NBC's "Dateline." But for her, the angle and emphasis were strategic — a focus on covering underserved communities, fairly, respectfully, and professionally.

"She recognized early the power a producer could have in shaping the direction of the story or narrative," said Carmen Fields, a friend, former co-worker and the producer/host of "Higher Ground" a monthly 30-minute show on Boston's WHDH-TV. Fields and several other journalists familiar with Jones' professionalism and passion, nominated her to the NABJ Hall of Fame.

On the heels of the Civil Rights movement, racial uneasiness across the country and limited access to equipment and staff, Jones remained determined to deliver what she saw was missing in television news. She worked the concept for more than 40 years, dating back to the mid-1970s.

"Boston is a place where you really have to be on your toes because of the tension that has existed between whites and blacks. We could always go to Vickie. She had a wealth of knowledge. She had been there for a very long time with extensive networks," said Alexis Yancey, owner and executive producer of Dallas-based Alexis Yancey Productions and a friend of Jones.

Throughout her prolific career, Jones mostly worked in Boston, moving between WNEV, WBZ, WRKO, and WGBH. She briefly worked as a program manager at WNYC, a public affairs NPR radio station in New York. Her hard-hitting commitment to challenging uncomfortable issues in order to educate the masses amounted to six Emmy awards for outstanding work.

How did African Americans feel living in Boston, a city many called the most racist in the country? Who's responsible for babies being born addicted to cocaine? What's the problem with drug testing employees? What's it like to live with AIDS during the mid- 1980s? These are questions traditional news did not have time to completely answer because of its format, but they are a sample of the things Jones ensured did not get ignored. When Minister Louis Farrakhan returned to Boston for an event in 1985. Jones booked an exclusive interview with him.

One of her signature shows at WNEV was "Urban Update." The 30-minute show had live news updates, on-set interviews and exclusive investigative stories

wrapped around issues that impacted Puerto Ricans, African Americans and Native Americans living in New England. The show is still on the air, but according to Fields, it's been dramatically scaled down.

By humanizing heartbreaking statistics and revealing reality by connecting with viewers through a personal touch, Jones confronted misconceptions and controversy fearlessly. Investigative segments, exclusive interviews with notable newsmakers and special features often filled gaps left open by time constraints on traditional television news packages.

The station that gave Jones an opportunity, flexibility and a platform was Boston's WGBH. Her experience and entrance into television programming was as an associate producer on the nationally syndicated show "Say Brother," which served as the launching pad that ignited Jones' fire from an emerging producer to extraordinary media influencer.

The candid public affairs show that started airing on WGBH in 1968 put Jones in a position to see and contribute to a bold way of crafting a narrative that was far from mainstream media's depiction of minorities. "Say Brother," put a microscope on everything that defined the minority community's experience in Boston.

"She was a proponent of inclusion and diversity before it became popular," said Fields.

In addition to Emmys, Jones won an NAACP Image Award, Who's Who in Black Boston, NEBA Award for Excellence and several NABJ Salute to Excellence awards. She also served as president of the Boston Association of Black Journalists from 1986 to 1988 and as NABJ Region I Director from 1995 to 1999.

The Colorado native and former NABJ board member lost her battle with cancer on Aug. 30, 2016. Her daughter, Lisa Jones, and her two grandsons, will attend the ceremony and accept her Hall of Fame honor.

Maniko Barthelemy is a film producer at Southern Belle Productions, LLC, a independent media production professional and a journalism instructor based in Washington, D.C.

## PRESSFORWARD CHANGING CULTURE IN NEWSROOMS

Press Forward is a new initiative to stop sexual harassment and assault in newsrooms, create safe and healthy workplaces for women and men and ensure the integrity of the American press. Visit ThePressForward.org to learn more about this initiative and to access materials to assist newsrooms and journalists alike.

During the #NABJ18 Convention, NABJ presents workshops on **#MeToo** and a special suite talk to facilitate a safe space for discussion. Over the past year, NABJ members created the Black Women's Media Project and the board adopted a Code of Conduct policy. At the first Power Shift Summit at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., NABJ President Sarah Glover asked for proper acknowledgment of **#MeToo** Founder Tarana Burke and the black women, and women of color, who are working passionately to ensure women of color are visible in the movement.

Recently, President Glover joined the Press Forward board of advisors and the Power Shift board of directors. She suggests visiting ThePressForward.org to access useful #MeTo newsroom resources.

#MeToo

## The Press Forward.org

## Dunmore Used the Power of His Pen to Advocate for Blacks

By Benét J. Wilson



Albert Dunmore believed in black people his entire, and used his abilities as a journalist for two iconic black newspapers and in a second career as a communicator for a global auto company to advocate for them.

Dunmore joined the staff of the Pittsburgh Courier in 1941, which at the time was considered one of the Big Three black newspapers — the other two being the Chicago Defender and the Baltimore Afro-American. He eventually became the editor of the Courier's Detroit edition.

But another black newspaper, The Michigan Chronicle, was making a name for itself. The Chronicle and the Courier were battling hard for the soul of black Detroit and the Chronicle eventually won because while the Courier had a national focus, the Chronicle focused on Detroit. By the mid-1950s, the competition was over.

In fact, after 20 years covering Detroit for The Pittsburgh Courier, Dunmore left the paper and became the executive/managing editor of the Michigan Chronicle in 1961.

The Chronicle became famous for being "one of the first black newspapers to have an editorial focus that favored the labor movement and the Democratic Party." Dunmore wrote in an historical summary of the paper. "Most black weeklies had been Republican oriented and anti labor because of the anti-Black attitude prevalent in the organized labor ranks and the heavily southern influence in the Democratic Party," he wrote.

Dunmore's arrival coincided with the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement in Detroit and across the United States. He used the power of his pen to write columns pushing for strong civil rights legislation, including the abolishment of segregation, voting rights and equal education. He also urged Detroit's African-American community to get involved in the movement.

Attorney Danton Thomas Wilson nominated Dunmore for the Hall of Fame honor. As a reporter who eventually became executive editor of the Michigan Chronicle, he got to see his work up close.

"Back when I worked at the Chronicle and Mr. Dunmore was a mentor to me and others of my generation, I enjoyed few things more than joining him for lunch at some obscure soul food restaurant and savoring his rich stories from the heyday of the modern Black press, when some journalists felt they were called to be more than sideline observers," he said in the letter.

"Throughout his life, the man had a nose for news, whether it was sensing growing unrest in one faction of a national civil rights organization, a scoop about a wrinkle in the Brown Bomber's training regimen, or Lena Home standing up and speaking out against some racial slight," Wilson wrote.

After seven years at the

Chronicle, Dunmore joined the Chrysler Corporation in 1968 as its urban affairs specialist. Even in that job, he advocated for equal opportunity for all employees.

"Companies adopted new attitudes toward minorities because they had come to see there is a hard dollar return when they hire more blacks and when they promote blacks to better jobs," said Dunmore, speaking at Atlanta University's School of Business Administration in December 1973.

He returned to the Chronicle in 1988, where he served as an editorial consultant and helped plan the 1988 National Urban League Conference when it came to Detroit.

Dunmore was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 1994 for his work at the Chronicle. "Al Dunmore spent decades fighting discrimination and words were his weapons," said his nomination statement.

In his nomination, he was lauded for his stories that exposed racism in the Philadelphia Police Department and investigated segregation in the Armed Forces during World War II. He was threatened by the Ku Klux Klan for reporting civil rights abuse in the South and won an honor of distinction for a series of articles on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to desegregate schools.

Former Detroit News managing editor Luther Keith recalled his time as a young aspiring journalist at the University of Detroit. "The lessons and passion that he imparted to me stayed with me as I pursued my career, culminating with my induction to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 1995."

Chrysler Chairman and CEO Lee Iacocca, upon hearing of Dunmore's death in 1989, said "the death of Al Dunmore is a sad occasion for his many friends at Chrysler and the community at large. He was a champion of equality, fairness and justice, and his counsel and leadership will be missed."

Benét J. Wilson is the travel + Rewards editor for MagnifyMoney. com and CompareCards.com. She is immediate past VP-Digital for NABJ.



President Lyndon B. Johnson and Louis Martin walking to the Oval Office. LBJ Library photo by Yoichi Okamoto.

## 'Godfather of Black Politics' excelled as journalist, advisor to presidents

By Zoe Jackson

Louis E. Martin — known as the Godfather of Black Politics — started his career at the tender age of 23 when he became the first publisher and editor of what was then called The Detroit Chronicle.

After graduating from the University of Michigan and serving as a reporter for six months with The Chicago Defender, Martin was asked to come to Detroit in 1936.

"Lucius (Harper) gave me the keys to the one-room office at 1727 St. Antoine after introducing me to the other tenants of the building who, for the most part, were the most important and richest gamblers and numbers kings in Detroit," Martin said in a history of what became the Michigan Chronicle.

"[Harper] left \$17 in a cloth money sack, the entire cash capital of the business, and told me to be careful with the money," Martin said.

At the time, there were no books on building up newspapers, and Martin faced a sharp learning curve. He often used his best judgement when making decisions, and sometimes, was just plain lucky, according to the Michigan Chronicle.

"(We were lucky enough to make) the right friends and the right enemies. The latter were often just as helpful as the former," Martin said.

Early on, Martin only earned \$20 a week at the Chronicle, but ended up sticking around for 11 years. "I learned early that while straight newspaper reporters are hard to find, if you scratch a lawyer or a preacher hard enough, you will find a journalist," he wrote.

Under Martin's leadership, the paper got involved in politics and the labor movement. Eventually, he followed the pull of politics, and left the Chronicle in 1944 to work for the Democratic National Committee. There, he served as the assistant publicity director for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's reelection committee.

Later, he served on the campaigns of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter.

Martin initiated twice-yearly visits between President Johnson and the National Newspaper Publishers Association, of which he was a founder

In 1970, Martin created the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C., along with social psychologist Dr. Kenneth B. Clark. In its early days, the Joint Center focused on "increasing black political participation," but has since changed to "focus on job creation and workforce development," according to its website.

Today, the Joint Center is the only African-American think tank in the United States.

Through his advocacy and activism Louis E. Martin became known as the Godfather of Black Politics, and his memory will now be enshrined in the NABJ Hall of Fame.

Emory University professor David J. Garrow addressed Martin's legacy in the introduction to NABJ founder Alex Poinsett's biography of him entitled "Walking with Presidents: Louis Martin and the Rise of Black Political Power."

"Louis Martin's lifelong vision was of a democratic society where racial and ethnic discrimination no longer held sway. We of the rank and file, he told his Detroit readers in 1944, must resolve to take a new view and a new responsibility for making a better America," Garrow wrote.

"Martin's entire public career, in journalism as in politics, stands as an even larger monument to how much one person can do when fame and glory are not a part of his purpose," he added.

Zoe Jackson is a junior studying journalism at Western Michigan University, and currently interns with The Flint Journal. In the Fall, she will intern at the NPR affiliate in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and will serve as News Editor at her campus publication.

#### **EMERGING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

#### Natasha Alford

#### By Taylor Harris

In her work as deputy editor of The Grio in New York, Natasha Alford combinesentertainment and social journalism to tell the untold stories of black Americans that are often overlooked.

She entered into the industry with a bang in 2015, when she gained fame showing off her oratory skills through a Ted Talk titled "The Courage to Report," where she discusses some of her beginning experiences in the industry.

Alford's path in the journalism industry was quite unconventional. After graduating from Harvard in 2008 with a degree in Social Studies, she entered into the world of finance working at a high-profile investment firm. She enjoyed the perks and security of the job, but said she still felt incomplete and contemplated finding a new career

Her mother worked as a teacher, and although reluctant to go down the same path, Alford knew teaching would be more fulfilling. Alford exited the finance world and became a teacher at Teach For America. Later, she worked in education policy, but still felt she needed more.

The journalism bug that had nagged her since college when she found out Harvard did not have a journalism program was finally answered when Alford decided to enroll in Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications in 2013.

In 2014 Alford was among those chosen for the competitive CBS Meredith-Cronkite Fellowship, created in 2007 to prepare the next generation of broadcast



journalists through a rigorous week-long media training camp at the CBS 5 studio and Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

As a student at Medill, Alford wasted no time. Within weeks of her master's program, she began creating her own reel and emailing it out to others to critique.

Months before graduation, Alford says she had an interview in Rochester, N.Y., for a local news station. Knowing the difficulty of the journalism industry, she knew she had to find a way to have an impact interview, so she flew in a day earlier to create and present her own story to her prospective employers. Ultimately it landed her the job.

"So much of this is hustle perseverance and timing. When you get an opportunity you have to knock it out the park because you'd be surprised what opportunity open up," Alford said.

Alford spent a year at the station and moved on to become a freelancer for an education website. She then landed a two-week trial at The Grio as a multimedia host, which she said was extended an additional two weeks after her employers reviewed her performance.

To her surprise, after the monthlong trial, Alford was offered a permanent position as deputy editor of The Grio: it is her work here that she says has fulfilled her purpose. She created and hosts an original video series titled "True Story with Natasha Alford," where she discusses untold stories impacting black America. "It's a lot of fun for me, but I take it as a serious responsibility to know what's

going on in the culture and how it's shaping black America," she said

"All of these jobs have groomed me to be who I am, making me a better listener and host," Alford said. "They've given me a sense of empathy in understanding the diverse sectors in society. When I interview people about similar jobs, it's not theoretical for me. I know what it's like to work in finance or lead a non-profit.

"I'm always asking questions that are important and highlight social issues because that's what we need to see," Alford said. "Receiving an award like this is truly amazing. I do consider myself as emerging because the best has yet to come."

Taylor Harris is a news reporter for NJ.com, where she covers spot news, government, schools, local culture and nonprofits.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

#### Rhonda Walker

#### By Tierra Smith

Rhonda Walker is a woman of her word.

The WDIV-TV Local 4 morning anchor started the Rhonda Walker Foundation in 2003 to hold herself accountable to community service and empower inner-city Detroit girls to become future leaders. The flagship program Girls to Women, a five-year comprehensive program, not only positions girls to graduate from high school but also go to college.

"It's hard to put into words the level of gratitude and humility I have to be honored by NABJ, a premier organization for an industry," Walker, who is also celebrating the 20th year on Detroit television. "To know there are so many other journalists that do great work and give back to their community, I am very humbled and touch by it."

Girls to Women accepts girls in the eighth grade, and they remain in the program until they graduate high school. The program boasts a 100 percent graduation rate, a 100 percent college-acceptance rate and a 95 percent college-graduation rate. In June, the program presented more than \$20,000 in scholarship to four of the program's participants.

"Working in the media, even as a young journalist, we are exposed to the community in an imitate way, [because] we report on it every day." Walker, the founder and president of the foundation, said

That exposure to the community and key leaders was an essential part of the foundation's success, Walker said. Like many other journalists, she said she was often asked to serve as a guest speaker or emcee for community service events. She said she enjoyed giving back but wanted to do more.

During a break due to a nocompete clause between working at Fox2 and Local 4, Walker began speaking at different schools around Detroit. Within a month, she said she knew this was something she had to make a priority.

Without knowing exactly how, she launched the Rhonda Walker Foundation. With access to the city's top entrepreneurs, business leaders and political figures, she said she knew she had a pool of role models that she could connect the girls in the programs with.

The foundation offers a mentorship program, career development, college preparation, year-round touring and personal development. Every year, the program goes on a camping trip to expose the girls to nature but also to build sisterhood.

"No matter the challenges they face at home, at school or with

their friends," Walker said. "This is a safe space for them."

Born in the Motor City, raised in the state's capital Langston and a graduate of Michigan State University, Walker said she doesn't take her role lightly. She knows she has a responsibility and a commitment to the foundation's girls, their families and the greater Detroit community.

"I am a woman of my word," Walker said, noting the dedication it takes to complete the five-year program with monthly sessions and events.

"It's a prideful city. We have a lot of grit and care a lot about each other," she said. "As journalists and as citizens, we try to best help people realize that this is an awesome city with great people that work hard—not just leading successful lives for themselves but giving back and making sure they are helping those that come behind them."

One of those people, Walker said, includes the late Angelo Henderson, who as a reporter for The Wall Street Journal won a Pulitzer Prize and later became a highly respected minister, community activist and radio talk show host. Because of Henderson's legacy, she said this award also will rise above any other.

"He was an incredible voice in the Detroit community," Walker said. "A man that was larger than life. He put his time into making our streets safer and bringing awareness to the inner city."

Tierra Smith is a reporter for Houston-based Bisnow, a real estate hyperlocal. She is also NABJ's 2015 Student Journalist of the Year.



## NABJ Black Male Media Project







#### More than 500 black men impacted in two dozen cities nationwide.

Atlanta, GA

Charlotte, NC

Cincinnati, Ohio

Little Rock, AK

New York, NY

Baltimore, MD

Hampton Roads, VA

Milwaukee, WS

Memphis, TN

Los Angeles, CA

Philadelphia, PA

Dallas, TX

St. Louis, MO

Tulsa, OK

The NABJ Black Male Media Project campaign aims to provide full and accurate coverage of the lives of African American men in media and society. NABJ has teamed up with TEGNA Foundation and Procter & Gamble to host programs targeted to improve the coverage of, and employment prospects for, black men in media.

NABJ Black Male Media Project Workshop Thursday, Aug. 2 I:00 p.m. Cadillac A NABJ Black Male Media Project Photo Op Thursday, Aug. 2 4:00 p.m. Cadillac B



#### NABJ JOURNALISM EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

#### **Alicia Nails**

#### By Jeannine Hunter

Alicia Nails, who directs the Journalism Institute for Media Diversity at Wayne State University, is known for being rigorous and devoted to her students

"She's getting some kids through homelessness, through abuse, all kinds of difficulties that have nothing to do with the classroom. If they're working hard, she wants to do all that she can to give them a chance to be achieve what they can," said Desiree Cooper, a Pulitzer Prizenominated journalist and Detroit community activist and author.

"I've known Alicia all my life. She was college room dorm mates with my mother. Having her as an advisor and professor just added an extra layer to our great relationship," said Jamilah Jackson, a storyteller, blogger and 2015 graduate of Nails' Journalism Institute. "I would not have graduated college without her love, guidance and support. No one deserves this more than her"

"Dedication, consummate professional, passionate about training young people. She's amazing,"

The 2018 NABJ Educator of the Year is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and freelance writer, including appearing in the Detroit Free Press, The Detroit News, the Michigan Chronicle, and BLAC magazine, the city's premier lifestyle magazine for Black Detroiters. She serves on the BLAC advisory board and is the recording secretary of the Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists.

"Dedication, consummate professional, passionate about

training young people. She's amazing," said Vickie Thomas, City Beat reporter for WWJ Newsradio 950, NABJ Region II director and past president of the Detroit-NABJ chapter.

"She has trained quite a few journalists who have gone on to do great things not only in Detroit but beyond," Thomas said, adding that she's frequently interacted with Nails' current and former students and "these students absolutely love her."

In addition to college students, she's also very committed to recruiting high school students of color, many of whom are attending WSU on full-tuition scholarships.

"More than a teacher, Alicia is a mentor, problem solver, cheerleader and friend to her students. In the classroom, she insists upon rigor, and outside of the classroom, she gathers all of the resources at her disposal to see that her most motivated students succeed," Cooper said. "It is hard discern where her job begins and where it ends-safeguarding the future of journalism is her life's work."

She's well respected by her colleagues as well as former and current students.

When Chuck Stokes, editorial/ public affairs director for WXYZ-TV/Channel 7 in Detroit, thinks of Nails, "her dedication is probably number one. She is passionate about her students.

"She works so hard to find them internships during the summer and during the school year and to make sure they are very prepared for the industry. ... She's one of those strong advocates that goes beyond teaching," he said, adding that Nails works tirelessly to connect them "to services to make sure they are successful as students and successful in journalism."

She's a very, very giving and caring person, said Cooper. "I've never known her not to step up when people needed something," she said



Nails earned her Juris Doctor from Wayne State University Law School in 1995 and while she is not a practicing attorney, this background and knowledge informs her work as a member of boards and as a community volunteer. She has executed city-wide PR campaigns for the African World Festival and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Detroit Alumnae Chapter. She was the Deltas' Michigan state journalist and managing editor of national publications and also handled executive communications for The Links, Incorporated. She's currently serving as a member of Delta's National Communications Committee.

She has also produced major fundraisers, including WSU's "The Salute to Emery King," and "The Salute to 25-Year Journalists." For the United Negro College Fund, she has

produced several Mayors' Balls, and presentations of the Ebony Fashion Fair.

"I'm honored to be recognized by the professional organization that has supported my career from the beginning with priceless experiences, exposures and friendships," Nails said. "As importantly, this is a testament to the value of the amazing students and alum of Wayne State's journalism program."

Nails' impact on the local media market has been profound. "She can be comical but she gets the job done. And tells it like it is," Thomas said. "And her communication skills and compassion allow her students to be free and embrace their uniqueness. She's unique and special."

#### 2018 STUDENT JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

#### Doni Holloway: A Journalism Prodigy



#### By Angelique Fulwood

Doni Holloway's experiences as a journalist is hallmarked by his tenacity. He knew exactly what he wanted to be by the age of six. A true prodigy from Laurinburg, N.C, he got his start when he created and became editor of his family's newsletter, distributing it to relatives around the country. Driven even as a child, he has been dedicated to building a platform for high-impact storytelling.

Holloway had his first experience in television news reporting for his middle school's broadcast. By eighth grade, he became the news director and took the initiative to change the format from a recorded broadcast to live.

The fact that his high school didn't have a broadcast program did not slow Holloway down one bit. As a one-man band Holloway conducted, edited and produced interviews of his school's special guest speakers. These interviews

were eventually picked up and aired on Laurinburg's community access channel.

Holloway spent his high school years as productive and intentional with some of the top performing J-school college students. He won the national Teen Kids News contest for his reporting work on education. Created in 2003, the international half-hour weekly program highlights stories that are informative, educational and entertaining.

His investigative journalism research on prescription drug abuse amongst teenagers earned him an honor from North Carolina's Department of Justice in a public service announcement contest. He became a national youth correspondent at the Washington Journalism & Media Conference at George Mason University in July 2013.

From participating in Disney Dreamer Academy to the Chuck Stone Program for Diversity in Education and Media, Holloway's list of accolades is long and impressive. During his final year in high school, he became an Emma Bowen fellow and interned at NBC News in Washington, D.C., over multiple summers. He was accepted at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2015.

Dr. Trevy McDonald, associate professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, vividly remembers when Holloway first came across her radar. He contacted McDonald via Facebook at the beginning of his senior year in high school. She recalled that it was the first time she's ever had a student at such a young age reach out to her for guidance and mentorship.

"I've never seen another student like Doni," McDonald, who is the co-advisor for Carolina Association of Black Journalists said. "I have really good students at UNC, but Doni has this intense passion."

While at UNC, Holloway became

an active member of Carolina Association of Black Journalists and was a reporter and anchor for Carolina Week, UNC's award-winning weekly newscast. No stranger to innovation, he created UNC's first daily and social media driven newscast, Carolina Now, where he was an anchor and executive producer.

Holloway participated in the 2017 NABJ Student Multimedia Projects and anchored the NABJ News broadcast at WDSU-TV, the NBC affiliate in New Orleans. Building a supportive community in NABJ has inspired him to move forward and grow, he said.

After graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in media and journalism in May 2018, Holloway went to China as an international reporter before starting his job at Bloomberg in New York City.

"I think he is a perfect example of a student journalist of the year," McDonald said. "There are no obstacles that can stand in his way. No barriers. He's very resourceful."

In an era where the integrity of journalists are constantly under attack, Holloway embodies the reasons why people continue to have faith in the future of this industry.

"My ultimate intention is to always tell stories fairly, accurately, and thoroughly," Holloway said. "Painting an accurate and complete picture of the people I interview is of paramount concern and a responsibility I take seriously, especially in today's media landscape."

Angelique Fullwood is a senior at Florida A&M University who is majoring in broadcast journalism with a minor in political science. She was a member of the 2018 New York Times Student Journalism Institute.

#### PATRICIA L. TOBIN MEDIA AWARD

#### Wynona Redmond

#### Tobin's Vision finds a familiar face in 2018 Award recipient Wynona Redmond

#### By Terry Allen

You could say that Wynona Redmond, president and founder of Wyn-Win Communications, was destined to be a recipient of NABJ's 2018 Patricia L. Tobin Media Professional Award. She worked side by side with Tobin to found the National Black Public Relations Society (NBPRS), serving as its first conference and programming chair its second president after Pat passed the baton to her.

"It's emotional because I miss my friend and colleague, Pat Tobin. She was a big-hearted entrepreneur and one of my role models when I started Wyn-Win Communications five years ago. We both shared the definition of PR as people and relationships," said Redmond. "Like Pat, I treasure the relationships I've had with NABJ and NBPRS professionals. All of us working to make our communities and students stronger."

Before founding Chicago-based Wyn-Win Communications, Redmond led public affairs and community engagement efforts in the public and private sector at organizations including Northstar Lottery Group, Dominick's Finer Foods, the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services, the Chicago Housing Authority and Cook County Hospital.

Standing on the shoulders of giants, Redmond has never hesitated to reach back and bring others along, said Raschanda L. Hall, Director of Global Media Relations at Business Wire and president of the BPRS Chicago chapter, in her nomination letter. "A vigilant example of communications

excellence, she inspires professionals in all stages of their careers to focus on things that matter," she said. "Her vision of PR is the respectful care of people and relationships, power and resources." Like Pat Tobin before her, Redmond balances her pro bono work and income-generating services, wrote Brenda Butler, executive director of Columbia Links, a journalism, news literacy and

to its scholarship fund, said Butler. "For the 2016 NABJ Region 5 Conference, Wyn-Win found clients to provide attendees' meals," she continued. "I had the pleasure of serving on a panel with Winona at last year's NABJ Region II conference in Chicago, and the insight she shared with students about what it means to be a savvy public relations professional was really powerful," said Darci E. McConnell, president

Woman Award, Rainbow Push Corporate Partner Award for Community Service, The Diane Glenn Business Woman of the Year Award, the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago Board Recognition and a Hero in the Hood Award. She is a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago with a B.A. in Communications.

Redmond is a visionary communications and



leadership development program for underserved youth in Chicago in her nomination letter.

"For more than 20 years, she provided in-kind resources and sponsorship dollars to community organizations. She's also has generated sponsorships for NABJ and its Chicago chapter, including securing Safeway/ Dominick's as a major sponsor of 2008 UNITY Conference," Butler wrote.

In 2017, Redmond brought in organ donor service Gift of Hope as a major NABJ sponsor, which also partnered with NABJ Chicago and donated \$5,000 and CEO of Detroit-based McConnell Communications, Inc. and winner of the 2016 Patricia L. Tobin Media Professional Award.

"I'm excited that her work is being recognized with one of the industry's highest honors."

Redmond has received numerous honors for her service and professional contributions including West Side NAACP Communications Award, Target Market News PR Executive of the Year, Who's Who In Black Chicago, Chicago Defender Women of Excellence, Top Ladies of Distinction Orchid Honoree, Today's Black Woman Expo first Launa Thompson/Phenomenal

community engagement strategist who has worked more than 20 years to advocate for good causes and build bridges between companies and communities for mutual success

"Wynona has mentored and assisted in job placements, promotions and other career moves for numerous now successful professions," said Butler. "She truly embodies the spirit of the Pat Tobin award."

Terry Allen is the president and CEO of Dallas-based 1016 Media. He is also chair of the NABJ Media-Related Professionals Task Force.

## NABJ GOSPEL BRUNCH

Hosted By: Erica Campbell



Erica Campbell



Vickie Winans



Lexi



Brian Courtney Wilson



NABJ Choi

Performances by Erica Campbell, Vickie Winans, Lexi, Brian Courtney Wilson, and the NABJ Gospel Choir.

## Sunday, August 5, 2018 8 to 18 a.m.

Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center
Columbus Ballroom

An NABJ tradition, the Gospel Brunch delivers a soulful and inspirational capstone to the convention with live performances, food and the Educator of the Year and Angelo B. Henderson Community Service Award.

Presented by:



## NABJ Reflections on the 50th Anniversary of the Kerner Report

#### By NABJ Founder Les Payne

 $\Gamma$ he street action of the July riots in Newark, in 1967, followed by Detroit two weeks later highlighted African-Americans' long-standing racial intolerance with the precipitating brutality of the uniformed, police/national guard. Typically, these armed agents of the state were not held accountable for reckless and deadly terror against black citizenry. (Sounds current?) In the wake of such civil disorders in some 159 cities, President Lyndon B. Johnson fielded a commission to investigate causes and to make recommendations for change.

Thus it was the action of blacks affirming their discontent in the streets that triggered the LBJ Administration hurriedly to concoct an affirmative reaction. This pattern is not unlike the ominous slave revolts that ultimately drove Lincoln and the nation to react affirmatively to this dastardly crime against humanity by offering up self-serving pronouncements.

President Johnson started by seating the "National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders." And among its 426-page report, this Kerner Commission indeed noted critically that, in 1968, "the press has too long basked in a white world looking out of it, if at all, with white men's eyes and white perspective."

The "journalistic profession," the report noted, was "shockingly backward in seeking out, hiring, training, and promoting Negroes. Fewer than 5 percent of the people employed by the news business in editorial jobs in the United States today are Negroes. Fewer than 1 percent of editors and supervisors are Negroes, and most of them work for Negro-owned organizations." This sharp rebuke of the racial misbehavior of those in power

was as surprising to white Americans—including President Johnson—as it was encouraging to African-Americans long under the jackboot.

Almost immediately, the urgency of Kerner recommendations, released on Feb. 29, 1968, was heightened critically by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King--whose white killer escaped Memphis and roamed the world free for some 66 days. This gross lack of accountability for terror against African-Americans triggered another round of revolt in cities across the nation. Still, with the election of President Richard "Law 'n Order" Nixon, instead of "deliberate speed" enactment of Kerner recommendations, they were doomed by the White House and subject never to be realized.

One of the few exceptions in media was Newsday that hired six blacks, in 1969, including me, under a policy directed by publisher Bill Moyers. Perhaps not coincidentally, Moyers, while serving as President Johnson's Press Secretary had monitored the '65 Watts riots, and the '67 revolt in Detroit and elsewhere, and was privy to the planning stages of the LBJ Commission, including the selection of Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner.

However, as with the few other fair-minded newspaper managers, Moyers' hiring policy for blacks met enormous resistance from top Newsday editors and subsequently he, himself was let go reportedly with bitter agreement by both Newsday owners and the acquiring Los Angeles Times that Moyers, who had been LBJ's liberal brain on White House policy, was a "pinko, radical" misfit for white, Long Island suburbanites favoring Nixon and the Vietnam War.

Just as President Johnson largely ignored the Kerner Commission's conclusion that white racism was driving the nation "toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal"; most newspapers in the republic discounted its media recommendations that they must recruit, hire and fairly promote more blacks in order to better cover the news.

Well into the 1970's, the media industry had blatantly failed to heed the Kerner Commission--to say nothing of the pronouncements of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Instead, they promulgated a plethora of affirmative reaction programs they had no intentions of enforcing.

Thus a gathering of the few black journalists that had found their way into the craft organized among themselves. Straightaway, the charter members of the National Association of Black Journalists set out to increase their numbers dramatically within the industry, to improve the treatment, recognition and compensation of the few already in place, all toward the end of improving the horrible media coverage of the domestic, black communities and those of the so-called Third World populations abroad.

As the 1954 Brown Decision would have remained just empty words had black students, and later adults, not taken to the streets and the lunch counters, the Kerner Report would have landed in the wastebasket of LBJ--were it not for the early campaigning of black pioneer journalists who founded NABJ; so much for white, altruism.

None of this is to say that the modicum of success that NABJ has achieved over the years, and for which it should be proud, has transformed mainstream media into a paradigm of racial fairness. Indeed, the current, tumultuous period of transition, especially for newspapers, has created a greater need for vigorous and ever more creative enterprise by dedicated members of NABJ and its supporters.

Currently, a half century after the Kerner Commission's sharp and earnest critique of racism in America, its findings remain a beacon trained on the racial misbehavior of those in power and a study lamp—as well as a GPS system—for those struggling to make the republic and the world a better place for all its citizens and inhabitants.

Les Payne was a Pulitzer Prizewinning editor and columnist at Newsday. He is one of 44 NABJ founders.





#### Monica Drake: Another New York Times Trailblazer

By Benét J. Wilson

When The New York Times made Monica Drake the first African-American woman to grace the Grey Lady's masthead in December 2018 by naming her assistant managing editor for the paper's special digital projects, the sound you heard was that of a major glass ceiling breaking.

During her tenure as the Times travel editor, Drake created the now-iconic yearly feature "52 Places to Go," which puts a spotlight on the cities, countries and regions readers should visit. Her search for a journalist to visit and write about the 52 places for 2018 went viral and led nearly 10,000 people to apply for the job — including me.

Drake's first job was as an editorial assistant at a division of Thomson publishing. She

spoke to the NABJ Journal about landing at the Times, the joys of editing and listening to your gut.

**NABJ Journal:** How did you develop an interest in journalism?

"My previous jobs gave me great insight into team building, and the benefits of having a straightforward management style."

Monica Drake: I first developed an interest in writing. Even as a young child, I was obsessed with writing books. I taped cardboard and scrap paper together and wrote stories, then my mother bought me journals and then gave me free reign to use her typewriter. I was always working on a fictional story. Only after college did I realize that I wanted to write as part of my career. So I took one journalism course and fell in love with the profession.

**NJ:** How did you end up at the New York Times?

MD: When I was at Columbia Journalism School, one of my professors, Nancy Sharkey, suggested that I try out for a copy editing internship and try to get placed at The Times. She was an editing professor and thought that my ideas showed promise. I took a copy editing test for the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund. Then I went through their boot camp with Ed Trayes at Temple [University]. And then I was an intern on the Metro copy desk. My internship was extended, and they eventually hired me.

**NJ:** You started as a staff writer. What made you want to make the move to management as assistant editor, weekend arts?

MD: Oh, no, I have always been an editor! But I do write when I'm moved to, and the secret is that there's a lot of writing in editing. You don't rewrite stories but you get to really think about structure and tone and all of the things that make writing fun. I also don't find getting my byline attached to a story enough of an incentive to go through the reporting process!

I moved to the arts because I was interested in shaping stories more than I could on the copy desk, and by then I'd realized that I didn't want to do hard news.

**NJ:** You moved to the travel desk in 2010. What was so appealing about that job?

**MD**: Haha, what's not appealing about it? Seriously, I have always loved stories, and travel is a way of telling the stories of people the world over. It's also visually stunning, and the deadlines are generally lax enough to allow for some creative exploration of photo- and video-driven interactives.

NJ: Travel editor for the New York Times is one of those highly coveted jobs. How did you get it?

MD: I applied. The requirement was to write a memo, and I wrote one that distilled a vision for the section that I used to guide every decision I made while there.

**NJ**: How do you think your previous jobs at the Times prepared you for the assistant managing editor job?

**MD**: My previous jobs gave me great insight into team building and the benefits of having a straightforward management style.

NJ: What does it mean for you to be the first woman of color on the Times masthead?

MD: I'm the first black woman on the newsroom print masthead. There have been Asian women and there have been black women who were not involved in journalism. I can't wait for it to be so normal that it's not even worth mentioning.

**NJ:** What advice would you give students and young journalists wanting to emulate your career path?

MD: Stay open. Make sure you love what you do. Manage up not just by being collegial but by solving your boss's problems rather than adding to them. And listen to your gut, always.

Benét J. Wilson is the travel + Rewards editor for MagnifyMoney.com and CompareCards.com. She is immediate past VP-Digital for NABJ.

#### NABJ Visual Task Force Celebrates Co-founder Felecia Henderson

By Oralandar Brand-Williams

The intersection of images and the written word is the one of the foundations of journalism.

For visual journalists, carefully placed images consisting of pictures, typography and other forms of moving visuals are a cornerstone in which they tell their stories. For Felecia Henderson, assistant managing editor for features at The Detroit News, compelling images help drive news stories.

"Pictures and typography matter because they convey messages," said Henderson, a long-time member of NABJ and a founder of its Visual Task Force. "(A news page) has to be appealing to catch the reader's eye. It's having an understanding of how to guide the reader."

The NABJ Visual Task Force was formed in 1991 by 15 journalists, including Henderson, to put emphasis on the work and craft of visual journalists, photographers, designers and others who help bring news stories to life by ensuring news stories have captivating images to help draw readers and viewers in.

Susan Mango Curtis, an associate professor for visual journalism in the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and Henderson were the two women on the founding committee for the NABJ Visual Task Force and have shared discussions on visual journalism ever since. "Felecia successfully crashed that boys club (of the maledominated design industry). But we had to do it not by hanging around and being one of the boys

but by doing the right type of work (and) producing the kind of journalism that people wanted to read," she said.

Henderson was first introduced to design as a copy editor at the Cincinnati Post when she was asked to layout a half page for the newspaper's religion page. Her career as a visual journalist was launched at The Detroit News, a path that set her on a course to oversee other page designers as assistant managing editor of features and presentation at The News in 2007.

One of her proudest moments as a visual journalist, Henderson said, was being part of the award-winning team that produced the "Who Speaks for Black America" series published by The Detroit News in 1992, which examined the relevance of traditional civil rights organizations. Another favorite was the newspaper's special section on the retirement of Thurgood Marshall, the first African American appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"In her great tenure at The News, Felecia has managed our visual efforts and most important she always has provided a great creative eye to the presentations at hand," said Detroit News Publisher Jonathan Wolman. "Her versatility has been a huge asset to the newsroom where she is constantly integrating a sense of content and style."

Aaron Hightower, a former graphics artist for The Detroit News, credits Henderson for helping him grow as a visual journalist. He recalls working with



her to design The News following the death of Michael Jackson in June 2009. "We sat there discussing ideas while fighting back tears," said Hightower. "Felecia said this page has to sing. It has to be something special. That became the theme for the page. I put together a timeline with a musical scale detailing points in his life and career.

In the foreground, was an iconic photo of Michael on stage in one of his fist-clinching, powerful dose poses. Later Felecia came over and said 'Wow that is so cool...I still can't believe this. Even in grief, Felecia's professionalism and leadership has always shown through.'" Keith Hadley, veteran photo and visual journalist and another founding member of the NABJ Visual Task Force, said Henderson "was a good advocate (for visual journalism)".

"She was always around (the NABJ and SND) conventions," said Hadley, now CEO of his own multi-media production company HIP. "She gave good advice. Always mentoring.

She's the perfect example of an African-American journalist."

Henderson has received recognitions, honors and awards as a visual journalist, including six from the Society of Newspaper Design, where she has served on the organization's Board of Directors as diversity chair.

The Louisville native served as president of the Detroit Chapter for the National Association of Black Journalists from 2014-2017. Other awards and honors include an Award of Excellence from the Detroit Society of Professional Journalists, the Michigan Press Association and the Gannett Corp. Henderson is the widow of Angelo B. Henderson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and former two-term NABJ Parliamentarian.

Oralandar Brand-Williams covers criminal, civil and federal courts for The Detroit News. She is a former vice-president-print for the Detroit chapter of the NABJ.

## Parlaying a Passion for Wellness into a Health Journalism Career

By Stephanie Guerilus



Marissa Evans is a woman living and practicing her purpose. A health and human services reporter for The Texas Tribune, she has long had a passion for wellness.

An alumni of the Marquette University in Milwaukee, Evans has been a health reporter since her graduation in 2013. That is also the same year she was recognized as the NABJ Student of the Year. Since that time, her work has appeared in CQ Roll Call, NBC BLK, Cosmo for Latinas and The Washington Post.
Evans joined the Texas Tribune in October 2016. Since then, she has been diligent in reporting on the hottest topics in the healthcare arena, including reproductive rights, contracting errors by local health agencies and the rising number of women dying in childbirth.

Her approach has to put the discussion into personal terms that resonate with readers, as

opposed to only being seen through a political lens. One of her most successful endeavors, "Dangerous Deliveries," is a resource guide that focuses on the high mortality rate of women in Texas.

NABJ Journal quizzed Evans, one of a select group of black journalists covering health care, about the latest on the beat.

#### On how long she's been covering health:

"I've been a health reporter since I got out of college. When it comes to Black people and healthcare, it's not being discussed a lot. What I do really embodies the kind of journalism that we should all be doing as a public service."

### How covering health has changed her own lifestyle choices:

"I feel like nothing has really changed for me, but doing this helps me see my own privilege."

#### On the "Dangerous Deliveries" project:

"It was a month's long project that looked at the mortality rate in Texas and some of the systematic factors involved as to why women were dying in childbirth. Some of the reasons were high blood pressure and a lack of health insurance, especially from those who come from certain lower-income communities. In many places, there hasn't been an expansion of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act has not been pushed to make women aware of what resources they have available to them.

There are so many rural hospitals closing and women don't always know what to ask. So a resource guide was created and crowd-sourced from readership to help people get a better understanding."

#### How healthcare has become so political:

"When you're born from the

womb and when you die, you're a part of the healthcare system. This is how it works. It is very personal for the person who has cancer, is struggling with diabetes or other diseases. There are many who simply can't afford the cost of preventive care. There are people who make a healthy income and they are opting out of health insurance. There are also those who have seen their monthly premiums skyrocket. But not everyone understands."

#### On uninsured people:

"The plight of the uninsured is an ongoing storyline at this point, such as what types of strategies have been implemented in their lives that they don't go to the doctor. Everyone wants to grin and bear it until there comes a point you no longer can. Health insurance is going to look different for every single person. It's not going to look the same."

#### The importance of practicing self-care:

"I really want people to think about self-care and follow it.
As long as it's something that helps you decompress, that's all that matters. The news cycle can be very difficult for black journalists to process. There's so much crime and violence. It can be emotionally taxing but also empowering to want to do more."

#### How she decompresses:

"For me, it's a combination of things. It's not always being on Twitter and knowing when to be on my couch and reading a book."

Stephanie Guerilus is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. and the daughter of Haitian immigrants. Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Temple University and is a multimedia journalist and published author. She is also secretary of the New York Association of Black Journalists.

# THANK YOU

The National Association of
Black Journalists (NABJ)
expresses gratitude to the
Democracy Fund and the
Ford Foundation for
their support of our great association.





#### **NEWS FROM THE NABJ REGIONS**

The four NABJ Regions have been busy since the beginning of 2018, with three conferences, new chapters and topic-driven monthly events. Here's what they've been up to.

#### Region I

By Johann Calhoun News and Special Projects Editor The Philadelphia Tribune

Region I hosted its 2018 conference in New York City in April. That event broke a previous fundraising record, exceeding the conference numbers from Philadelphia in 2017 and Baltimore in 2016 combined.

Entitled the "Global Diversity Summit: A Synergy of Best Practices for a Growing Multicultural Landscape in the Digital Age," the gathering was spread across two days bringing together more than 300 journalists, communication professionals and students from across the U.S. Northeast region. The conference offered many firsts, including a half-day Diversity & Management Training session organized by Co-region I Deputy Director Nicki Mayo. The training was specifically crafted for for mid-level editors, supervisors and student newsroom leaders.

This year's conference also witnessed a return of last year's successful Career Center and Job Fair, organized by by Co-Region I Deputy Director Khristopher Brooks.

The Center allowed companies and area graduate schools to share what they do, along with interviewing applicants on the spot. This year's Career Center tripled the number of participating companies in the job fair from four to 12.

The conference weekend kicked off with an opening reception hosted by the New York Association of Black Journalists at Bloomberg's headquarters in Midtown Manhattan. Proceeds from the opening reception were given to NYABJ chapter President Julie Walker.

Among the conference highlights were: a moving morning keynote address by Zain Asher, an anchor on CNN International; an inspiring luncheon keynote by author and activist Kevin Powell of British GQ Magazine; and Monica Drake, The New York Times' Assistant Managing Editor, who spoke about the #MeToo movement during an evening keynote.

Other notable speakers at the conference included Matthew Winkler, co-founder of Bloomberg News, the Rev. Al Sharpton and former White House Social Secretary Deesha Dyer. There was also

live entertainment throughout
the conference provided by the
Afrikuume Utidbe Drummers. The
conference ended with a light
and casual reception at the Ridge
Hotel on the Lower Eastside, with
food sponsored by Katz's Deli.
Conference goers later danced the
night away at an impromptu closing
party at Ginny's under the Red
Rooster in Harlem.

The Region I team is grateful for the space provided by the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism for the Diversity & Management training; the NYU Arthur L. Carter Institute for Journalism as the site of this year's Career Center; and the NYU School of Law as the site of the general conference.

#### **Region II**

By Vickie Thomas Reporter, WWJ/Entercom Radio Detroit

It has been a very busy 2018 for NABJ Region II. The year kicked off with planning a successful regional conference — under the theme "Innovation, Investigation, Inspiration: Media Matters" — in Indianapolis on April 20-21, 2018. Highlights included a session on the elements of investigative reporting featuring Ron Nixon, Washington correspondent for *The* New York Times and co-founder of the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting. Building upon that session, a team from The Indianapolis Star detailed how they used elements of investigative reporting to break

the USA Gymnastics story that led to the conviction of serial child molester and ousted Michigan State University physician Dr. Larry Nassar. The conference also attracted college and high school students who took advantage of one-on-one mentoring and critiquing sessions.

A week later, NABJ-Chicago teamed up with NAHJ-Chicago for a joint job fair that exceeded all expectations. With a goal of promoting diversity in local newsrooms, the event drew 32 regional and local news outlets, and a whopping 200 job seekers, ranging from college students and recent grads to downsized mid- and late-career journalists.

Outlets representing TV network affiliates, newspapers, radio stations, magazines and digital news sites throughout the Midwest sent recruiters to Chicago from as far away as Milwaukee and Indianapolis. Seasoned Chicago journalists critiqued resumes, clips and reels. Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism sponsored the venue, and other sponsors provided breakfast and lunch for participants, This local version of the NABJ annual convention job fair drew overwhelmingly positive feedback from recruiters and job seekers who immediately insisted they want to participate again!

The Twin Cities Black Journalists hosted an event, Media Soul Bowl, welcoming sports writers and partners to the 2018 Super Bowl in Minneapolis. With the generous help of Toyota, the chapter awarded a scholarship to University of Minnesota student Dijon McCain at that event. The chapter also engaged in relationship-building with St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, the first black mayor of St. Paul, Minn. Twin Cities also awarded two scholarships (up from one last year) for students to attend the 2018 convention in Detroit.

Speaking of the Motor City, the
Detroit Chapter NABJ held a
successful event for NABJ's Second
Annual Black Male Media Project
on June 2. The chapter's forum
was titled, "Everybody v. Black
Men: How the Media Views Us." It
attracted more than 150 people to
Wayne State University's Law School
auditorium to discuss how the news
media covers black men.

Panelists included Detroit City
Councilman James Tate; Kenneth
Reed with the Coalition Against
Police Brutality; activist and author
Yusef Shakur; Odis Bellinger,
founder of Building Better Men
mentoring program; and LaMar
Price II and Trevon Martin, with the
Detroit City Youth Opportunities
Magazine. The event was moderated
by Andrew Humphrey, a lifetime
NABJ member and meteorologist
and reporter at WDIV-TV in Detroit.

#### **Region III**

By Ken Lemon Reporter, Cox Media Group - WSOC Charlotte

2018 began with a strong start for NABJ's Region III, with NABJ's first national board meeting of the year held in Houston. Local chapter President Jerome Solomon and the members Houston Area Association of Black Journalists where wonderful hosts, arranging a television interview for president Sarah Glover on "The Isaiah Factor," on KRIV-TV.

The board meeting included chats with Houston Chronicle Managing Editor Vernon Loeb, community leaders and representatives from area news operations. There was also a meet-and-greet with Mayor Sylvester Turner.

There were also one-on-one chats with some of the 10 Region III journalists still struggling to recover from the devastating impact of Hurricanes Harvey and Maria in the summer of 2017. They have shown resilience in the face of overwhelming circumstances, and the NABJ board awarded supplemental checks to help them with their long recovery.

The crown jewel of 2018 so far was the regional conference held April 4-6 in Atlanta. President Carol Gantt and the members of the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists performed remarkably in support of the sold-out conference. There were so many pre-registered attendees that registration was stopped three days before the start of the conference. The conference planning team, led by program cochairs Dr. Sybril Brown and Region III Deputy Director Jaya Franklin, masterfully organized sessions with certification and hands-on training led by CNN, Google News Lab and Investigative Reporters and Editors.

NABJ President Sarah Glover received a warm welcome and special proclamation from Felecia Moore, president of the Atlanta City Council, who acknowledged the work of NABJ. The 320+ attendees were there to recognize the dedication of Region III Achievers Sandra Combs and Stan Washington.

The conference could not have been done without the hard work of the Region III planning committee and the generosity of sponsors Southern Company, AIDS Healthcare Foundation and its Black Leadership AIDS Coalition, Wells Fargo, The U.S. Virgin Islands, Moët Hennessy, Coca Cola, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, CNN, Capital Broadcasters, Fifth Third Bank, Google Fiber and Raycom Media.

Two journalists with long legacies passed this year. We acknowledge of a life of service ended too soon for Amanda Davis, anchor at WGCL Atlanta and Getahn Ward, a professor at Tennessee State University and a reporter for *The Tennessean*. Both passed in late 2017 with home going services in 2018.

Where their loss leaves a hole, others fill in the gaps. It gives me great pride to grant Region III Director's Awards this year to four people for excellence and commitment to work on a local level — Jerry Goodwin, Russell LaCour, Tamara Wilson and Kerry Charles.

In March, Region III added four new NABJ collegiate chapters — NABJ Clark Atlanta, Fayetteville State Association of Black Journalists, NABJ at Georgia State and University

of South Carolina NABJ. Work is already under way to add two more professional and one more collegiate chapter to the group.

#### **Region IV**

By Terry Collins Freelance journalist, San Francisco

There's a common theme that these Region IV chapters share: Supporting and motivating each other, and helping aspiring journalists succeed.

#### **NABJ - Los Angeles**

The Los Angeles chapter is poised to become one of the most influential in all of NABJ. Within the past year, the chapter elected a new board that includes President Tre'vell Anderson of the Los Angeles Times and Vice President Jarrett Hill of NBCBLK.

The chapter hosts lively monthly meetings featuring distinguished guests and panelists on a variety of topics including how to cover President Trump, how social media is impacting our jobs as journalists, how immigration is a black issue, too, the importance of black media and covering LGBTQ communities better. One meeting featured news managers from NBC4 and the Los Angeles Times discussing newsroom diversity, employment opportunities and news philosophies.

In 2017, NABJ-LA put on was an anniversary event for former chapter president and 2018 NABJ Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Beverly White, who celebrated 25 years working at NBC4.

This January, NABJ-LA and the *L.A. Times* awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to six area college journalism students. The following month, NABJ-LA was recognized by the L.A. City Council President Herb Wesson and his colleagues as part of a City Hall exhibit titled "Write in America," that paid tribute to local Black journalists during Black History Month.

In June, as part of NABJ's Black Male Media Project, more than 150 people attended the L.A. chapter's riveting discussion, "Images of Black Men in Media." Panelists included "Queer Eye" host Karamo Brown, "Access Hollywood" correspondent Scott Evans, actor and comedian Lil' Rel Howery and "TMZ" producer Van Lathan. There's plans for similar event for women.

#### BABJA (Bay Area Black Journalists Association)

BABJA assembled its new board in January: President Willard Ogan, managing editor for the NBCSN Sports Group in San Francisco; VP-Broadcast Christin Ayers, a reporter at KPIX-TV, San Francisco; VP-Multimedia Davey D, a long-time talk radio/podcast host; Secretary Niema Jordan, a freelance writer/ editor; Treasurer Sarah Allen, an online media program manager at Monster.com; and Parliamentarian John Ellis, a long-time BABJA member who runs his own PR company.

BABJA gave away a \$2,500 student scholarship in partnership with San Jose State University to a student majoring in ether kinesiology or sports journalism, thanks to help from the NFL's San Francisco 49ers. BABJA also received a substantial donation from NABJ Hall of Famer and broadcasting legend Belva Davis that the chapter will use for its annual scholarship fund.

#### San Diego Association of Black (SDABJ)

San Diego Association of Black
Journalists President Shelley Wade
reported that the chapter had a
productive 2017 by giving nearly
away nearly \$5,000 in scholarships.
NBC San Diego anchor-reporter
Omari Fleming was named SDABJ's
Member of the Year.

Also in 2017, SDABJ partnered with Broadway San Diego's Ben Vereen Awards on a new opportunity for high school students interested in journalism. The National High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Jimmy Awards) asked SDABJ to help find local student reporters to go to New York City to cover the competition on the official Jimmy Awards and the reporters' own social network channels.

In November, SDABJ also had a successful "Pro for a Day," a journalism boot camp for college students. They got to work sideby-side with pros, as the aspiring journalists write, edit and shoot their own stories during the boot camp, gaining valuable experience along the way, Wade said.

In February, SDABJ held a panel discussion, "Is Your Job Killing You? How To Cope With Stress When Working in the Media," for local journalists about the toll their jobs take. Participating therapists stressed the importance of selfcare. They also emphasized simple concepts, including getting enough sleep and exercise to more complex actions, including taking part in critical-incident stress debriefings after reporting on a huge stories like school shootings.

#### Colorado Association of Black Journalists (CABJ)

The Colorado Association of Black
Journalists has developed a
Quarterly Journalism Networking
Series, which focused on bringing
media professionals at various
stages of their careers to share their
journeys with attendees. This was
impactful in that it created mentor
relationships between up-andcoming journalists and those who
have already paved the way, said
President Gabrielle Bryant.

This fall, CABJ will hold its 31st Annual Media Awards and Scholarship Gala honoring the best in local media from print to PR. And for the second year, it will honor an Influencer of the Year award for those who are approaching journalism from a modern perspective, including podcasting and social media.

#### Arizona Association of Black Journalists (AZABJ)

The Arizona Association of Black
Journalists has been busy in
2018, said AZABJ President Warren
Trent. This includes holding events
about voting rights, "Black Love
Matters" in Phoenix, the impact of
the blockbuster movie and Black
Panther and learning "Effective
Digital and Social Media Strategies."

It also had another lively Black Male Media Project discussion on topics including the NFL's national anthem protests, Starbucks' diversity training, #BlackLivesMatter and social media as a tool.

On the college chapter front, about a dozen students at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles were approved in April to start a college chapter. Many of the students are active on campus and have interned at networks like NBC, CBS and publications including Teen Vogue.

Discussions continue to hold a Region IV conference in spring 2019 in Los Angeles.

## **NABJ MEMBERS ON** THE MOVE



KARLA REDDITTE

the station.

Redditte was named anchor of

the 5, 6, and 11 p.m broadcasts

at WWBT NBC12 in Richmond,

Va. She previously anchored the 12 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. shows at

**VICKIE THOMAS** 

Thomas received the "Working in the Spirit of Diversity Award" from the Wayne State University Journalism Program in Detroit, MI. She currently serves as NABJ's Region II Director.



#### **CAROL GANTT**

Gantt has joined AIB-Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters as the manager of programming and Production. She was previously an associate producer at CNN.



#### DAKARAI AARONS

Aarons was named the manager of education communications at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative in Palo Alto, CA. He previously led communications for the National Education Advocacy Group Data Quality Campaign in Washington, D.C.



#### SHANICA JOHNSON

KIM WYNNE

Wynne was named a reporter at WKRN-TV in Nashville, Tenn. She previously spent four years

at WGHP in Greensboro, N.C.

JAMILA BATCHELOR

Cincinnati.

Batchelor was awarded an Emmy for team news coverage at the 2017 Ohio Valley Regional Emmy Awards. She is a producer for WLWT-TV in

Johnson was named producer at CBS' Network affiliate service Newspath. She previously served as associate producer with CBS.



#### **ROCHELLE RILEY**

Detroit Free Press columnist Rochelle Riley received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and became a new author of "The Burden" African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery."



#### **CHERRI GREGG**

Gregg has launched "Flashpoint," a weekly public affairs radio show at KYW Newsradio in Philadelphia. She serves as the show's creator, host and producer. She also produces the Flashpoint Podcast, an extended version of the show with exclusive content.



Brantley was promoted to anchor news anchor in Indiana.



#### SHEILA BROOKS

Dr. Brooks has published her first book, entitled, "Lucile H. Bluford and the Kansas City Call: Activist Voice for Social Justice." She is a former NABJ board member, founder of the NABJ Student Projects, three-time winner of the NABJ President's Award, and current member of NABJ's strategic planning implementation committee.



Martin was named the winner of the the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Investigative Reporting (1-100 Market or Network Syndication) for his four-part 2017 public radio series "The Gangs of Nantucket." He was named as one of Boston's 100 Most Influential People of Color in Communications and Media by Get Konnected.



#### SIDNEY WRIGHT IV

Wright was named senior producer of CNN Newsroom with Fredricka Whitfield. He previously served as line producer on the show.



#### **KELCIE WILLIS**

Willis was named content editor at Cox Media Group's National Content Desk. She previously served as associate content editor.



#### **CHRISTINA TAPPER**

Tapper was named managing editor of B/R Mag, the storytelling division at Bleacher Report. She previously served as a deputy managing editor at Bleacher Report. She was named one of Folio Magazine's Top Women in Media in 2018.



Imani Crenshaw is an award winning Journalist and freelance host. She is a 2017 graduate of Hampton University with a B.A in Journalism.



the 5, 6, and 11 p.m. newscasts at WANE-TV in Fort Wayne, Ind. She previously anchored the station's First News weekday broadcast for 25 years and is the longest-serving African-American





2019 NABJ CONVENTION & CAREER FAIR Miami, Florida - JW Marriott Turnberry August 7-11, 2019