BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
Dear NABJ Family,

Before 2010 ended, NABJ celebrated the successes of three members who were promoted to the positions of editor and vice president at daily newspapers. The celebrations were interrupted by a reality check. Gainett Company Newspapers laid off NABJ veterans and managing editors Don Hudson of the Jackson, Miss., Clarion-Ledger and Rod Richardson of the Shreveport Times in Louisiana. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African American managers at newspapers. For years, Don has produced a study that tracked African America
The West Coast hub nicknamed “America’s Finest City” offered the setting for NABJ’s 35th annual Convention and Career Fair. Among the highlights were Special Honors Awards to Paul Delaney, lifetime achievement winner, James Hawkins, educator of the year, Philip Lucas, student journalist of the year, Paula Madison, legacy award winner, Michael Feeney, emerging journalist of the year, Michelle Singletary, community service award winner, NBC Universal, best practices, and Soledad O’Brien, journalist of the year. NABJ also offered its first Journalism Lab for high school students who were exposed to a cross-platform journalism training experience and future careers in journalism. President Kathy Times gave her President’s Award to interim Executive Director Drew Berry. Members attended events such as an opening reception on the USS Midway and filled-to-capacity events such as the Gospel Brunch with CeCe Winans. The convention ended with a Philly Love kick-off party, red-themed and raucously fun.

Founder Paul Delaney receives his Lifetime Award from past award recipient Michael Wilbon.

Student Journalist of the Year Philip Lucas of Howard University is all smiles as he accepts his award.

FAMU alumna President Kathy Times and Student Representative Georgia Dawkins posed with the Educator of the Year, James Hawkins, FAMU’s SJGC Dean.

NABJ President Kathy Times presents her President’s Award to interim Executive Director Drew Berry.

Paul Madison of NBC Universal is presented with the NABJ Legacy Award from past president Bob Red.

Vice President-Print Deirdre M. Childress and Vice President-Broadcast Bob Butler present the Best Practices Award to NBC Universal President Jeff Zucker.

(clockwise from top) Interim Executive Director Drew Berry receives the President’s Award from Times. Soledad O’Brien accepts the NABJ Journalist of the Year award. Times greets Emerging Journalist award winner Michael Feeney with Treasurer Gregory Lee Jr. Berry greets well-wishers.
The NABJ Board of Directors hired Maurice Foster as executive director in November after a nationwide search to help lead the nation’s largest organization of journalists of color.

“The Executive Board wanted an executive director who could run the office, help change the funding model for NABJ, raise revenue and operate profitable programs, including the annual convention,” Vice President-Broadcast Bob Butler said. “Maurice had experience in all those areas and was clearly the best candidate to successfully guide NABJ into the future.”

Foster joined NABJ from the National Bar Association, where he served as Deputy Executive Director for seven years. He brought more than 22 years of diversified leadership experience in association and non-profit management. He is an experienced and proven achiever in fundraising and grants management with a successful record of developing, soliciting, and writing grant proposals, especially in the Washington, D.C. area. He has raised and administered millions in federal grants and contracts, and handled budgets for a variety of organizations and programs.

Additionally, Foster has extensive experience in conference management and has orchestrated and implemented more than 60 conferences and conventions, seminars, and trade shows/exhibits, including international meetings in 15 countries.

Foster is a graduate of Rutgers University, the Antioch School of Law, and has pursued continuing studies education from Yale University.

“Maurice has the experience and vision that we need to help us raise the bar,” President Kathy Y. Times said of the appointment.

Within a week of assuming his new duties, Foster held a conference call with the Board of Directors and announced several key fundraising ideas related to membership, the 2011 Convention and Job Fair in Philadelphia this summer and the Hall of Fame Gala scheduled Jan. 27 in Washington, D.C.

“I am excited about joining the National Association of Black Journalists; it is a great organization with a rich 35 year history, and I look forward to the new heights that NABJ will achieve,” said Foster. “We are at a pivotal point in time, as the landscape changes in the field of journalism. My first priority is to ensure that NABJ is there to meet the needs of its members and provide training and support to meet those changes.”

— Compiled from reports by Associate Representative Aprill O. Turner and Temple University student member Yakira Young.
By Stephanie Smith

The Canadian Association of Black Journalists hosted the NABJ for a series of events, meetings and workshops in Toronto. It was an opportunity to firmly establish the connection between the two groups, said CABJ President Michelle Lynch. Founded in 1996, CABJ is a small organization based mainly in the Toronto area. Lynch said she hopes a partnership with NABJ will expand CABJ membership and lead to more job prospects and practical training for members of both groups. Lynch and Vice President-Print Deirdre M. Childress were coordinators of the trip through NABJ’s sponsors Tourism Toronto and the Tramar Group.

While in Toronto, NABJ members spoke to journalism students, held workshops and met with Canadian media industry professionals.

“This was the first board meeting NABJ had outside the United States and we consider it a big success,” NABJ Vice President-Broadcast Bob Butler said.

“The sheer size of the black population in the U.S. no doubt helps the NABJ wield a heavier hammer, when it comes to advocacy, job opportunities for members and networking,” said Sears, who held a meet-and-greet reception for NABJ and CABJ members at her home.

“While there are fewer of us media professionals in Canada, we must always recognize that even a small hammer wielded assertively can make a loud noise.”

But diversity in Canada isn’t just a black and white issue. Canadian cities rank high as some of the most ethnically diverse in world.

Lynch said Canadian media managers who understand the business of journalism usually try to accommodate to different cultures, but they don’t always do so effectively.

“That’s where the challenge exists,” she said. “We want to see an increase in talent behind the scenes in levels of management or executive levels, and (provide) training for those who may not be there yet so they can get there,” she said.

CABJ members agree NABJ’s visit to Toronto boosted their resolve to enhance the services they provide. The Canadian group—whose activities were at a standstill for several years before 2007—to plans to work with NABJ to improve professional development and networking opportunities for media practitioners in Canada.

“Last week’s visit by the NABJ board will mark the beginning of a new growth and development cycle for CABJ,” said CABJ founding president, Angela Lawrence.

“However, (this) visit has shifted our relationship from support to partnership, which I think will prove far more beneficial for everyone,” she said.
“I wish I had the answer. I want to get journalists of color in a room and show them and say ‘This is the future.’” he states. “Journalists of color who have been in the business for a while seem to be more resistant to change.”

But one veteran journalist, and an NABJ founder, saw the handwriting on the wall and decided to make the digital leap. Delene’aynne Wickham, a columnist for USA Today and the Gannett News Service, has been a journalist since 1973. He says the biggest change he’s seen during his career is new technology and how the news is delivered. “When I started, we typed stories on manual typewriters,” Wickham says. “Now with cell phones, you can be anywhere. With laptop computers, you can do research. And who would have imagined, back in 1973, that by the time we reached 2010, newspapers would be like the dodo bird and delivery systems would be as small as a smartphone?” Wickham asked. “I don’t know where we’re headed, but I do know you no longer need trees to deliver information.”

Wickham jokingly blames NABJ member Richard Prince for helping him cross the digital divide. “Back in the early 1990s, I didn’t have an e-mail address because I was resisting the notion. Prince started calling me ‘e-mail junkie’; he recalls. “He ‘shamed me into joining the World Wide Web and cyber-space, and I became addicted.’”

In many ways, those who are print-oriented still have not caught up with the ability to compete in terms of delivering news in a rapid fashion, says Wickham. “But now we can deliver the news rapidly. Using technology like web pages or a blog, you can update news in a matter of minutes, sometimes even faster than CNN,” he observes.

Wickham says he has found a second career as a journalist. “When I started,” he says, “you couldn’t even imagine back in 1990s, I didn’t have an e-mail address because I was resisting the notion. Prince started calling me ‘e-mail junkie’; he recalls. “He ‘shamed me into joining the World Wide Web and cyber-space, and I became addicted.’”

In many ways, those who are print-oriented still have not caught up with the ability to compete in terms of delivering news in a rapid fashion, says Wickham. “But now we can deliver the news rapidly. Using technology like web pages or a blog, you can update news in a matter of minutes, sometimes even faster than CNN,” he observes.

Wickham says he has found a second career as a journalist. “When I started,” he says, “you couldn’t even imagine back in 1990s, I didn’t have an e-mail address because I was resisting the notion. Prince started calling me ‘e-mail junkie’; he recalls. “He ‘shamed me into joining the World Wide Web and cyber-space, and I became addicted.’”

In many ways, those who are print-oriented still have not caught up with the ability to compete in terms of delivering news in a rapid fashion, says Wickham. “But now we can deliver the news rapidly. Using technology like web pages or a blog, you can update news in a matter of minutes, sometimes even faster than CNN,” he observes.

Wickham says he has found a second career as a journalist. “When I started,” he says, “you couldn’t even imagine back in 1990s, I didn’t have an e-mail address because I was resisting the notion. Prince started calling me ‘e-mail junkie’; he recalls. “He ‘shamed me into joining the World Wide Web and cyber-space, and I became addicted.’”

In many ways, those who are print-oriented still have not caught up with the ability to compete in terms of delivering news in a rapid fashion, says Wickham. “But now we can deliver the news rapidly. Using technology like web pages or a blog, you can update news in a matter of minutes, sometimes even faster than CNN,” he observes.

Wickham says he has found a second career as a journalist. “When I started,” he says, “you couldn’t even imagine back in 1990s, I didn’t have an e-mail address because I was resisting the notion. Prince started calling me ‘e-mail junkie’; he recalls. “He ‘shamed me into joining the World Wide Web and cyber-space, and I became addicted.’”

In many ways, those who are print-oriented still have not caught up with the ability to compete in terms of delivering news in a rapid fashion, says Wickham. “But now we can deliver the news rapidly. Using technology like web pages or a blog, you can update news in a matter of minutes, sometimes even faster than CNN,” he observes.

Wickham says he has found a second career as a journalist. “When I started,” he says, “you couldn’t even imagine back in 1990s, I didn’t have an e-mail address because I was resisting the notion. Prince started calling me ‘e-mail junkie’; he recalls. “He ‘shamed me into joining the World Wide Web and cyber-space, and I became addicted.’”

In many ways, those who are print-oriented still have not caught up with the ability to compete in terms of delivering news in a rapid fashion, says Wickham. “But now we can deliver the news rapidly. Using technology like web pages or a blog, you can update news in a matter of minutes, sometimes even faster than CNN,” he observes.

Wickham says he has found a second career as a journalist. “When I started,” he says, “you couldn’t even imagine back in 1990s, I didn’t have an e-mail address because I was resisting the notion. Prince started calling me ‘e-mail junkie’; he recalls. “He ‘shamed me into joining the World Wide Web and cyber-space, and I became addicted.’”

In many ways, those who are print-oriented still have not caught up with the ability to compete in terms of delivering news in a rapid fashion, says Wickham. “But now we can deliver the news rapidly. Using technology like web pages or a blog, you can update news in a matter of minutes, sometimes even faster than CNN,” he observes.
Bowling Green. “I started web development when I was 12, because I had an interest in technology things,” she explains. “At the same time, I was interested in journalism. But it never dawned on me to blend the two until two years ago.”

Davis was on her school’s broadcast track. “I saw I could put both things together and use them in that sense,” she says. “I also learned from internships and jobs to make it work. My biggest thing is I can adapt.”

Bowling Green has a news station and an independent newspaper, so if a student isn’t doing anything, they’re doing something wrong, says Davis. “We were located in a smaller town, so we had the community also using us as a main source of news, which helped a lot,” she says. “I’ve also done everything from being a broadcast producer to being a web producer. I worked at our local PBS station my last year in school.”

In that job, Davis says, she was told when someone was needed to produce or shoot video. “I could switch up and do what needed to be done and make myself indispensable,” she notes. “You have to give them a reason for them to want you there. You have to be able to do more than one thing.”

Davis has worked as a production assistant at WKYC, the NBC affiliate in Cleveland, since August. “Because it’s a top 20 market, it’s more difficult for them to let me do whatever I want,” she notes. “When I worked at the PBS station, I did everything. But right now, I do typical PA things, including floor direct and rip scripts.

“But I also spend a lot of time around producers to get a feel of what they’re doing so I can jump into that,” says Davis. “I was a web editor intern at WKYC last year and I’m also trying to jump in on that end.”

All four offered advice to those who are still resistant to crossing the digital divide. Don’t be afraid to step out and do something different, Davis advises. “At our school, the newspaper was on the first floor and the TV studio was in the basement. I wandered into the studio and decided I liked it,” she says.

“It is never too late to embrace online journalism, says Luckie. “You can be better late than never. You won’t be ahead of pack, but you can still try and keep up with the pack,” he advices. “Start small by shooting small videos or record audio. The technical knowledge will come as you do that.”

Change is good for students, the university and society, says Sandifer-Walker. “We just have to bring everyone along or we will be left behind if we don’t step up to the plate. The more you embrace it, the more it improves the overall quality of what’s out there,” she observes.

“Get out of the way or get stamped. This is how the next generation of journalists will deliver the news,” Wickham warns. “If you don’t want to change, get ready to retire because new organizations are looking for multitaskers.”

Gone are the days when journalists could work together. That is the future.”
Michele Norris: “The Grace of Silence”

By Bonnie Newman Davis

In the chapter where she learns that her father, a World War II veteran, was shot by a white policeman, Norris’ cool and calm demeanor familiar to her listeners and viewers is replaced by a powerful narrative voice that screams with anger, confusion and pain. Throughout the book Norris uses her journalistic skills to provide quick, yet concise history lessons about the role of blacks in the military, the South’s racial and social hierarchy and lingering racial animosity experienced by blacks who left the South. She also provides a fascinating account about the history and commercialization of Aunt Jemima.

Other stories about her own coming-of-age experience in the 1970s as compared to before when it was all kept inside was painful to talk about.”

Asked whether a second book will be the result of all the stories she’s hearing, Norris, who took off four months before completing the book in a year, quickly dismisses the idea. “I can’t even get my head around the thought of writing a second book,” she says. “It took so much out of me. Being organized and being careful how you organize your time really does pay dividends. I sat down to write every day...sometimes I thought I was writing off subject….I was intimidated by an empty page. There were certain passages written on my iPhone.”

“Norris” father died without ever telling her about the police shooting. Her mother battle breast cancer and Norris said her book sometimes resonates with older, white males who served in the military or in leadership roles in integration. “It gave me a better sense of where I come from and taught me valuable lessons about storytelling and listening to people,” she says. “You have to be willing to listen to people from different perspectives.”

“Norris” father died without ever telling her about the police shooting. Her mother, who found parts of her daughter’s book “very difficult,” is proud and happy for her, she says. Although Norris was accustomed to interviewing world leaders, nobel laureates, Hollywood celebrities, and military leaders, finding sources for her book provided new insight. “It gave me a better sense of where I come from and taught me valuable lessons about storytelling and listening to people,” she says. “You have to be willing to listen to people from different perspectives.”

“It also made me wonder if I could do more in my military and in leadership positions who now wonder about their rules in integration. “What’s surprising,” she says, is how many of her readers, black and white, say they have had similar experiences. “For some it’s about my mom and her strong desire for independence...her struggle to survive,” she adds. “Today we are so transparent about everything and listen to people. We automatically tend to shout and not be heard.”