

National Association of Black Journalists

SPRING 2011

NABJ

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Countdown to the Convention

INSIDE

NABJ students
talk about
careers; high
school journalists
ready to train
this summer.



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NABJ Hall of Fame honors media legends

Despite the wintery weather on Jan. 27, a “Who’s Who” of national news media met at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., to honor Ed Bradley, Merri Dee, Eugene Robinson, JC Hayward, Ray Taliaferro, and Walterene Swanston.

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NABJ High School Journalism Workshop

The program, funded by Dow Jones News Fund, San Diego’s local SPJ chapter, and several NABJ professional chapters, will educate its second class of high schoolers this summer about exciting careers possibilities in journalism.

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Philadelphia chapter rolls out welcome

Thousands of educators, journalists and media professionals are scheduled to come to the City of Brotherly Love Aug. 3-7 for the the 36th annual NABJ Convention and Career Fair, “The Power of Now: Claiming Your Destiny.”

Surviving in the Newsroom

The competition is fierce, with thousands of jobs available but millions of applicants seeking those vacancies. Success stories are rare, and those who make it in today’s newsrooms, generally don’t get there solely on charm or good looks. NABJ’s panel of experts shares tips for making the transition from college graduate to career journalist. **Page 8.**



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Spring 2011 | Vol 27, No. 4
Official Publication of the
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From the president

Kathy Y. Times



Dear NABJ Family,

Each year, studies and surveys indicate diversity in the news industry keeps taking a hit. To make matters worse, the diversity strategies of some media companies have been shredded, ignored, or none exist in some of America's most diverse cities.

The percentage of African-American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native-American journalists has declined in U.S. newsrooms for the third straight year, according to the American Society of News Editors. ASNE also noted that "there were 929 fewer black journalists in the 2010 survey than were recorded in 2001," a drop of 31.5 percent.

This horrifying evidence strongly suggests that the perspective and unique insight that black journalists, in particular, and minority journalists, in general, bring to their newsrooms and communities are being marginalized and devalued — as are the interests of the paying readership.

It makes good business sense to have racial, religious, intellectual and even geographical diversity in newsrooms to stay competitive and in touch with consumers of news. Now more than ever, as the population of people of color increases, diversity has a direct impact on the bottom line.

Getting news organizations to embrace and respond to this important fact was the topic of a diversity summit hosted by ASNE in Orlando June 14-15. I joined the presidents of other minority journalism organizations, newsroom recruiters, and managers for this critical conversation. In September, news executives will participate in part two of ASNE's summit. Here is why they need consumers and advertisers to hold them accountable.

When I visited the *Houston Chronicle's* newsroom earlier this year, there was not one African-American editor in the afternoon budget meeting. There were 16 people at the table deciding what people read and where the stories would be placed. Houston's population is 23.1 percent black and 43.8 percent Hispanic, according to the latest U.S. Census numbers.

It was the second time in two years that the National Association of Black Journalists discussed a need for change with *Houston Chronicle* editor Jeff Cohen. Our immediate past president, Barbara Ciara, made the first call after the *Chronicle* laid off six black men in just one day in 2009.

Shameful.

The numbers in local television news better reflect the diverse population of America than in newspaper and online media. It's a different story on network and cable news.

When CBS News anchor Katie Couric announced her departure, the names of network news veterans such as Russ Mitchell and Lester Holt were mentioned as front-runners. They are talented veterans of network news, and each has the journalistic experience, integrity, and credibility to fill the coveted position. CBS gave the nod to Scott Pelley, while Couric has reportedly found a new network and show. Where is the diversity?

A black journalist doesn't anchor a single mainstream news show during prime time.

If the networks don't like the current bench, why not groom young black talent just like they do young, white talent? That would be a "network" we could all support. Someone had to groom former White House Chief of Staff George Stephanopoulos before he landed a spot on *Good Morning America* and as ABC News' chief political correspondent.

The National Association of Black Journalists has been on the front lines for journalists, fighting for nearly four decades, and that is not about to change.

But we need your help and your community's help. You are our eyes and ears. Tell us about your communities and about injustices when you see them.

We will be there to push, cajole and even "out" offending companies and newsrooms. We will not stop.

We ask that you don't, either.

Yours in service,

Kathy Y. Times

“Bridging the Best of Both Worlds”

By Chantell Black

“Osama Bin Laden is dead.” That was the headline on all the news networks. The message filled my Facebook news feed and Twitter timeline with comments, emotional responses and opinions.

While everyone was celebrating bin Laden’s death, I recalled how just a year before I was in his country, happy to have escaped death for another day.

After graduating from Florida A&M University in December 2009 and a brief celebratory weekend, I had just two days to pack up my four-door sedan and report to Fort Dix, N.J., to join my unit in preparation for a 12-month deployment.

It was my second deployment to Afghanistan in less than five years. Although I had already served in combat, so much about these assignments had changed. My first time had been in February 2005, when President George Bush was a year into his second term as President. Although he had troops deployed all across the Middle East, he had a strong focus on the War in Iraq. In Iraq, the largest bases looked similar to those in the U.S., but the bases in Afghanistan were sparsely spread around the country and facilities such as the gyms, PX (shopping mart) and computer labs were essentially bare.

But on a positive note, we weren’t experiencing a high number of attacks on base and casualties outside the wire like the troops in Iraq. I was sheltered and didn’t know what was going on outside the perimeter of Bagram. I had an “easy” year as some veterans would tell me. My second time in Afghanistan in 2010 would be different, as I had quickly learned when I left Ft. Dix in a C-17 plane, arrived in the mountains of Afghanistan and rushed to a cement shelter for protection from the incoming mortar rounds hitting the base.

On my second deployment, I returned to the

same base, Bagram Airfield, in the northeastern region of Afghanistan. However, the focus of the military had shifted to Afghanistan. This time I was acting upon the orders of a new commander-in-chief, President Barack Obama, I was in a new unit with a new mission and, I had a new rank, sergeant, (later being promoted to Staff Sergeant).

I was in charge of the Media Support Center, the office that acted as the liaison between the military and civilian news media arriving in the country to be embedded for their reports. We assisted reporters from NBC, ABC, CBS and small-town newspapers that followed around soldiers and interviewed the high-ranking generals to bring the story from the frontlines to back home. We also had three local Afghan employees who worked with the Afghan media, inviting them on base to cover events and sending news releases to ensure that the U.S. military’s version was reported, instead of what the Taliban offered to the local community as the truth.

Closer to the end of my year-long deployment, I travelled around our area of operations and visited some of the forward operating bases, which is any secured forward military position, commonly a military base, but very smaller, that is used to support tactical operations. To get an understanding of how much smaller a FOB would be, Bagram Airfield housed nearly 30,000 troops and civilians. Many FOB’s do not even reach 300 people in population.

I did broadcast news stories about the soldiers working there. I conversed with the Afghans, played with their children and shook the hands of the elderly. I saw what doesn’t make the network headlines because you know the old saying, “If it bleeds, it leads.” Large news networks wanted to be embedded with the infantrymen in hopes of getting some action. Getting hit by a roadside bomb, being caught in a fire fight was the ideal scenario for a reporter trying to get their story on the evening news.

As a public affairs specialist, those are not the stories we produce and promote. I did stories on pilots who operate like a yellow taxicab service for troops, transporting them from base to base all over the east... military police officers training the Afghan police force from the ground up...combat medics flying to the scene of a blown up vehicle to medically evacuate an injured soldier...people

conducting what is now the everyday mission in Afghanistan. That’s only a sliver of what I was able to see in the two weeks I was out in the field covering stories.

As a combat journalist, we understand that depending on the story you cover, you could be headed into harm’s way, but that’s a risk we take to get the right quotes, the right photos, the right natural sound, etc. It was those experiences I wanted to bring to NABJ because I’ve met a lot of black female sports and news anchors, but never a black female military journalist. I wanted to represent an underrepresented demographic in the NABJ community.

I attended last year’s NABJ Convention in San Diego during my two-week vacation to see what I was missing out on in the job market in the U.S. I quickly learned I wasn’t missing out on too much when it came to job opportunities, but I also learned how much the civilian population was missing out on my job opportunity. I was amazed as to how many people didn’t know that there was a public affairs field in the military or that we had broadcast and print journalists in uniform. I enjoyed the conversations I had with students and career veterans about what I did in combat working with civilian journalists and being one as well.

I spoke with the U.S. Army and requested that they bring me on board to represent the branch this year in Philadelphia at the 2011 Convention and Career Fair. As a black female soldier/journalist, I want to bridge the gap between the civilian media and military media. I want to introduce NABJ members to the various media platforms that the military is expanding. My goal would be to open up new dialogue and to peak their interest in embedding opportunities overseas as a reporter for their current news outlet or as a freelancer. Maybe even a possible enlistment into the Armed Forces as a print, broadcast journalist or if you have a bachelor’s degree, a public affairs officer as a career option.

I have used my deployments to build insight as a person and a professional. Since I’m a Reservist, I wear the uniform part-time, so I have developed a wide broad perspective, living on both sides of the spectrum. My unique position allows me to view the wars from differing vantage points, so I conceive stories from many angles rather than just reporting the current death tolls of soldiers. So when people ask me what I think about Osama’s death, all I could think of is, it would be great to do a story on the men of the Navy Seals who accomplished that mission.

Contact Chantell Black at chantellblack@gmail.com





Check All That Apply: Black Female, Reporter

By Lydia Blanco

Getting a journalism job isn't easy, and it doesn't get any easier when you're black and a woman.

Two aspiring journalists, who attend Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), say they are up for the challenge.

Myeisha Essex is a senior journalism and media studies major at Bennett College. Satoria Perkins is a junior majoring in broadcast journalism at North Carolina A&T State University. These young women seem to agree it takes a strong worth ethic backed by three D's: dedication, determination and diligence.

Essex participated in the New York Times internship program, and she has been accepted into the master's programs at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Essex played an integral role in the formation of Bennett College's first student-produced magazine, *Belle*, and its first online newspaper, *Bennett Banner*.

"I served as the founding creative director for Belle magazine," Essex said. "I currently serve as creative consultant for Belle and creative director for the Bennett Banner. I aspire to launch my own magazine one day and have my own talk show."

Essex says her acceptance into the graduate programs really proves journalism is about the work not all

the bells and whistles.

"It feels good to have my hard work pay off. At Bennett we really had to make a way for ourselves to get things done, and I think that determination is what has caused my success. I am still looking for funding for my graduate school ventures, but I trust God will make a way for me," Essex said.

Aspiring broadcast journalist, Satoria Perkins was among 39 students selected to participate in the 2011 National Association of Black Journalists Multimedia Short

**"You have to be better
than the person next
to you in order to get
where you want to be."**

Course at her home institution, NC A&T. The three-day intensive workshop made Perkins realize she was on the right career track.

Perkins says she's a natural reporter, but mainly she wants to produce work that impacts lives.

"I believe my calling is serving the community, and what better way to serve the community than to report about it," Perkins said. "I also love being nosey."

Perkins says her classmates inspired her to become a journalist.

"What inspires me to be a minority journalist is seeing all my fellow journalists at A&T doing their thing," Perkins said. "I love being at an HBCU because at the end of

the day we all want the same jobs, but we work together to make our dreams come true."

Perkins best describes herself as a journalist in six words. "No relaxer, I know my roots."

She wants to operate her own multimedia website one day.

Perkins like many of the other participants got a lot of encouragement, and a dose of reality from the multimedia workshop.

"You have to have thick skin in print, in radio, and in TV because ladies they are going to tell you stuff that you do not want to hear, but you've got to take it," says Damany Lewis, reporter for KCRA-TV in Sacramento, Calif.


Lewis was one of the professional mentors during the short course. He says black women reporters have to work twice as hard, and must have thick skin in order to succeed in the business.

"You are going to get a lot of different excuses, and a lot of different things thrown at you," Lewis said. "Especially women in this business, journalism and media people are highly critical of women about everything even more so than men. You have to be better than the person next to you in order to get where you want to be."

Both Essex and Perkins say they plan on making their mark in media.

Lydia Blanco is a junior, Journalism & Media Studies Major, at Bennett College.





It is April 21st and Mary Godie is just days away from graduating Howard University.

With a job offer with a NBC affiliate, WBIR, she is ready for a career as a multimedia journalist in the 59th market for broadcasters — Knoxville, Tennessee. Godie knows she is positioned for an excellent start to her career. She'll be working with new people and following her dreams of becoming a journalist.


Godie entered the job market prepared — making a clear path to her goal. She interned with several local networks, in the Washington, DC area including, ABC7/WJLA-TV, COX TV, and CNN. She's also served as the White House Correspondent scholarship recipient, and two-time president of the Howard University Association of Black Journalists.

"The industry is changing everyday, and no one knows where it is headed," Godie says. "New technology is taking journalism to different levels and no one can predict the outcome. I think this is the perfect time to get into journalism. Journalists are learning, implementing new ideas, and trying

What to do when you make it in the Newsroom

By Anna-Lysa Gayle





new ways of operating. And, because of this uncertainty, I am very excited.”

Godie, like many new journalism professionals, is realistic about the evolving climate of her career choice.

The competition is fierce, with many jobs available but thousands of applicants seeking those vacancies. Success stories are rare, and those who make it in today’s newsrooms, generally don’t get there solely on charm or good looks. The difference between graduating and entering a career or getting a job, can come down to a first impression accompanied by a stellar resume.

From the moment a new college-graduate enters the doors of a newsroom to the moment they first open their mouth to speak, making a good first impression is key. Employers factor miniscule details such as the aroma of their perfumes, the style of their hair, and the length and color of their potential employee’s nails.

Below are a few tips from the experts who have experienced what it is like to be uncertain of how to use that brand new journalism degree hanging proudly on your wall. This is your guide to succeeding as a professional journalist.

Meet the Experts:

Mashaun D. Simon

is a contributing writer for theGrio.com and a Graduate student at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. In the past he has served as the 2005-2007 NABJ student representative. Simon got his start in print news, as a staff writer for the Atlanta Daily World newspaper.

Christopher Nelson

is an assignment Editor with NBC News and the Co-Chair of NABJ’s Student Education Enrichment Development Committee. Nelson got his first job in the newsroom as a Broadcast Apprentice for WJZ-TV in Baltimore, Maryland.

Charles Robinson III

is a reporter for Maryland Public Television (MPT) and the current NABJ Region II Director. Robinson kicked off his career in broadcast on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University, inside the college radio Station, WJRB AM (now WVCW).





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Do's:

Meet the gatekeepers

The difference between you becoming an integral part of a newsroom and being employed in a newsroom can come down to how well you know and get along with your colleagues and your employer.

"Reggie Stuart told me something a few years ago when I was a student member of NABJ that has stuck with me to this day," Simon said. (Reggie said), "There are two very important things you do on your first day: meet the secretary and make sure they become familiar with who you are, and try and speak/introduce yourself to as many people as possible in the newsroom." The benefit is that the secretaries are the gatekeepers to the bosses. And so you want to make sure they know you," Simon said.

Be open and flexible

Don't get your back up when you're asked to work hard. Sometimes you'll have to do things that you don't want to, whether it's going beyond your job description or veering away from your original objectives.

"I can't overstate the importance of being flexible," Nelson advised. "Yes, I had a career plan early on, but I had to be willing to change and adapt my plans in order to advance my career. Sometimes the opportunities which will prepare us most for what we want aren't the ones we think will be there."

Find the stories

Remember good journalism will keep you employed. Originality is key in a field that can be saturated in clichés. Think about what will make someone stop to read or watch your story.

"Stop reading Wikipedia, go out there and talk to people," urged Robinson. "Find out what people do for a living, it's the guy or the gal who's standing on the sidelines who's got the better story, not the guy who's standing by the microphone, who's saying 'this is what I want to do.' " Like I said, you can't think of the Job as a 9 to 5. As much as it's a job that when you hear a siren of a fire truck, you should always ask, "where's that truck going?" If you see something that doesn't make any sense to you question it, and remind yourself that public relation's folks are there to make their guy or gal look good."

Develop credibility

Get the facts right. Media consumers believe every word you write and say. As a journalist, maintaining your ethics is a major part of your job. Employers also factor it when considering how long they'll keep you on their payroll.

"I learned the importance of developing my reputation as accurate, honest, and reliable, because people do remember you and the work that you've done or associated with," Nelson said.

Make wise choices

What you choose now can impact your future forever. As a former NABJ student representative, Nelson said he learned to think beyond the immediate goal.

"As a member of the Board of Directors for NABJ I think one of the most important skills I picked up was how to think like a manager. In this business you have to have the ability to see the big picture and know what impact the decisions you make might have," Nelson said.

Always step up to the plate

Employers appreciate dedication from newsroom staff members. One of the quickest ways to demonstrate your dedication is to be willing to tackle all tasks at any time.

"The biggest thing, I can offer to young journalists, is to volunteer for stuff," Robinson recommended. "Don't sit in the background, be the first one there. Be the last one to leave, don't assume anything, be the most inquisitive person on the planet, look for the unobvious."

Develop your brand

Check out the work of other great journalists and begin creating your niche. The greatest marketing strategists will tell you that products are sold based on their packages. People will buy your brand, if it is properly presented.

"The most important thing is to know how to sell yourself," Nelson said. "If you're confident in your ability to report or produce then the chances are you'll actually deliver. Learn as much as you can about the craft, get as much experience as possible, and then get to telling people's stories. Stories, which matter."

"It was during the time I was a NABJ student rep I made more of an investment in my image and my branding. I started wearing more suits and truly learned what it meant to be a professional," said Simon



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Don'ts

Expect any praises

But be sure to check your progress with colleagues who tell you the truth. The sooner you take your ego away from your work, the better.

"Be willing to work and not be applauded for it, because sometimes journalism is a thankless field," said Nelson.

Excessively use social networks

Unless you are tweeting about a story or posting a link on Facebook, spending the day on Social media is not a great idea. It will give your employer the impression that you are uninterested in focusing on your work.

"Do not be on Facebook or Twitter on the first day, the first week, the first month," Simon said. "And if you are, do not get caught spending a lot of time on it. People are watching and will think you are spending more time social networking than doing your job."

Think of yourself too highly

Remember you are on the first rung of a long career ladder. The people, who are fortunate enough to climb their way up, usually are the ones with humility.

"Work hard to develop your brand, but don't become consumed by your image and ego," Nelson advised.

Be close minded

You are there to learn and your bosses and colleagues know it. Don't be afraid to try new things. Always remember that there are several different methods for accomplishing a single task.

"Most young journalists have this grand idea of what it is they want to do and who they want to be in the world of journalism," Simon said. "That changes. And so, I would suggest they be prepared for the adjustment. Be prepared for the change. Second, learn everything you can about the industry and obtain skills in more than one version of journalism. This will come in handy as the industry continues to change. Knowing all you can about Journalism and it's craft will make you more prepared and more marketable."

Be complacent

The sooner you become complacent, the sooner your drive and enthusiasm will wane. There is always something new and exciting to learn about in the newsroom.

"Always be on the lookout for ways to improve yourself," Nelson said.

NABJ PHILADELPHIA, AUGUST 3-7, 2011

Bringing NABJ Back Home — *Philly style!*

By Naomi R. Patton



PHILADELPHIA - Known as the birthplace of America, Philadelphia is the city where the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776 and where the U.S. Constitution was drafted in 1787. It's also the birthplace of the National Association of Black Journalists' founding chapter, the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists. And, this summer it will showcase the changing nature of innovation in traditional and digital journalism at the 36th annual NABJ Convention and Career Fair.

That's why the host chapter, the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, and organizers of the annual meeting can barely contain their excitement about the return of this year's convention to Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love – and Sisterly Affection, as locals like to mention.

Thousands of journalists, media professionals and educators are scheduled to come to Philly Aug. 3-7 and PABJ President Sarah J. Glover said she's excited to see the convention return to Philadelphia which last hosted the event in 1995, establishing a record for attendance for many years. PABJ already is sponsoring events to promote the convention and even helped host a kickoff press conference in April at Philadelphia's City Hall with Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter during a visit by the Board of Directors.

"Philly is a really significant foundation of NABJ history," Glover said, noting that NABJ founders Acel Moore, Chuck Stone, Sandra Long, Reginald Bryant, Marilyn Darling, Joe Davidson, and Claude Lewis all have past and present Philadelphia connections. Stone, the founding president, also joins past NABJ presidents – Arthur Fennell, Herbert Lowe, Will Sutton, and Vanessa Williams – with ties to the city. "We're kind of, almost in a full-circle process."

This year's theme is "The Power of Now: Claiming Your Destiny" – will feature newsmakers and dozens of workshops and lab sessions developed to practically and proactively educate NABJ members with the skills they need

to work in an increasingly digital media and entrepreneurial environment. Classroom-like workshops assembled by NABJ Convention Programming Chair Dr. Sybril Bennett and her committee will teach attendees the basics to high-level digital training, from learning how to create a blog to developing a mobile app to producing a data visualization project.

"We're trying to give people the training and tools that they need to be competitive in the marketplace," said Rod Hick's, this year's convention chairman. "That's the direction that the industry is moving . . . multiple platforms."

The convention will begin for attendees on Wednesday, Aug. 3 with day-long and half-day Learning Lab Sessions on: Entrepreneurial Opportunities and Challenges in the Innovation Economy; Multimedia Training - The Art of Innovation: The Intersection of Craft & Creativity; NPR's Audio Storytelling Workshop; Innovating Journalism: In Your Newsroom, Classroom and Beyond; Getting in the Flow, or Social Media for Beginners; and Mobile Storytelling 101.

Scheduled workshops include: 10 Techniques to Improve Webbusiness in Public Affairs Journalism; Blogging & Beyond; Brand You: Creating Your Online Identity; Find Them, Grow Them, Keep Them: How the Media and Technology Industries Attract and Retain Talent in the Black Community; and Creating Multi-Platform Stories.

The Healthy NABJ Pavilion, open Thursday and Friday, also will feature morning workouts and workshops, including using

a new, Washington University-based database on health care statistics; and seminars on understanding the health-care reform Affordable Health Care Act; and on HIV and AIDS.

"I want our members to leave with some knowledge and some skills that they did not have before they came," added Hicks, who has served as an NABJ regional director representing members in six Southern states and as co-chair of NABJ's Election Committee in 1999.

All of this will take place in the heart of Philadelphia at the Downtown Marriott, connected to the brand new expansion



J.SMITH for GPTMC



CHARLES FOX / The Philadelphia Inquirer

NABJ President Kathy Y. Times laughs with Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.



of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. NABJ will be the first multi-cultural convention at the center as it was when the facility first opened back in 1995. The new center boasts well appointed, state-of-the art facilities where more than 80 exhibitors have reserved their spaces at the Career Fair. It is also steps from City Hall and the famous “Love” sculpture and blocks from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

Hicks, Glover, Founder Long, Vice President-Print Deirdre M. Childress and local convention organizers are encouraging attendees to experience all that a world-class city like Philadelphia has to offer. Childress said the Philadelphia Media Network, which owns the *Inquirer*, *Daily News* and philly.com, will offer a Town Hall on Tuesday night focusing on a critical issue for Philadelphia: Education. The company also will print this year’s student *Monitor* and support its online effort.

Convention attendees can even weigh in on whether

Pat’s King of Steaks or Geno’s Steaks has the best cheese steaks in the city because, as always at NABJ, it won’t be all work.

“Our convention attracts a lot of talented people in the industry,” said Hicks, an editor for the Associated Press. “This year is no different.”

National radio show host and author, Michael Baisden is slated to host NABJ After Dark. The NABJ Sports Task Force Jam returns to Philly on Thursday night with proceeds going to its scholarship fund. And Glover says PABJ is actively planning surprises for its chapter party. The PABJ party will come after the “NABJ Presents” Friday evening reception hosted by Walt Disney World Resort, celebrating the “Disney’s Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and Essence Magazine.” Grammy Award-winning songstress Yolanda Adams and television host and actor Terrence J. are scheduled to appear.

On Saturday, attendees can sign-up for the Healthy NABJ

sixth annual NABJ 5K Golf Tournament with for his annual Pro-Am E owned and operated Fre Jersey. The course com Past President Fennell.

The Gospel Brunch is with Grammy Award-w Workshops, films host Task Force, and the N of the Saturday progr Saturday night -the N Gala, honoring the caree including Journalist of Miami Herald, Founde

This year’s conve NABJ hearts Philly.



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Walk/Run, and the NABJ Annual
legendary Pro Golfer Bill Bishop
Benefit Classic at the historic Black-
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es highly recommended by NABJ

another Saturday morning highlight
winning artist Richard Smallwood.
ed by the Arts and Entertainment
ABJ Photo Auction are also part
am. The big event will close out
ABJ Salute to Excellence Awards
ers and successes of NABJ members
the Year Jacqueline Charles of the
t Moore, ESPN's Claire Smith.
vention logo says it all –



NABJ Founders and members of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists and the Temple Association of Black Journalists. Front row: Founders Acel Moore, Sandra D. Long and Claude Lewis, and Philadelphia Inquirer Managing Editor Michael Days.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

My. *Disney* experience

By Brianna Nicole Bazemore

Walt Disney World is the land of magic, of wonder, and of dreams. This year, I was a member of the 2011 Disney Dreamers' Academy and it was, by far, one of the best experiences I've ever had!

Many of my friends have asked me what it takes to become a dreamer. My reply: an application, three good essays and patience. That is one of the best things about



Brianna Bazemore poses on stage with American Idol Ruben Studdard.

the Dreamers Academy. The selection criterion isn't based on your grades, income, or career path. The Dreamers Academy is based on who you are and how good of a representative you will be for the academy.

My mother is always so persistent about getting me into this special program and that program, and I often tell her that applying is pointless because I never get accepted but I am glad I listened to her this time. If I had not taken the Dreamers Academy's application process seriously, I would not have been one of the 100 students selected to attend from a pool of 4,000 other students.

As a dreamer, you get to experience all the magic Disney has to offer. One of my experiences was diving into the

the Dreamers Academy. The selection criterion isn't based on your grades, income, or career path. The Dreamers Academy is based on who you are and how good of a representative you will be for the academy.

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“American Idol Experience.” Standing on stage in front of my peers gave me the chance to shine. I sang, “The Climb” by Miley Cyrus and according to the dreamers, I rocked! My performance led me to a finalist spot. Who would have thought? The possibilities are endless! My participation in the American Idol Experience was life changing

Words cannot express how grand it is to be able to be a part of this journey. Being here has caused me to break down the barriers of my mind, to dream BIG and know that dreams do come true.

There was no reason to second guess or down myself because I was there! I was selected out of



4,000 other people because I was supposed to be there. I believe God places us where we need to be at ALL times. My purpose here is not yet clear but I am sure I'll know before this journey is over.

There was a time in my life when I didn't believe in dreams - or anything for that matter. From all the experiences I've had from childhood I just always thought dreams were impossible. I didn't grow up seeing anyone dream or have ambitions. I was always told to get a good solid 9 to 5 job because it was safe and secure. I went along with the idea because that is what is always drilled into your head, even though I never pictured myself doing a 9 to 5.


Before this experience, I couldn't fathom having a dream, let alone, becoming a dreamer! My trip will go down in my history book and I cannot wait to see what other life-changing experiences I will have later on in life, but I do know whatever I do and whatever I become I will have the Disney Dreamer's Academy to thank.

So, thank you Steve Harvey, Mikki Taylor and everyone who contributed to making this possible. You have truly taught me how to dream!

Brianna Bazemore is a student at Suitland High School in Forestville, MD.

Comedian and radio host Steve Harvey with Mikki Taylor, who represented Essence magazine, are surrounded by students from the 2011 Disney's Dreamers Academy.





High school students dip their pens in the hazy days of summer

By Russell LaCour

Summer days for high school students can be filled with a multitude of memories, of water parks, travel, or just hanging out with friends. Summer can also be a time to earn money for clothes, school or the latest gaming system.

Last summer, 14 San Diego area high school students chose to spend four of those days learning about careers in journalism as part of the first NABJ High School Journalism Workshop. Point Loma Nazarene University was the beautiful ocean-side setting for a boot-camp experience that allowed the students to explore the power of storytelling. The San Diego Union-Tribune's Dana Littlefield and NPR's Kimberly Adams led San Diego Chapter members and other NABJers from across the country who came together just before the 2010 NABJ Convention and Career Fair to provide the students with real-time experience pitching stories, gathering news and photos, and putting it all together.

With funding from the Dow Jones News Fund, San Diego's local SPJ chapter, and several NABJ professional chapters including last year's convention host SDABJ, plus Houston, Twin Cities, Philadelphia, Tulsa, and Washington, D.C., supported the inaugural program for the high school students.

Samantha Lopez, a student

at Lincoln High School wrote: "Being at NABJ Journalism Workshop was a great experience. When I signed up for this I didn't have a clue what to expect but when I got in the lab I learned that this was no joke. The three and a half days were intense, but I liked that because it showed me the reality of a career in journalism. While being in the program I did things that I wouldn't normally do, like walk up to someone on the street and interview them. Thanks, NABJ!"

Andra Kovacs, an editor at her high school newspaper, shared her feelings about writing. "I quickly learned that journalism was not only a way to tell, but also to listen; a way to learn about others, to interpret their experiences, and to tell stories that otherwise would remain only a memory. ... That's why journalism was a challenge for me – I had to dig deeper than I had ever been forced to before – I had to pull meaning out of something real."

This summer in Philadelphia, high school students will have another chance to try their skills at telling the story.

Webmaster Khari Johnson put together a clean crisp web space to showcase the students' work, which can be found on nabj.org under students or <http://highschool.nabjconvention.org>.

Russell LaCour is a copy editor at the Tulsa World in Oklahoma. The former NABJ board member also serves as the High School Membership chairman.

HALL OF FAME GALA

Honoring the past, Bridging the future

By Rahel Solomon

Despite the wintry weather on Jan. 27, the “Who’s Who” of national news media came out to honor five trailblazing black journalists inducted into The National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame.



Tamron Hall and Rahel Solomon at the Hall of Fame gala. Other pic: Honoree Ray Taliaferro on stage after receiving his award.

The event was held at The Newseum in Washington D.C. and was hosted by Tamron Hall of MSNBC.

The NABJ Hall of Fame, the organization’s highest honor, celebrates the achievements of prominent journalists of

color who have contributed in paving the way for future journalists. Honorees of this year’s Hall of Fame included the late Ed Bradley, Merri



Dee, Eugene Robinson, JC Hayward, and Ray Taliaferro.

Themed *Honoring the Past, Bridging the Future*, the glamorous event, also saw a special award to a media executive committed to diversity in the newsroom with The Ida B. Wells Award. The Wells award recipient was Walterene Swanston, former NABJ executive director.

Legendary CBS newsman Ed Bradley’s



achievements were acknowledged by his wife, Patricia Blanchet, who accepted the award on his behalf and gave a heartfelt speech about her late husband.

When asked about the night's guests of honor, Hall said: "Merri Dee is someone I've always admired and Eugene Robinson is brilliant. You can only pray that what Eugene brings will rub off on you. Eugene Robinson inspires me and I can only aspire to be more like him."

The NABJ Hall of Fame also recognized Honorary Chairman John Seigenthaler. Among the guests were Senior Advisor to President Obama Valerie Jarrett, Andrea Mitchell, Steve Capus, Wolf Blitzer, members of Congress, and many others.

Proceeds from the Hall of Fame Gala will be used to further provide scholarships, fellowships, and internships for aspiring journalists.

Patricia Blanchet, wife of the late Ed Bradley, broadcaster Merri Dee of Chicago, The Washington Post's Eugene Robinson and Ida B. Wells recipient Walterene Swanston embrace their awards.

ELECTION 2011

Below is a list of certified candidates in this year's NABJ Elections.

Online voting is open June 3 until Aug. 5 at 5 p.m. at www.nabj.org.

Vote in-person at the 2011 Convention and Career Fair in Philadelphia. Additional coverage of this year's elections will be in the summer edition of the Journal, distributed at the convention and also posted on the NABJ website.

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