Lester Holt
Journalist of the Year
It begins with a promise to give back to the world around us.

The Lilly family set a precedent for service from the company’s earliest days, rushing medicines to victims of natural disasters and supporting civic organizations such as the Red Cross and YMCA. Today, we continue to find creative ways to give back to our communities. In our own neighborhoods and across the globe, we work hand-in-hand with governments and civic organizations to improve the health and well-being of the people we serve. This work is part of our living heritage and our enduring promise to make life better for people around the world.

We are proud to support the NABJ/NAHJ Day of Service benefitting the United Way of the Capital Area and College Bound. Please join us on Saturday, August 6 as we help high school juniors and seniors prepare for college.

To find out more about how we share our strength, visit www.lilly.com/responsibility.
Lester Holt: Journalist of the Year

Emerging Journalist of the Year

Student Journalist
Educator of the Year
Community Service
Pat Tobin Award

Lifetime Achievement
Legacy Award
NCA&T Short Course
Hall of Fame
Induction & Luncheon
Aug. 5, 2016

Washington Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, D.C.

Salute to Excellence
Awards Gala
Aug. 6, 2016
Greetings NABJ Family!

NABJ is pleased to present the 2016 NABJ Journal Convention Issue.

As NABJ showcases the accomplishments of this year’s special honors winners, we explore how NABJ Journalist of the Year Lester Holt has broken through past barriers as the television news industry sits at a crossroads. Holt shares noteworthy wisdom that we all should seek to emulate: Preparation is an important key to success.

Steve Crump is awarded the first-ever NABJ Journalist of Distinction Award. Crump’s long tenure, 36 years of reporting, is a major achievement, particularly at a time when our industry so needs expert storytellers amidst the noise that exists in the media space.

The distinguished investigative reporting career of Dale Wright earned him a Pulitzer Prize nomination and the NABJ Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award. David Aldridge’s dedication to paving the way for a generation of sports journalists across newspapers and on television led to him being named winner of NABJ’s 2016 Legacy Award. The Michael J. Feeney Emerging Journalist of the Year recipient Jamiles Lartey is a shining example of how data can bring power to storytelling.

In LaCrai Mitchell, we feel the promise of tomorrow as she exemplifies determination, one of the best qualities of a Student Journalist of the Year. Gail Wiggins, our Educator of the Year, spearheads the NABJ Multimedia Short Course at North Carolina A&T University, which will celebrate 25 years in 2017. Chauncy Glover, the recipient of NABJ’s 2016 Angelo B. Henderson Community Service Award, embodies the true meaning of service as he seeks to mentor black youth in the communities where he works. Darci McConnell, NABJ’s 2016 Patricia L. Tobin Media Professional Award recipient, has parlayed her journalistic talents into a successful entrepreneurial career in public relations.

NABJ is excited to host a joint convention with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) Aug. 3-7, 2016, which will be the most significant journalism convention in 2016. Our meeting in Washington, D.C., brings together more than 4,000 journalists, media professionals and students. Our theme is #NABJNAHJ16: One Mission Driving Innovation. NABJ and NAHJ have developed a sound partnership and our results are evident in our innovative programming. We tackle the issues of race coverage today and we’ve brought new features to the career fair, such as the Innovation Bubble and the Look Your Best Pavilion.

It’s amazing to see our NABJ Journal back for a second time this year. Thank you to editor Marlon A. Walker and the team who have made it possible.

NABJ thanks this year’s honorees for showing us what media excellence looks like. While we celebrate your accomplishments, we must grapple with the reality that our industry does not reflect the changing demographics in the United States.

As we celebrate our honorees, we also seek to hold the industry accountable so that audiences might come to know the journalism excellence of future Lester Holts, Jamiles Larteys and LaCrai Mitchells.

Yours In Service,

Sarah Glover, NABJ President
@sarah4nabj
“The notion that one needs to be careful about what you say on any social media account, even if it’s a personal one – that’s a sound practice.”

By Autumn A. Arnett

Many journalists share an inside joke around the “internet double life” they sometimes lead, maintaining separate accounts on various platforms to represent their professional selves versus their personal interests.

Sometimes there’s some overlap – one might share a story they worked particularly hard to get on a personal Facebook or Twitter account or tweet about a baseball game in an attempt to seem more “human” on their professional account.

But what happens when an editor insists on being added as a friend on the personal account or when a publisher starts to mandate the types and numbers of interactions a journalist has
with readers via the professional account? Or when a new company policy says everyone must have a Twitter account, a Facebook “figure” page or a Snapchat account to connect with new readers, and a reporter has intentionally avoided social media?

Both journalists and employers are trying to navigate the line of appropriateness. Many journalists accept the basics: use discretion when posting online, remain objective on things impacting the beat and don’t disparage the company or co-workers online. But beyond that, guidance often varies widely from one publication to the next – and even with each editor.

“Obviously, social media is evolving and it’s evolving very fast,” said Washington Business Journal editor Douglas Fruehling.

At the Washington Business Journal, for example, Fruehling said reporters are “required to have social media accounts affiliated with the company, but we give staff a lot of freedom to engage on that account.

“As an editor, I certainly don’t read every tweet that is sent out, nor do I want to and nor should I,” he said, adding the mostly hands-off system “seems to work pretty well.”

But at some outlets, policies can be as specific as mandating a target number of reader interactions online or directing employees to ignore personal accounts during work hours, even if tips may be gathered from those accounts.

“There are no restrictions” around using personal accounts for WBJ employees, either, Fruehling said. And while he respects reporters’ privacy and doesn’t try to friend employees on their personal accounts, there needs to be “good delineation” between personal and public spaces, he said. The leadership team at WBJ recognizes “you may log into your personal account and get some story ideas from the personal account,” he noted.

“We’re in a time when many organizations are trying to do more on social media and that can take the form of directives and quotas,” said Autumn A. Arnett, the founding editor of Out of Bounds Magazine and the editor of Education Dive, an online publication that provides news, trends, jobs listings and resources for educators and administrators in higher education and K-12.

To Edmonds, journalists should embrace the fact that they “really need to be on a variety of different platforms” to reach audience members, but he acknowledges the “unfortunate” fact that “there is a kind of truism that you’re never off duty when you’re a journalist.”

“We realize that social media is a part of our jobs now, whether it’s personal or professional” account names, said Fruehling.

Recent sparring between the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce around what is appropriate intrusion into employers’ social media policies suggests media outlets are not the only organizations struggling to grapple with the rapidly changing digital platforms.

While the NLRB extended protections to employees who posted negative conditions related to the “terms and conditions of employment,” the Chamber criticized the oversight board’s intrusion into “heretofore uncontroversial rules found in employee handbooks and in employers’ social media policies—rules that employers maintain for a variety of legitimate business reasons.”

But for journalists and other public figures, the general “common sense” guidance around realizing anything said in public space lives on the record forever – regardless of whether the account is considered personal or private – remains intact.

“We’re in a time when many organizations are trying to do more on social media and that can take the form of directives and quotas.”

Still, Fruehling encourages journalists, even on professional social media accounts, to give readers a sense of their interests as an individual, which he equates to practices like discussing a family vacation with a source before jumping right into interview questions. Labeling the account as professional “doesn’t preclude them from…posting something about the football game this weekend,” Fruehling said. “We want our writers to be human and we want to recognize” that they live in the cities in which they’re reporting and establish a connection to those cities as citizens, beyond the beat.

But Edmonds said the tug-of-war, of sorts, between journalists and the outlets that employ them probably won’t let up any time soon.

“Employers as well as us journalists are still finding our way, so there are going to be some stumbles as we figure it all out,” he said.

Autumn A. Arnett is the founding editor of Out of Bounds Magazine and the editor of Education Dive, an online publication that provides news, trends, jobs listings and resources for educators and administrators in higher education and K-12.
NABJ Region I Conference

Freddie Gray unrest and media landscape in Baltimore

By Johann Calhoun
Almost 200 people attended the National Association of Black Journalists’ 2016 Region I Conference April 29-30 at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md. The theme of this year’s regional was “One Year After Freddie Gray: Navigating Social Justice in Journalism,” which focused on the anniversary of Gray’s untimely death and the unrest that followed.

The event was such a huge success that it trended nationally on social media on a weekend with events including the White House Correspondents Dinner in Washington D.C., and iHeart-Country Festival in Austin, Texas.

The regional kicked off Friday with an opening reception sponsored by the Baltimore Association of Black Journalists. There the late Michael J. Feeney was honored for his dedicated service as chapter president of the New York Association of Black Journalists and his family was presented with a check.

The conference kicked off on Saturday at the state-of-the-art School of Global Communication and Journalism facility.

The main highlight of the day was a master class interview between Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) and WJZ-TV anchor Vic Carter discussing police brutality. There was also a surprise appearance by Catherine Pugh, Baltimore’s Democratic mayoral primary winner.

The #TogetherBaltimore town hall focused on the future of Baltimore following last year’s unrest, and discussed strategies how the media can do a better job in its coverage there and in similar cities across the country. Panelists included Police Chief Kevin Davis; Baltimore activist and radio broadcast Farajii Muhammad; Baltimore NAACP President Tessa Hill Aston; activist Korey Johnson; Baltimore mayoral candidate DeRay McKesson; and Pugh, the city’s presumptive mayor. Wesley Lowery, Pulitzer Prize-winning national writer for The Washington Post, was the moderator.

The event offered attendees access to eight journalism workshops, including:

- Covering Baltimore’s Challenges, with reporters and editors of The Baltimore Sun;
- The Power of Social Media, moderated by April Reign, creator of the #OscarsSoWhite hashtag;
- Black Press in the 21st Century, moderated by Tené Croom, chair of the NABJ Black Press Task Force;
- The Modern Designer, moderated by Velvet McNeil, chair of the NABJ Visual Task Force;
- Digital First: Leveraging All Platforms To Do Cutting Edge Journalism, instructed by NABJ President Sarah Glover;
- Feeling Independent: How To Be Your Own Boss Without Going Crazy, featuring those negotiating the realities of independent journalism;
- How to Break in and Thrive, which offered advice for aspiring journalists to transition successfully from the classroom to the newsroom; and
- The Google News Lab training, where instructor was Michelle Johnson, a multimedia professor at Boston University taught tools journalists can use to gather news and enhance their stories.

The day ended with a reception where the Morgan State University Association of Black Journalists (MSU-ABJ) received $500 for its hard work hosting the conference, and the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists (PABJ) won $1,000 for having the most chapter members registered for the conference.

Conference sponsors included: the Annie E. Casey Foundation; The Baltimore Sun; Baltimore Gas & Electric Company; WBAL-TV 11 NBC; Bank of America/ Merrill Lynch; Visit Baltimore and the Morgan State University School of Global Communication and Journalism.

Johann Calhoun is news and special projects editor for The Philadelphia Tribune and Region I director for the National Association of Black Journalists.
B eale Street DID talk, and it welcomed NABJ Region III with open arms!

The 2016 National Association of Black Journalists’ Region III Conference was in the home of the Blues, and the birthplace of Rock and Roll - Memphis, Tennessee! I was thrilled about meeting in Memphis for a variety of reasons. Aside from being one of the most exciting cities in the country, rich with musical history for African Americans, it is steeped in the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

This year as Region III Director, I welcomed four more states to join the existing seven in the region - Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. This conference united the states, much like the Hernando de Soto Bridge does Tennessee and Arkansas, and was a site which was as beautiful as pictures suggest.

The 2016 conference theme, “Race Matters: Looking Back, Moving Forward,” reflected recent events in the news that are reminiscent of the sobering incidents that also made history during a time of struggle for African Americans in this country. The dialogue for the weekend revolved around remembering and learning from the past, while taking that knowledge into the future to benefit us as black journalists and as citizens.

 Appropriately, we kicked off the conference at the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, the site of Dr.
Martin Luther King’s assassination. It is now a world-renowned museum that chronicles that fateful period of time, and how the civil rights movement changed how black people were viewed in this country.

As the recipients of the fruits of these sacrifices, we were honored to have as our keynote speaker, Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr., a civil rights activist, minister, and educator. He is also an authority of non-violent social change. The co-founder of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, a Freedom Rider and a leader of the Selma Movement, Dr. Lafayette was also among those with Dr. King at the Lorraine Motel on that fateful day in April, 1968.

It was divine intervention that circumstances caused us to move our conference date to the same week of the 48th anniversary of MLK’s assassination. Fresh from the observance ceremonies a few days earlier, Dr. Lafayette was a living, breathing history lesson, talking of his time fighting for the very rights those of us in attendance enjoy today.

It was a special treat for those who were able to walk through the museum with Dr. Lafayette, hearing history come to life as he shared intimate stories of the time he spent with Dr. King and other civil rights notables.

Speaking of people of note, two journalists were recognized this year as our 2016 Region III Achievers Award. They were 49-year veteran Producer/Director Clarence Williams of Capital Broadcasting and WRAL-TV of Raleigh, N.C., and Glenn Proctor, former executive editor, vice president of news of the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch and founder of REDDjob. It was an honor to recognize these exemplary journalists.

During this unique election year, we addressed where we stand with those who seek to be in power. Tennessee State Rep. Antonio Parkinson (D) shared his experiences on the impact of the African American vote on the 2016 election, with a representative from the Republican Party, who just happened to be an African American. We were fortunate to have NABJ President Sarah Glover in attendance to discuss "Black Twitter and Other Social Media of Color." Speaking of Twitter, our hashtag, #NABJR3Memphis, trended third in the area. A pictoral Twitter wall was a nice upgrade from our usual words-only version. Attendees took full advantage of the opportunity to post and re-post pictures and quotes from speakers. Workshops also addressed Mid-Career Choices and Changes, Financial for those in the media paneled by sponsors Wells Fargo, PTSD for Journalists, and in light of the tragic shooting in Roanoke, Virginia, ways to keep journalists safe in the field.

For the first time at a regional conference, Region III and Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) offered a special Watchdog Workshop for attendees with a free one-year IRE membership. Also for the first time, we held a high school multimedia contest for students in the Memphis Area. Two young women from area high schools were awarded book scholarships and free registrations to the conference.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital helped close out our conference on their world famous campus by sponsoring a tour and reception. Attendees were able to tour this massive health care facility that literally brings life to thousands of sick children each year. We learned of the life-saving work they do and how we as journalists can help them continue to serve ill children for free each year with a cost of about $ 2.2 million a day. We heard from the outgoing Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, as well as the leadership of St. Jude and most notably, one of their former patients and her mother.

Our transportation to St. Jude was made possible by the generosity of new sponsor FedEx, which provided their eco-friendly electric buses for our group. We were fortunate to bring back some long-time sponsors like Raycom Media, Wells Fargo, Cox Media and McClatchy. We also welcomed new ones, including Kroger and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation who, distributed safe sex information and paraphernalia. Conference bags were sweetened with full-sized products from sponsor Miss Jessie’s. NABJ could not offer this programming or the overall experience without their generosity and support.

I think Region III left our mark on Memphis, but took with us a little of the past and even more hope for the future.

Gayle Hurd is a news anchor at Curtis Media Group, WPTF-AM/NC News Network in Raleigh, N.C., and the Region III director for the National Association of Black Journalists.
Lester Holt: Career Crossroads Catapults Anchor to Broadcast Media Pinnacle

By Lynn Norment

“In many ways, television news stands at a crossroads, and Lester is the perfect person to meet the moment.”

That’s what Andrew Lack, chairman of NBC News and MSNBC, said of Lester Holt in June 2015 when he named Holt anchor of “NBC Nightly News” in the wake of Brian Williams’ fall from grace due to an ethics issue. With that announcement, Holt secured the most coveted news anchor position in television, for “NBC Nightly News” is known as America’s most-watched newscast. Holt also made history as the first black journalist to anchor a flagship newscast of a major American television network on his own. Lack went on to say that Holt is “an exceptional anchor who goes straight to the heart of every story and is always able to find its most direct connection to the everyday lives of our audience.”

Over the past year, Holt, 57, has continued to personify Lack’s words. At 6’2” with boyish good looks and an engaging reporting style, his demeanor on the NBC anchor desk speaks of his experience – and his popularity with viewers. “NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt” won its 35th consecutive sweep among total viewers and also won sweeps across the board for May 2016. The news show averaged eight million total viewers for the time period, posting the biggest year-over-year increase among the evening newscasts (+3%).

Holt was selected as the 2016 Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists for about the day. I am honored for the recognition of my work.”

Over the years Holt has won several Emmy Awards and a Robert Kennedy Journalism Award for work on the CBS News show “48 Hours.” This year he was featured on Time’s “100 Most Influential People” list and The Hollywood Reporter’s “Most Powerful People in New York” list. In 2015, the California native was inducted into the California Hall of Fame.

Since joining NBC News in 2000, Holt has traveled the world covering breaking news. He anchored from South Africa during Nelson Mandela’s memorial service, reported from the streets of Cairo during civil unrest in Egypt, covered the earthquake and nuclear crisis in Japan in 2011, as well as reported on the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2011. In addition, he

news and dedication to the community contributed to his success. “Plus, he’s genuinely a nice guy,” she adds.

In Chicago, Holt was offered a job he calls the “highlight” of his career. “I spent 14 years in Chicago and was main anchor at WBBM. I was at a crossroads,” Holt said in a telephone interview from Rockefeller Center. “Then came the opportunity at MSNBC, just at the right time. I had never been in national news. I got to MSNBC and the world exploded. Bush and Gore were campaigning. There was the Florida recount, 9/11 and then the incident in Iraq and then Afghanistan.

“I had the opportunity to flex my news muscle on a different stage, and it was a huge challenge for me. It was like turning a page in my career. I was in the anchor chair during the recount, the chads and on air almost constantly. Reported from Paris and Brussels on the terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016. Earlier this year, Holt reported for “The Today Show” and anchored nightly from Havana when President Barack Obama made his historic trip to Cuba. For eight years he anchored the weekend edition of “NBC Nightly News” and co-anchored “Weekend Today” for 12. Holt also has served as principal anchor of “Dateline NBC” since 2011.

While studying government at California State University in Sacramento, Holt was disc jockey at a country music station, where he had an opportunity to report the news. After college, he worked as a reporter at WCBS-TV in New York and KCBS-TV in Los Angeles before landing a job at CBS-owned WBBM in Chicago. NABJ Vice President of Broadcast Dorothy Tucker, who worked with Holt in Chicago, says his commitment to excellence, passion for
There were a lot of views on cable news at the time. I was on a very huge stage, and huge stories were at no shortage."

After a few years at MSNBC, Holt “transitioned across the river to NBC National,” an even larger stage, and regularly took on new responsibilities that led to his current positions. He also gained greater exposure and re-

spect. Yet, Holt remains down to earth, which makes him approachable and believable. And he is humble.

“It is important to recognize the people who helped get you where you are,” he says. “As journalists of color, we must never lose sight of the fact that there were many who opened doors for us.”

He was reporter/weekend anchor at WMAQ (NBC) in Chicago for five years before being recruited by WNBC. Lester Holt and his wife, Carol Hagen, are also parents of son Cameron, 26, who chose a career in finance.

The proud father says both sons "turned out terrific," and that he is "touched, honored and proud" that Stefan chose a broadcast career. "We had a discussion just yesterday on my butting out of his business," says Holt, adding that they turn down the many requests for stories on the two of them. "He’s making it on his own," Holt says of Stefan. "Everyone knows who his dad is. That only lasts five minutes when it comes to the job. I am equally proud of Cameron’s finance career. He did an internship at CNBC but decided that career was not for him. He felt that we work too hard."

Holt again chuckles.

In 2012, father and son anchors made a big stir and some history in Chicago when they co-anchored WMAQ’s midday newscast. Lester and his wife were spending Thanksgiving with Stefan and his wife, Morgan, who were hosting their first holiday meal. When Lester realized that Stefan was working that Friday, Lester jokingly said, "Maybe I should help you out." Stefan mentioned it to execs at NBC. "It was a very special moment," Lester recalls. "I remember vividly being somewhere between a professional and father. I said, ’I hope you under-
stand how this works,' referring to a two-shot, when we both would be on camera. I wanted to make sure he understood. It was a silly moment. Stefan looked at me like I am an idiot.”

Stefan, a licensed pilot, also shares his father’s passion for aviation and the bass guitar. Lester is not a pilot. While Stefan has played the bass, his father has played with The Roots on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” and at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville with country music star Luke Bryan. Lester Holt and his wife live New York City, but they like to vacation and relax on the West Coast. Lester also enjoys baking desserts. His specialty is apple berry cobbler.

Holt says that over the years, he has made his share of mistakes – not in the kitchen but on the air. “I am fortunate to have come up in the time that I did, when I could make a big mistake on TV and people would say, ‘What an Idiot!’ And the next day they had forgotten about it. It didn’t echo as it does today. You were not on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. You could learn from your mistake and move on, not like young people today.

“Even now I’m not above making mistakes,” Holt says. “There is very little forgiveness out there now. People seem to be cocked and loaded, ready to take offense.”

Holt says his advice to young people, including his sons, is to “earn it” every day.

“That is the code I work by. Yesterday’s broadcast is yesterday’s. You’ve got to bring it every day,” he says. "And don’t be impatient. I give the same advice to Cameron. Whatever you do, you want to master your craft. I look at where I am and realize it took me well over 30 years to get here.”

He also says young people must love their jobs. “We are always shooting for the top, but on the way up, the view can be awesome.”

Advice that continues to resonate with Holt came from Jonathan Rogers, long-time CBS executive who went on to head the Discovery Channel and TV One, who first hired him in Chicago. Rogers is also in the NABJ Hall of Fame.

“Prepare yourself for when doors open in life, for you will have to walk through on your own,” Holt recalls Rogers telling him. “Prepare, for you never know what opportunities will present themselves. I didn’t expect this opportunity, but I was confident that I was ready.”

Yet, being the top news anchor in the country is not the most important career achievement for Holt. “In television news, I have reached a high pinnacle, but I will never let this job or any job define me,” he says. “I love broadcasting, but I would love whatever I’m doing. I love my job, and it is important that I am working at what I love.”

Lynn Norment is the owner of Lynn Norment Media and is a writer, editor, interviewer and media relations advisor with more than 30 years in the media with Ebony magazine.
50 Years Later: The Passion Remains Alive

By Jamar Thrasher
After activist Bree Newsome scaled a flagpole and removed a Confederate flag planted at the South Carolina State House, some revered her actions while others condemned them. The historically racist policies in South Carolina condemned them. The historically racist policies in South Carolina seemed to be formidable.

But despite the seemingly spontaneous nature of what Newsome did, the activist told Steve Crump, a reporter for WBTV in Charlotte, North Carolina, that it was the product of a lot of thought.

“This was nothing that was rash,” Newsome said. “This was not a hastily made decision.”

That information seemed to keep the community from judging Newsome, and it was due, in large part, to Crump’s style of relentless reporting, which involves uncovering the full story.

It is this brand of in-depth and balanced storytelling that contributed to Crump being named the first recipient of the 2016 NABJ Journalist of Distinction Award, which recognizes the journalistic excellence of journalists working in small and medium-sized markets.

“Steve Crump is a talented journalist who excels at both general assignment and enterprise reporting. He is committed to storytelling that is not only credible, but also creative and compelling,” NABJ President Sarah Glover said in a statement announcing the award.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Crump became interested in journalism when he visited Louisville’s NBC affiliate WAVE-TV when he was eight years old.

Crump’s momentous career began with NBC affiliate WSAV in Savannah in 1980 and he’s also worked for news stations in Orlando, Florida, Lexington, and Detroit, and as an independent producer for Charlotte’s WTVD, Charlotte’s PBS affiliate before coming to WBTV.

Crump, 58, has cemented his legacy as one of the pioneers of journalism. His storytelling abilities, and the care and patience he takes with his subjects is one of his most endearing qualities.

“Speed is the enemy of accuracy,” said Crump, recounting a familiar phrase told to him by an instructor at the Poynter Institute. The care and attention Crump gives to each of his stories are what admirers of his work love the most.

“Steve is all the things you want a good reporter to be. Forgive me for using the slogans from TV stations to describe him: ‘Dedicated, determined, dependable, providing coverage you can count on,’” said Monica Kaufman Pearson, a retired anchor/reporter from Atlanta’s WSB-TV who will be inducted into NABJ’s Hall of Fame at this year’s convention.

Also championing Crump is Al Jazeera America anchor Randall Pinkston, who attributes his friend’s success to, “his body of work, his work ethic, [and] his passionate commitment to journalism.”

Crump brings his thorough reporting to not only his stories, but also the independent documentaries he shoots and finances himself. These independent documentaries, which have spotlighted slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers and schools in Sudan, have been broadcast on WTVD. They’ve also been honored by the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, the Museum of Broadcast Communications and several regional and national film festivals.

Retelling stories of the past is the duty of all journalists, Crump said.

“Having worked on a number of documentaries, I wish that in some way, black journalists can develop an appreciation of people who came before them,” he said.

Crump has also won several awards including regional Emmy Awards, four National Headliner Awards, several National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence awards, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund’s Humanitarian of the Year award, and the National Council of Negro Women-Charlotte Chapter’s Man of the Year award.

Winning the Journalist of the Year award makes Crump a little nostalgic.

“The award takes me back to my formative years,” Crump said. “My very first NABJ was in Louisville. There were three major storytellers: Lerone Bennett (Ebony Magazine, editor), Bob Maynard (Oakland Tribune, owner), Max Robinson (ABC News, anchor).”

And while journalists are living in a time where layoffs and buyouts are becoming commonplace, being able to tell the stories that people need to hear like the pioneers that went before him is very important.

“I hope to be able to contribute to that kind of legacy. You don’t have to be at the top or the best to have a good run. If you can do work in your corner of the world, you’ve defined your purpose.”

“You don’t have to be at the top or the best to have a good run. If you can do work in your corner of the world, you’ve defined your purpose.”

Jamar Thrasher (jamarthrasher.com) is a member of NABJ’s Pittsburgh chapter. He has written for several publications and works for Kennedy Blue Communications, a youth-focused PR firm.

Summer 2016 | www.nabj.org | National Association of Black Journalists | 17
“I’m very young in this field and learning new things every day about how to be an effective storyteller and advocate.”

Jamiles Lartey is new to NABJ and is the inaugural recipient of the 2016 Michael J. Feeney Emerging Journalist of the Year Award.

It wasn’t until he briefly met Feeney at a CUNY-J school panel that he decided to take action and become an NABJ member. The rest is history.

Feeney won the 2010 NABJ Emerging Journalist of the Year Award at the NABJ convention in San Diego. The award was renamed in his honor after his untimely and tragic death in January 2016.

“It was meeting Mike and hearing how passionately he believed in NABJ that made it real for me,” said Lartey.

Hailing from New Paltz, New York, Lartey graduated in 2010 from State University of New York at New Paltz with a Bachelor of Arts in Black Studies and Business. He graduated from New York University in 2015 with a Master of Arts in Journalism and Africana Studies.

In 2015, Lartey began working at The Guardian as a writer and researcher. He and his colleagues worked on an investigative research project called The Counted, which chronicled every person in the United States killed by police. Prior to working at The Guardian, he was a production intern for MSNBC’s “Melissa Harris Perry” show.

Before working in the journalism field, Lartey was the interim director of the Retired and Seniors Volunteer Program for the Dutchess Community Action Partnership, an organization that partners with individuals and families to eliminate poverty.

Outside of journalism, Lartey is a drummer for a funk-soul-R&B band. Below he shares everything from impactful stories he’s covered, his advice to journalists and soon-to-be grads, his favorite social media platform and more.

MP: What are some of the stories you’ve covered that have impacted you the most?

JL: The most impactful stories of my
career, both in terms of their impact on me personally and their impact in the world at large, has been the work I've done through The Counted project on police killings.

One of those was the Taser-related death of Calvon Reid in Coconut Creek, Florida, in April of last year, which I got travel to Florida and South Carolina to report on in October.

It was a case that hadn't really been covered at all outside of the local papers and it was definitely rewarding to be able to tell his story to a broader audience and sit down with his parents to understand what they were going through, and at the same time, be able to use his case to illuminate this problem of people dying after being struck by Taser weapons.

**MP:** What did you realize that journalism was the career you wanted to pursue?

**JL:** I decided I wanted to be a journalist when I was in Ghana keeping a travel blog.

After spending years trying to affect positive change in the nonprofit world, I felt like all of the sudden, people were reading and engaging with my work in ways that were so much deeper than when I was writing grants or trying to recruit volunteers. I realized that telling stories and creating content that helps to explain underexplored aspects of the world might be a more powerful way to impact things.

Then I got accepted to NYU for a joint Masters in Africana Studies and Journalism and that just further refined my vision for what I should be doing in the field and really got me up to speed on how to create that type of content at breakneck speed. Even still, I'm very young in this field and learning new things every day about how to be an effective storyteller and advocate.

**MP:** What advice would you offer a new journalist or soon-to-be grad on how to get ahead in the field?

**JL:** Advice is tough and I don't know if I've been around long enough to offer much besides this: Have mentors.

And recognize that a mentor does not mean someone who you have this very cliché, 'handing down life lessons' kind of relationship. Just try to put yourself in spaces to work on stories with other people, and people who have been doing this a long time because collaboration is both the best way to produce quality content and to get better at the craft.

**MP:** Outside of journalism, what are some things that you are passionate about and what do you do for fun?

**JL:** Outside of journalism, I'm also a working musician in a band and have been playing drums all of my life. The band I'm in now plays like soul, funk and R&B. I was also a personal trainer briefly, and fitness is a major hobby of mine as well. Those three passions ensure I have little time for anything else!

I do feel that so much about journalism is being able to dip into this small segment of the world -- like a population or a location or a moment in time -- and be able to digest it and retransmit it for an audience.

And that delicate act, truly an art and a science, is easier the more life experiences you've had. So I'd say in a general sense, having been fully immersed in another career, another world, another framework is always helpful in being a better fact finder and a better communicator.

**I realized that telling stories and creating content that helps to explain underexplored aspects of the world might be a more powerful way to impact things.**

**MP:** What's your favorite book and what book would you recommend someone to read, journalism or non-journalism related?

**JL:** Having a favorite book is terribly challenging. I don't think I could pick one for myself on a personal level.

But on a societal level, I would choose the "New Jim Crow," because as a person who is engaged with the criminal justice system through scholarship and journalism, I feel like for so many people in the general public that book was their wake up call that this is something worthy of their attention and consideration.

When I look at the evolution of our national conversation on criminal justice and mass incarceration, I see that book as the genesis of so much of it.

**MP:** Do you feel your nonprofit background gives you more perspective when approaching how you write stories?

**JL:** I don't know that coming from a nonprofit background specifically gives me more perspective as a reporter, but rather collaboration is both the best way to produce quality content and to get better at the craft.

**MP:** What's your favorite social media platform?

**JL:** I would have to say Twitter is easily my favorite social media platform. It's such a versatile space.

Not only is it a great source for up-to-the-second information on what's going on in the world, but it's really a fantastic place for conversation and debate, despite the trolls.

**MP:** What do you feel is the legacy that Michael Feeney left us?

**JL:** I think his legacy is one of a builder, someone who was trying to strengthen and continue what NABJ is all about and it's simply an honor to receive this award named after him.

---

Monica Peters is an editor and features writer for the Philadelphia Sunday Sun, member of the New York Association of Black Journalists, founder of Genius in Collaboration PR™ and current president of the Philadelphia Black Public Relations Society.
Recent FAMU Graduate Blessed — And on Her Way

STUDENT JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

By Sherlon Christie

Recent Florida A&M University graduate LaCrai Mitchell considers herself blessed.

She graduated in December 2015, had a job waiting for her at CBS News in New York before graduation and she moved to New York City in January 2016 to start her professional career.

“I really just chalk it up to God,” Mitchell said. “I’ve been very blessed to meet some awesome people that have looked out for me at CBS News.”

And there are quite a few Florida A&M graduates that have kept an eye on Mitchell as well, including Nolan D. McCaskill, the person who nominated her for NABJ’s 2016 Student Journalist of the Year award.

“She has an amazing resume and I felt I had to tell NABJ about her and let the association make up its mind about picking her for this award,” said McCaskill, a 2014 Florida A&M graduate who is currently a reporter for Politico. “She started working in January at CBS News and she got promoted recently. It speaks volumes to who she is as a person.”

Mitchell, 22, was originally hired as a news associate for “48 Hours”. It was an 18-month program where she could rotate between various CBS News shows, but Mitchell was only in the program for four when she was hired as a production associate for the “CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley”.

Now that she’s got her foot in the door of a major TV network, Mitchell eventually wants the opportunity to pursue her dream job.

“I want to produce documentaries that focus on socioeconomic issues in minority communities. I want to tell the stories that you don’t always hear about,” Mitchell said. “The journalist that inspired me to pursue journalism is Soledad O’Brien. She did a documentary about the Atlanta child murders that I watched when I was in high school. The storytelling that was done for that piece was outstanding and it immediately drew me to that form of journalism.”

But Mitchell, like many professional journalists today, wants to be well-rounded with her journalism skills as she advances in her career. She credits Florida A&M University’s School of Journalism and Graphic Communication for preparing her to step into a professional newsroom immediately after graduation.

“I’ve done a little bit of everything. I was a broadcast journalism major but at one point I was the editor and chief of Journey Magazine, Florida A&M’s student magazine for the 2014-2015 academic year,” Mitchell said. “It was one of the most challenging jobs that I’ve ever had. I was comfortable with writing for TV but writing for print was something that was very new to me. So, between trying to learn how to do that and manage other creative minds, it turned out to be one of my best experiences at Florida A&M.”

Mitchell is a native of Tallahassee, Florida. While Mitchell was in high school, she was a part of the yearbook staff and did a lot of public speaking. Those two things were the closest things to journalism that she did at a young age. But that quickly changed when she got on the campus of Florida A&M University as a freshman.

“I wanted to be on air and I applied to be an anchor for the Florida A&M TV show. But Professor Kenneth Jones picked me to be an associate producer,” Mitchell said. “He later revealed to me that he saw leadership qualities in me that I didn’t see in myself at the time and he said those qualities would make me a great producer.” And now she’s on her way.

Sherlon Christie is a sports reporter at the Asbury Park Press and is NABJ’s secretary for the 2015-2017 term.
Any current student or alumnus of North Carolina A&T University about “Mama Wiggins.” Ten minutes later, you’ll hear about the time she convinced them not to drop out of school. Or you’ll hear how she often offered an ear, shoulder and perhaps some tissues to mop up tears - sometimes of sadness; other times, of joy. For so many students, she was - and still is - a rock, an inspiration and the reason they have a college degree today or hope to soon.

NABJ's 2016 Educator of the Year is Gail Wiggins, an assistant professor at the school and the coordinator of the annual National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Multimedia Short Course that started in 1992. More than 800 students from 53 colleges and universities from across the United States and Canada have participated, according to Dr. Linda Callahan, a former NABJ Educator of the Year and one of Wiggins' colleagues at A&T. In addition to teaching a full course load, Wiggins also is the internship coordinator, helping students find opportunities during the semester and the summer.

"Mrs. Gail Wiggins is by far the greatest journalism educator I have had the opportunity of learning from," said Uniqua Quillins, a member of the NC A&T UNT NABJ Chapter and one of Wiggins' students. "She is very passionate about the profession of journalism, but even more passionate about making sure all journalism students from North Carolina A&T obtain the greatest opportunities to truly find their passion in the field."

Wiggins admitted that she was surprised and humbled by the recognition. She began her media career as a radio personality in Greensboro, and later became a TV news producer. As she was working on her master’s degree at A&T, she worked as a teacher's assistant. That's when she fell in love with a job that has become her passion for the past 30 years.

"When I’m able to help my students understand how they can reach their potential, I really feel good," said Wiggins, a mother of three daughters aged 20 – 32. "I treat my students like my children. I try hard to reinforce the things they need to be learning."

Nagantha Tonkins, also a former NABJ Educator of the Year, and assistant professor and director, internships at Elon University’s School of Communications, worked with Wiggins when they both helped produce the newscast for the NABJ Multimedia Short Course.

“She will always go the extra miles to get the job done, and it has been a pleasure to work with her," said Tonkins who was one of the people who recommended Wiggins for the NABJ award. "She demonstrates passion, commitment and heartfelt love for her teaching and her students; and if you spend any time with her you’ll quickly see that they love her, too."

When Wiggins isn't in her office or a classroom, she loves traveling, hanging out with her girlfriends and listening to jazz, especially Hugh Masekela. She has no plans to slow down anytime soon. She embraces her “Mama Wiggins” role. "For me, it’s just the nurturing. I find it quite endearing. They [Students] appreciate the nurturing, the one-on-one advice. My students realize how much I care about their success."

Neil Foote, a former NABJ board member, is a principal lecturer at the University of North Texas’ Mayborn School of Journalism, co-director of the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference and president of the National Black Public Relations Society. He also owns Foote Communications, a public relations and branding firm.

By Neil Foote

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Mama Wiggins: A Rock and an Inspiration
Project Offers Mentors, Instills Self-Esteem for Black Males

ANGELO B. HENDERSON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

By Sharon L. Harris

B eing named the recipient of the 2016 Angelo B. Henderson Community Service Award was a full circle moment for Chauncy Glover. Shortly after Henderson’s passing in 2014, Glover, then a WDIV-TV 4 anchor and reporter in Detroit, covered the memorial of the Pulitzer prize-winning Detroit journalist.

A year later, Glover, working as an anchor and reporter for ABC-13 in Houston, leaned on words from Henderson as he struggled with the duties of The Chauncy Glover Project, a nonprofit he started to help city’s underserved youth.

“There was a time when I was overwhelmed with trying to balance The Chauncy Glover Project with my career obligations,” he said. “It was a lot -- and very taxing -- running the program from Houston and the financial obligations that it entailed. It was Angelo’s words to me, ‘be honest and do whatever it is that you want to do from the heart,’ that resonated. I felt like that was God’s way of telling me to hang in there.”

The Angelo B. Henderson Community Service Award recognizes a journalist for his or her community service endeavors outside of the newsroom and beyond the newsroom, Glover has been busy. In February 2013, while covering a story in Detroit, Glover witnessed the death of a 17-year-old robbery suspect. For months, the scene haunted Glover. This led him to begin communicating with Detroit’s young men. They expressed feelings of despair, desperation and hopelessness.

That summer, he created The Chauncy Glover Project. The nonprofit not only pairs students with mentors but also teaches etiquette and public speaking skills while implements job and college-readiness techniques. The program has also proved beneficial for the mentees’ outward self esteem.

“I have a skin condition called Lamellar ichthyosis and people look at me strange,” mentee Victor Lewis said. “I was ashamed and walked around with my head down, but the CGP has given me confidence. Chauncy encouraged me to love myself and not to be ashamed.”

The program has graduated 48 students. Of those, 45 have gone on to four-year colleges or universities. Seven of them have made the dean’s list.

Glover attributes the program’s successes to the contact that is maintained between mentors and mentees as they transition out of organization. As a college student attending Troy University in Troy, Ala., Glover recalls having mentors that guided him. He says he is not shocked that he has a heart for supporting students.

“Mentoring is extremely important in this day and age, now more than ever,” he said. “Young black males are facing real and evident disparities. So many of them don’t have a male in the home or may not have access to anyone that has attended college to show them the possibilities of what is beyond Detroit.”

Another need Glover hopes to meet is to encourage more students of color to find their journalistic voice and affect change.

“I started with NABJ very young while I was in college,” he said. “The organization is a brilliant way to connect with working journalists in the industry. There was always someone to inspire and encourage me. Now, as a nonstudent, I love going back and connecting with the young people. I just hope that I am able to inspire someone else to give back to the community.

“Seeing the results of supporting youth is the greatest reward of all.”

Sharon L. Harris is a former NABJ member and founder of Lupus Detroit.
Darci McConnell was 14 years into a successful career as a newspaper reporter when she made the foray into public relations.

It was 2004, and the headlines about the newspaper industry spoke of declining ad revenues and tightened purse strings. Where reporters once took trips to report on stories, more and more they were implored to do the same work by phone.

“It was challenging to do journalism the way I wanted to do it,” McConnell said. “I thought about going somewhere else, then I decided I probably would have the same frustrations.”

She’s now owner of McConnell Communications, which celebrates its 12th year this summer. She has been involved with NABJ since college, establishing the University of Michigan and western Michigan chapters, as well as being a past Detroit chapter president.

“NABJ has been so much of the fabric of my life, and I’ve benefited so much,” said McConnell, 48, calling the award “one of the most special things that has ever happened to me.”

McConnell’s journalism career took her through newsrooms in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Detroit, with a stint as the Washington, D.C. In Detroit, she covered the early days of Kwame Kilpatrick’s mayorship, uncovering misdeeds well before Kilpatrick was jailed on obstruction of justice charges from a texting scandal and, currently, on a federal racketeering conviction.

Vickie Thomas, the morning drive and city beat reporter for WWJ Newsradio 950 (CBS) and NABJ Region III Director, recounted a tale of McConnell following Kilpatrick and friends to Vegas, where she’d been told they went for a Lennox Lewis fight.

“The way people described it was when (Kilpatrick and his friends) saw her, they scattered like roaches,” Thomas said, laughing. “Somebody fell over a table trying to get away from her.”

The same work ethic is what makes McConnell a good public relations professional, Thomas said.

Darren Nichols, who worked with McConnell at the Detroit News and competed against her when she worked for the Detroit Free Press, said the relationships McConnell built as a reporter propelled her to success when she transitioned to public relations.

“That, to me, set a solid foundation for what Darci has always done,” said Nichols, who also worked with McConnell in Detroit’s NABJ chapter.

He said he tells most reporters coming to Detroit to reach out to McConnell. “She’s a good resource,” he said. “She can be a good advocate for the kind of work (you) can do as a reporter. McConnell said the best part of being an entrepreneur is the opportunity to work with and train others, giving them opportunities to learn the business. She is active in several local charities, including the Detroit Area Kids Fishing Derby, which teaches area children to fish, exposing them to something they generally would not see.

McConnell said she debated joining a firm before a conversation with businessman Don Barden who, among other things, brought cable television to Detroit.

“I met with him to get his advice,” she said. “He said: ‘Do you want to work with somebody or do you want to be independent?’ What do you say to that?”

Barden became her first client in that meeting. Before McConnell left, Barden picked up the phone and called another person. They became a client, too.

Marlon A. Walker is a reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and vice president of print for the National Association of Black Journalists.
Marine Corps.

“When he got into the Marine Corps it was segregated,” said Metrit “He found he was one of the few soldiers who could read and write really well, almost becoming ‘the writer’ for the regime.”

At the end of World War II, King attended Ohio State University using the G.I. Bill. Eventually he served as the news editor of the student newspaper, The Lantern.

Gilson adds Wright remained a loyal member of the Montford Point Marines organization.

Gilson was faculty director for Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism’s Summer Program for Members of Minority Groups. Gilson hired Wright as a faculty member for the program.

But Metrit’s sister, Kim Wright-King, tells a slightly different tale. According to Wright-King, her father’s interest in journalism started much earlier.

“It started in junior high with the inquisitiveness that he had,” said Wright-King. “The older he got the more indepth his “why” questions got.”

Wright-King said she it was a great surprise that NABJ honored her father with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

“We’re happy to accept it in his honor in August,” said King-Wright.

“I’m very proud and very honored,” Metrit added. “Dad deserves this; he was a great person.”

In addition to his journalism career, Wright owned Dale Wright Associates, where his daughter said he worked until the last few years of his life.

Wright-King said Dale Wright Associates is her favorite work of her father’s because he was able to help others he assessed as having a great value to Black life and culture.

“He had ways of utilizing his network to make sure they were well showcased,” Wright-King said about one group Wright provided with media relations counsel.

Continued on p. 29
For David Aldridge, Media Wasn't First Calling

By Benét J. Wilson

LEGACY AWARD

David Aldridge went to American University in Washington, D.C., to get a degree and become a high school history teacher.

"But on my second day on campus, I passed by the office for (school newspaper) The Eagle, walked in, asked if they needed help and didn't leave for the next four years," he recalled.

That led to becoming editor of The Eagle, the launching of his sports journalism career at the Washington Post, with stints at ESPN, the Philadelphia Inquirer and Turner Sports. In 2016, he was given the Curt Gowdy Media Award by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame for his basketball work for Inquirer and NBA.com.

"At first, I didn't think it was possible, but people encouraged me to reach for something bigger," he said. "I found I could do the job and it gave me a lot of confidence that was the start of my journalism career."

Thanks to AU connections, Aldridge began writing part-time covering high school sports for the Washington Post. That job helped him earn a highly competitive spots in the Washington Post's summer internship program.

The Post threw interns right into the mix, said Aldridge. He was later hired by then-assistant managing editor George Solomon, who currently runs the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism at the University of Maryland-College Park.

"He always had great reporting and writing skills, and always really knew a lot about his subjects," he recalled. "You could see his talent from the start."

Aldridge started covering the Washington Bullets full time at the age of 23. He also covered the Washington Redskins for three years.

Aldridge said he was fortunate to have great mentors. "They all helped me get my feet under me and showed me how to develop my own voice, be comfortable with it and understand the responsibility that went with it," he said.

There isn’t a particular story that Aldridge sees as his greatest career accomplishment. "I'm proud that I have been able to be successful while being myself. I haven't changed since you knew me in college," he said. "But the journalism business has changed. Social media has co-opted everything in our industry that favors the bombastic, the divisive, the loud and the opinionated. I've always felt that people are more interested in what I know rather than what I think. The job of a reporter is to tell people what they don't know and let them decide whether it's important."

His advice for young journalists? "Don't pigeonhole yourself. There are plenty who will, so don't help them. For those on the broadcast side, look at careers behind the camera," he said.

"We don't have enough people who look like us making those decisions and I'm begging young people to think about being editors on the print and broadcast sides," said Aldridge. "Be a shooter, a producer, a technical director or a photographer. Go into nontraditional jobs for people of color, where there are opportunities that can get you into different career tracks."

Aldridge also cited startups like Billy Penn in Philadelphia. "We have to demand those jobs. And NABJ needs to have broader world view," he said. "We should encourage our members to be more involved and do a better job of thinking outside the box," he said.

Benét J. Wilson is the owner/editor of Aviation Queen LLC. She is the vice president of digital for the National Association of Black Journalists and the secretary for the Online News Association.
Words and Photos by Bonnie Newman Davis
“After the first day they told me ‘you're going to be a news producer’ because that’s where decisions are made.”

Next year, the Short Course, the brainchild the late Sidmel Estes, NABJ's first woman president, will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Yet for Williams and Caree, both A&T graduates, their stints in the journalism boot camp seem like yesterday.

Williams entered the program in 1992, determined to become an on-air personality. His plans changed when he met Estes and NABJ members Drew Berry, Paula Madison and Shelia Stainback. All were standouts in their respective newsrooms and each was instrumental in organizing the short course, along with Nagatha Tonkins, then an assistant professor at North Carolina A&T.

"After the first day they told me

leigh, N.C., and Atlanta. She says that the Short Course's “deadline-driven, real-world environment” taught her how to multitask and work in a competitive arena.

Uniqua Quillens, who wasn’t born when the Short Course was created, went through the program twice before graduating in 2016 from North Carolina A&T. Her work in the Short Course led to her being the first recipient of the Sidmel Estes "Best Producing" award. Estes, who died in October 2015, was a nationally renowned media trailblazer who devoted her life to mentoring aspiring journalists and championing diversity in the newsroom.

As an executive television producer

Nagatha Tonkins, Founding Director, NABJ Broadcast Short Course at North Carolina A&T

It was tough love during the Short Course, but in the end there were many tears of gratitude and joy. I always thought it was amazing that those students who became journalists found these professionals to be wonderful mentors. The professionals have guided these NABJ Babies throughout their careers and have formed long-lasting friendships.

The early years were challenging because funds were short and we were busy seeking donations to help feed the students and professionals during the four-day short course. The professionals were mostly from upstate and I laugh when I recall how excited they were to come to A&T so they could get some Biscuitville biscuits, which were donated to us for several years. Also, I fondly remember equipment malfunctions due to the studio heat, bringing in huge fans and Mrs. Wiggins and I working with giddy students until 3 and 4 a.m. At some point, we had to call it a night/morning because little work was being accomplished.

Melody Taylor, Senior Producer, CNN

I remember the day that I learned the NABJ Short Course program existed. I remember because I was jealous that I didn’t know about it when I was a student at the University of Texas at Austin. My journey in the business would have been very different if I would have had a chance to go through the student program as some of my colleagues did. In fact, I am a better journalist now even through serving. My first time serving was in March of 2006. Year after year, I can’t imagine not being in Greensboro. I remember hobbling up and down the steps of Crosby Hall at nine months pregnant...unwilling to let my pregnancy force me to skip a year. (Though I did have to miss 2009 after the birth of my second son.)

Why do I keep coming back? The mentors and the volunteers and the great staff at A&T. I consider them all my second family. Each year we’re there it’s like a big family reunion that allows us all to catch up on careers and families and former students.

Why do I keep coming back? The students. There is no doubt we are teaching students elements of the business they won't learn in their own schools and preparing them for the careers of their dreams.

Why do I keep coming back? Gail Wiggins. Every time I come she is so thankful. So thoughtful. Even when the mentors are tired and crabby. Even when the equipment is down. Even when it looks like everything isn’t going as we planned. Gail’s smile and hug combo makes me want to show up for her students. Every. Time.

Anthony Wilson, News Anchor, ABC 11, Durham, N.C., Lead Instructor, NABJ Multimedia Short Course

We’ve come a long, long way at North Carolina A&T from my first days with the short course. Back then, we had ancient equipment like 3/4 inch videotape machines and a control room so hot that we had to use those big church fans to make it bearable on newscast production day.

From that crucible emerged talent and managers now working in the nation’s top newsrooms, who learned how to think on their feet and overcome obstacles on our watch. Some joined us with limited experience, and with mentors like Sharon Stevens, Anzio Williams, Melody Taylor, Danamy Lewis, Charlotta Rodrigues and every professional who returns year after year to volunteer, many of those students blossom while learning how and why we do what we do.

The short course is one of the most successful NABJ programs, and we are immensely proud of the work performed in those Crosby Hall classrooms. Our organization chose well when Gail Wiggins was tapped as the 2016 Educator of the Year. She is the glue that holds our programs together. She molds our young people who aspire to careers in our field, and inspires every one of us to bring support, as well as tough love, to Greensboro.
Sharon Stevens, HEC-TV, St. Louis, Missouri, Former NABJ Vice-President/Broadcast

I think the best things about the Short Course are the engaged students and enthusiastic instructors, [along with] the financial and technical resources. At the end of each Short Course—I'm approaching my 20th year soon—I always look forward to the feedback from the students. What did they think about the course? Did they feel challenged? Students say they are too challenged! HAI! No such thing: It means we're doing something right.

Nearly all tell us they have learned so much about the business, [like] how to interview people, how to dress and always put ethics and good journalism first. Many have stayed in touch over the years. I always appreciate hearing about their lives, even if they eventually chose another profession. I love to back and we encourage our students to return as instructors and a number of them have.

I have SO many memories that I don’t know where to begin. We’ve had students from everywhere, including Canada and Africa, from the south side of Chicago to Los Angeles. Some are rocket-science smart, some are camera-ready, some write very well or have mad tech skills. I remember one student who was smart and clever, keeping his colleagues and instructors in stitches. And still getting his work done!

I remember the fun and serious times with the great photojournalist/operators manager [the late] Ted Holztclaw. He loved the students and they returned that love; we miss him so much.

In terms of the future, I hope that NABJ and A&T will commit to continue the Short Course for another 25 years! I do think that we need to ramp up our tech game. Each year, we get better but the students are miles ahead of us. That’s a good thing in a way, because we are never too old to learn. I do hope we will provide some more writing exercises for the students. It doesn’t mean much if you’re a technology genius but you can’t write or spell. I look forward to celebrating 25 great years in 2017.

Charlitta Rodrigues, Producer, The Lead with Jake Tapper, CNN

The Short Course is a labor of love. Not just for the mentors and organizers, but for the students as well. Participating journalists consistently show their passion and concern about the direction of the industry. They’re more than willing to share their knowledge with students eager to learn what it really takes to succeed in this field. That ambition on both sides leads to very long days—but many people are dedicated to making sure the best effort is put forward. I’ve been a Short Course mentor for more than 10 years, and it is truly rewarding to see so many “NABJ babies” graduate from the program and become professionals in this field.

Carl McLean, News Photographer/Editor/SAT Engineer, WSOC-TV, Charlotte, N.C.

I think the success of the NABJ Short course is the organizing BEFORE the actual event starts. As a contributor, I really appreciate all the leg work done prior to us arriving. It really ensures a smooth and seamless four days of lecture and instruction. I’ve been involved with the Short Course for about six years now and I got involved because another instructor in the news business asked me to help contribute to a worthy cause. I have many great memories through the years, but what really touches my heart is when the Short Course is over and I receive emails from the students about how much they learned and how they’ve applied that knowledge to their current jobs in journalism. The broadcast industry is an ever-changing entity and each year we are invited back we update the students on the changes from the previous year...VERY important.

for WAGA-TV/FOX 5 in Atlanta, where she worked for 27 years, Estes co-created the groundbreaking morning news show “Good Day Atlanta.”

With certainty, Quillens, who hails from Beloit, Wis., knows the shoulders on which she stands.

“As a student, I’ve benefited greatly from the writing and producing skills I picked up,” said Quillens. “I’ve benefitted from the relationships that I’ve built with the professionals who facilitate the course, and from other students I met in the program. They have helped me clearly define my goals, kept me abreast of various opportunities in the industry and provided encouragement when it was needed.”

“There are so many people involved. We have a great group of NABJ mentors who are fully committed and dedicated.”

Nagatha Tonkins, a former assistant professor of journalism at North Carolina A&T, implemented the Short Course program in 1992 and directed it for 16 years. After Tonkins left A&T for Elon University, Gail Wiggins, an assistant professor of journalism at the university who had worked closely with Tonkins, became the short course’s director in 2009.

“The short course began when Sidmel visited A&T for one of our Mass Communications conferences and approached me about the Short Course,” Tonkins recalled. “Her then-husband, Beryl Sumpter, was an Aggie, and suggested that Short Course be housed at A&T.

“We started with 15 students who were thrilled to be a part of the program,” Tonkins continued. “Well, until they met the team of NABJ professionals. Students quickly learned that the professionals were there for business and wanted them to be prepared to be excellent journalists. So there were some hard knocks, candid discussions and tough love.”

Paula Madison wrote the first Short Course program, which helped organize the four days of events and ensured that students received good instruction, said Tonkins. “The faculty also welcomed the Short Course because it allowed students to produce a somewhat timely newscast and professionals reiterated some of the (faculty’s) classroom instruction. Students returned to class more motivated and eager to produce more news content.”

In 2010, Wiggins and long-time NABJ Short Course mentors Anthony Wilson and Kerwin Speight changed the name from NABJ Broadcast Short Course to NABJ Multimedia Short Course to include multimedia news production and the role technology plays in reporting, audience engagement and dissemination of news.

New workshops were added such as ‘So You Want to Be a Reporter,’ ‘Death by Social Media,’ ‘Multimedia Matters,’ a ‘Reel Review’ session and a career development segment hosted by Com-
Continued from page 29.

Wright worked for EBONY and JET magazines as an associate editor and NBC’s news desk in Washington D.C. He contributed his skills to New York public officials including former New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch, former Sen. Jacob K. Javits and former Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller.

“He was really of the belief that the story is going to tell the truth,” said Wright-King about her father’s career. “It’s for the journalist to shine the light on and it’s for the journalist to open up for public display, investigation, thought what it is that’s going on.”

“He was representing by example what it means to be a journalist,” added Metrit. “You’re honest and fair and as impartial as you can.”

“Dale combined the reporter’s joy of the hunt with his seriousness of purpose,” concluded Gilson. “Journalism is a sacred trust in service of the public and his career exemplified his commitment to that ideal.”

Corinne Z. Lyons is a senior national correspondent for RIZZARR. She recently completed her Masters of Arts in Teaching at Wayne State University.

Wright celebrates the release of his book, “They Harvest Despair.” (Courtesy: Kim Wright-King & Amilcar K. Metrit)

Ohio State University’s The Lantern: May 1950 (Courtesy: Kim Wright-King & Amilcar K. Metrit)

Upcoming NABJ Events

Media Institute on Legal Affairs
Hogan Lovells
Washington, D.C.
Sept. 24, 2016

Region II Conference
Swissôtel
Chicago

Coming soon... Media Institute on Public Relations, Region IV Conference and Media Institute on Sports and Entertainment
MIZELL STEWART joined the USA TODAY NETWORK as vice president of news operations, working to enable and elevate local journalism in more than 100 communities across the country.

EBONY REED was recently named executive advertising director for the Boston Business Journal, part of American City Business Journals. In her new position, she will lead the multiplatform advertising and events sponsorship team for the Boston Business Journal. In 2015, she was named one of the top business leaders in Boston under 40.

MITCHELL BROWN is the new weekend sports anchor at WTKR-TV in Norfolk, Va. It’s Brown’s first on-air job, as he moves up from being a photojournalist at the television station.

WAYNE DAWKINS was promoted from associate professor to professor of professional practice at Hampton University. Dawkins also is the author of “Black Journalists: The NABJ Story,” which was published in 1997.

JASON FRAZER joined New England Cable News and NBC Boston as an investigative reporter. Frazer previously was at WFSB CBS 3 in Hartford, Conn., where he was a general assignment reporter and part of the investigative team.

DOXIE A. MCCOY recently became the public information officer for the Office of the People’s Counsel, a D.C. government agency which advocates on behalf of utility customers.

RHONDA WILSON of African Network Television was recently honored with the Special Recognition Award from the American Association of Community Theatre. The award is presented to those whose contributions to community are far-reaching and of a special nature.

Want to share your success? Tell us all about your latest job moves or milestones at congrats@nabj.org. Please be sure to include an image and link for more information.
Diversity makes a difference.

Success isn’t rooted in sameness. Approaching things from different perspectives and working together for positive change is how progress is made. That’s true in business and in life. We salute all those who are fighting to make the world a better, more inclusive place.