

See you in Florida



Sign up for a.m. alumni meet and greet in Tampa

The Columbia J-school breakfast at NABJ, a Saturday morning tradition since the early 1990s, is 8 to 10 a.m. Aug. 8 at Café Waterside, Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina. As in the past, each individual will cover his/her own breakfast. Please let us know you will be attending by sending an RSVP e-mail to wdawkins4bj@aol.com



A special thanks to Irena Choi Stern in the J-School Alumni office for making the arrangements and for spreading the word in the upcoming August edition of E-News, which will go out Wednesday, Aug. 5.

Be sure and follow activities online at www.nabjconvention.org **Michelle Johnson, '82**, is leader of the online student project. **Wayne Dawkins, '80**, is leader of the print student project, the Monitor newspaper.

Saturday, Aug. 8, 2-3 p.m. come to "Reinvention: How to Transition Your Career without Losing Ground," by the [Founders Task Force](#). **Rehema Ellis, '77**, is to moderate the panel and **Dorothy B.**

Gilliam, '61, is a contributor to a 64-page online journal of how-to essays.

OK, exhale now

NABJ meets attendance goals

National Association of Black Journalists convention registration surpassed 1,500 at the end of July, said the board secretary in response to an inquiry from the BA Network. That means the association met the 1,495 registrant threshold necessary for a projected break-even convention.

Healthy attendance matters during this Great Recession. The National Association of Hispanic Journalists convention experienced a [60-percent drop in attendance](#) and NAHJ was coping with a \$300,000 deficit. And last April, the American Society of Newspaper Editors canceled its convention because many companies were too economically stressed. Consider that the last [canceled ASNE convention](#) was in 1945 during the closing months of World War II.

NABJ soldiered on anyway this year because canceling the convention based on the depressed economy meant financial penalties that would have been a worse choice. Deirdre Childress, who confirmed the registration numbers, also said that association leaders anxiously watched whether NABJ would meet its quota of hotel room nights.

In early July, members were urged to book at the negotiated [discount convention](#) rate and not

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undermine the association by using last-minute online bargain rates.

Time will tell whether most members exercised loyalty in order to help NABJ's financial health.

As a sign of the fiscal times, for the first time in decades conventioners will not receive glossy, 100-plus page convention program books. The publications were cut back as a cost-saving move, Executive Director and COO Karen Wynn Freeman told Founders Task Force members during a conference call last spring. The program "book" will be available as a PDF file on the NABJ.org Web site and can be printed from personal computers. Freeman also said the paperless choice is the association contribution to the "go green" movement.

Newsroom to Classroom, Authors Showcase at NABJ-Tampa

Friday, Aug. 7, 1:30-3 p.m. "From the [Newsroom to the Classroom, Full-time](#)," is a session on making the transition from collapsing newsrooms to fertile ground in academia, where Mass Communications programs for the most part are growing. But come prepared for cultural change. Get advice from industry pros turned professors, Dawkins, Bonnie Newman Davis, Neil Foote and Yanick Rice Lamb. Also visit the [Authors Showcase](#) Thursday and Friday, Aug. 6-7. Authors, including Gwen Ifill and Leonard Pitts Jr., will be reading and signing

Rage of the Thinking Class: Gates/Crowley/Obama uproar

SeeingBlack.com, edited by **Esther Iverem, '83**, ran a revealing essay by [Mark Anthony Neal](#).

"[Men behaving badly](#)" by **Wayne Dawkins, '80**, appeared on the PoliticsinColor.com site.

"[Obama gets it](#)," by **Marjorie Valbrun, '86**, appeared in theRoot.com.

The **Black Alumni Network** of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism [1980-] publishes monthly. The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. Log on to www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/services/ban/
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