



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
National Association of Black Journalists

Media Guide

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For more information, please contact:

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Program Offerings



Career Development

Hands-on media training, journalism writing workshops, scholarships and internship opportunities.



Student Camaraderie

An opportunity to connect and work together with all communication majors.



Access to Mentors

Learn more about the journalism industry from UH alumni and local professionals.



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National Association of Black Journalists

Background

The National Association of Black Journalists - University of Houston Chapter (UH NABJ) is a professional student organization for communication majors. Chapter services include meetings with students, mentoring events by professional journalists and workshops that teach additional skills in journalism. Additionally, members can apply for scholarships and internships. UH NABJ's parent organization is the National Association of Black Journalists.

The National Association of Black Journalists is a professional organization that provides a variety of professional development services and programs for black communications professionals. The association serves as an advocacy group for black journalists, provides scholarships for young aspiring communicators and holds annual conventions designed for networking, educational and recruitment opportunities. NABJ members are currently employed at various media companies such as CNN, NBC, BET and NPR. Professionals also work at newspaper companies, public relations firms and online journalism websites.

The NABJ was founded on December 12, 1975, in Washington, D.C. by a committee of 44 black journalists. The first convention was held at Texas Southern University in 1976. Since then, the NABJ has grown into the largest organization of black journalists in the United States, with 40 regional associations and more than 4,000 members. There are associations located in cities such as Seattle, Atlanta, and New York. Houston's local NABJ association is known as the Houston Association of Black Journalists and it was founded in 1986.

The NABJ's Annual Convention and Career Fair is a major event attended by thousands of members who seek recruitment at media companies, professional training and membership unity. Special events often include guest speakers from the media and entertainment world, recreational events and music performances. Finally, the convention holds the annual Salute to Excellence awards ceremony honoring black



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journalists for their achievements. The 2012 convention will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana from June 20-24, 2012.

For students interested in a journalism career, the NABJ offers several services under the Student Education Enrichment and Development (SEED) Program. After joining the NABJ for only \$40, students can receive newsletters, apply for scholarships and participate in the Student Multimedia Project. Additionally, they can join student chapters which are located at universities across the nation, including the University of Houston. NABJ student chapters operate similarly to the other student professional organizations in that they are managed by student officers, are advised by faculty and rely on recruitment and fundraising.

The University of Houston's student chapter of the NABJ was founded in 1987 by journalism major Joy Sewing. Sewing felt that bringing the NABJ to the University of Houston was necessary for students who were in need of support, job opportunities, scholarships and camaraderie with other black communications students.

Unfortunately the chapter had to deal with several issues that hampered its growth. According to a recent interview with Sewing, the UH chapter initially did not have the same level of support from the Houston Association of Black Journalists as the Texas Southern University's student chapter. Membership was consistently low because there were never more than three students. Additionally, the organization had to regain its accreditation several times because of the consistent transitioning of leadership. The chapter has had as many as 20 members through the years.

Today, the UH NABJ's sole members are the chapter president and faculty advisor. After the student officers graduated in the spring 2011 semester, the remaining member was left to manage programming, promotions and recruitment for the fall 2011 semester. In the fall of 2011, the group held its first General Meeting. While 12 students were expected to attend, in reality only a few students showed up. The NABJ student



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chapter guidelines state that five members are needed to satisfy accreditation requirements or else the student chapter will not be recognized. In addition, the University of Houston requires three members for an organization to be recognized.

The UH NABJ needs to increase its membership to five members or more in order to gain recognition from the university and NABJ. Recognition would allow access to sponsorships from the HABJ and the opportunity to send student delegates to the upcoming 2012 convention in New Orleans. The UH NABJ plans to open membership to all communication majors in the Valenti School of Communications and will continue to promote the chapter with fliers and social media outreach. UH NABJ hopes to have a stable, active membership by the end of spring semester 2012.



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UH NABJ Fact Sheet

General Information:

- UH NABJ is a professional organization for black journalism students
- Founded in 1987 at the University of Houston by Chapter President Joy Sewing
- Offers scholarships, speaking/mentoring events by professional journalists, meetings with communication students, and training workshops
- Currently open for communication majors from all ethnic backgrounds
- Membership fee: \$15 per year.
- Meets at the Valenti School of Communications Building located on the Main Campus. For more information on actual meeting times, check out www.facebook.com/NABJ.UH
- Affiliated organizations: UH Valenti School of Communications, Houston Association of Black Journalists and National Association of Black Journalists

Membership Benefits:

- Access to internships and scholarships through the HABJ
- Networking with UH alumni and local professional journalists
- Chapter members can attend the NABJ Annual Convention & Career Fair for additional career development and networking

Scholarships:

- Students can apply for a \$1,500 scholarship through the HABJ. Students must submit an application, transcripts, resumes, samples of their work, a letter of recommendation and write a 500-word essay.
- Students must be communication majors, have a minimum GPA of 2.50 and will attend college during the Spring 2011 semester

Contact Information:

- Brittany Carr, UH NABJ Chapter President
- Darryl Ewing, UH NABJ Faculty Advisor & Instructional Professor
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/NABJ.UH
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/UH_NABJ
- Email: nabj_uh@yahoo.com

For more information please contact:

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www.facebook.com/NABJ.UH

www.twitter.com/UH_NABJ



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the mission statement and purpose of the UH NABJ?

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is an association of journalists, students and media-related professionals that provides quality programs and services to benefit black journalists worldwide. The association is committed to increasing black employment in the media, providing continued development and training for black journalists and supporting potential journalists from high school and college.

2. How can students join the UH NABJ?

They can contact chapter president Brittany Carr at nabj_uh@yahoo.com or faculty advisor Darryl Ewing at deewing@uh.edu.

3. What are the academic requirements for membership?

Students must be in good academic standing with a 2.50 GPA and will be attending the fall and spring semesters. Students at all grade levels may apply for membership.

4. Does the UH NABJ accept students from other communication majors?

Membership is open to all communications majors. The career advice and skills gained from UH NABJ meetings can be helpful to many communications students.

5. What is the membership fee?

Students can pay \$15 annually.

6. Where do meetings usually take place?

Please check the UH NABJ's Facebook page as meeting locations may vary.

7. What are several ways that alumni can get involved with the UH NABJ after graduation?

Alumni can join the NABJ's Student Career Mentoring Program and are invited to attend speaking events where they can share their work experiences with college students. Alumni can also use the NABJ's online member database to answer any questions that students have.

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Frequently Asked Questions

8. What additional skills will journalism students learn from the UH NABJ?

Students will gain invaluable hands-on experience, tips, and strategies that will help them to get into the position they desire.

- They will learn how write and edit for print journalism
- Produce television news packages, webcasts, slideshows and blogs.
- Gain valuable career advice from mentors professional journalists and learn how to network with their peers.
- They'll gain a practical understanding of what broadcast, print and web journalism jobs are like.



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Faculty Advisor Profile

Professor Darryl Ewing is the faculty advisor for the NABJ University of Houston Student Chapter while teaching communications at the Jack J. Valenti School of Communications. He has 15 years of experience in journalism, marketing communications and public relations. He has taught classes at the university level, practiced public relations and marketing communications for a variety of Fortune 500 companies and wrote for the Associated Press as a reporter.

Ewing has a bachelor degree in journalism from the University of Texas (1988) and a Master of Arts degree from the Ohio State University (1989). After completing his academic studies in journalism, he worked as a reporter and desk supervisor for The Associate Press in Dallas, Texas for five years. In 1993, he began his career in public relations at Edelman Public Relations. As a senior account executive, he was responsible for assisting the Boy Scouts of America with crisis communications and media training. Following his duties at Edelman, Ewing served as a public relations manager for the financial institutions Comerica Bank and Bank of America. He played a crucial role in media relations during Bank of America's merger with NationsBank in 1998.

From 2000 to 2003, Ewing oversaw various facets of corporate communications for the telecommunications giant, Motorola. He managed employee communications for Motorola's 30,000 employees, oversaw government relations and managed Motorola's community programs within Texas and Arizona. From 2006 to 2009, he continued to specialize in corporate community outreach and sponsorships as the chief retail marketing public relations officer for Reliant Energy.

After managing community outreach initiatives and partnerships with sports teams in Houston, he successfully launched the Reliant Energy Power Pact energy efficiency program, which encouraged Texans to switch from a standard bulb to the more energy-efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb. The program received the IABC Bronze Quill Award in 2009.

Ewing's lecturing career began in 2004 at the Jesse H. Jones College of Communication, located at the University of Texas. He returned to teaching in 2006 and became an instructional assistant professor for the Jack J. Valenti School of Communications. He is currently teaching introductory and writing courses for print/web journalism, public relations and advertising.

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