



INSIDE
VP addresses economic issues. **Page 3**
Board to vote on UNITY ties. **Page 3**



AFTER KATRINA

BRENT LEWIS | NABJ MONITOR

Tyler Johns, 15, walks past a burned-down home on his way to 'the slab' in the Gentilly Woods neighborhood, where one of his friends used to live. He has reconnected with some of his friends via Facebook and parties, but says he hasn't seen many of them since Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in August 2005.

When the waters recede

A family reflects on life after the storm

By **Marissa Evans**
NABJ Monitor

For New Orleans residents, life is divided between pre-Katrina and post-Katrina.

It is a landmark of time from the disastrous summer of 2005.

Tyler Johns was 8 years old when Hurricane Katrina began its path toward New Orleans. Days before the storm arrived, Tyler and his parents fled the city

for Houston. Few imagined the storm, which was a Category 3 when it made landfall, would be the sixth-most powerful hurricane ever recorded, that it would send water across nearly 80 percent of New Orleans, displace more than one million and take the lives of 1,800 people.

"(The city) was totally different from what it was," Tyler said of his return home.

Eight feet of water filled the Johns family's two-story house in the Gentilly neigh-

borhood, just five miles north of downtown. The wind tore off the roof. Tyler remembers losing his possessions, like track trophies and toys, but not worrying.

"I had to be strong for my mom ... and help keep her motivated," the teen said.

In many ways, Tyler's story embodies New Orleans' efforts to rebound. His story is one of resilience and hope.

In the weeks after Katrina, Tyler's family stayed in Houston and planned their return

to New Orleans. Then, in late September 2005, more disaster with Hurricane Rita. His mother was one of the first in the family to return to the city, to start the complicated process of rebuilding their home.

Meantime, Tyler and his father bounced between Dallas hotels. In one year, Tyler attended five schools. By late 2006, the entire family was reunited in New Orleans.

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GOMOBILE



#NABJSP12
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Shackles: Art or Offensive

Sneaker shackle
glamorizes
slavery

By Corey Walker
NABJ Monitor

It's no secret that the black community is the largest consumer of clothing items. According to a 2009 study by the Experian, a national consumer researcher, black people respond most frequently to the following prompts: "I'm usually amongst the first of my friends to try new clothing styles," "I like to make a unique fashion statement," and "I no longer wear clothes I wore a year ago, because they've gone out of style." That's just one of the reasons I'm happy to see that Adidas won't be selling the Roundhouse Mids, its controversial \$350 sneakers, this fall.

The high-top sneakers have orange shackles at the top "to lock your kicks to your ankles," according to Adidas. The shoe company scrapped its plan to release the Mids after an outcry from critics who were sharp enough to identify the ties to a more hurtful past: slavery.

Some would argue the shoes were merely a fashion statement, but the sneakers drudge up images of slavery and have more symbolic ties to it than the plastic ankle chains. Metaphorically speaking, the shoes are oppressive.

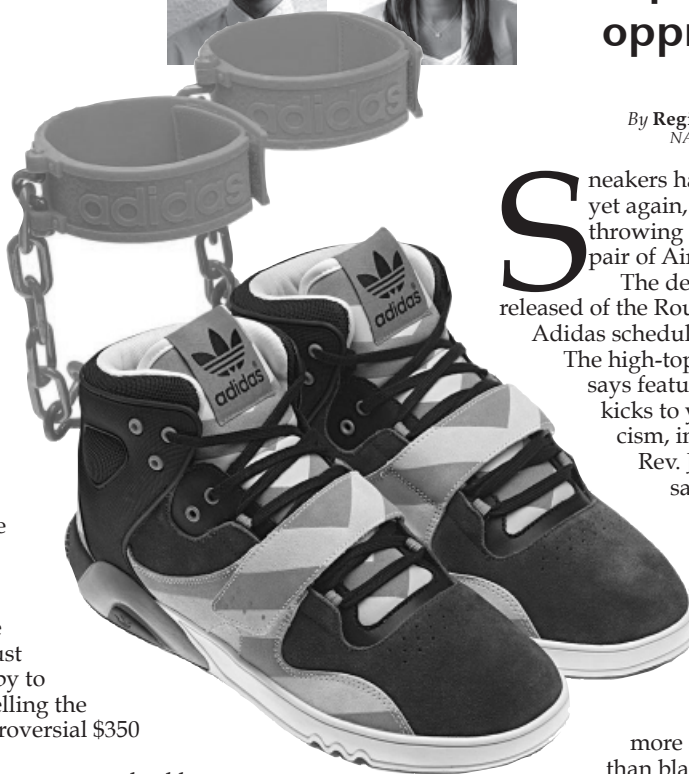
Spending \$350 on shoes is ridiculous. Paying \$350 for shoes with ties to slavery is insane and disrespectful to our ancestors. And the thought that anyone would glamorize and profit by exploiting slavery is disgusting.

In addition to the horrid images of slavery, the Mids are a cruel, symbolic display of the power these large companies exert on the black community.

According to the Pew Research Center, blacks are the second lowest earning racial group in the country. Many of the most expensive and popular brands, including Jordans, Nike Foamposites and Air Force Ones, have marketing campaigns targeting the young black audience. This is a toxic form of economic slavery.

It is unlikely that Jeremy Scott, the creator, designed the Mids with intentions of stirring up such a negative response from the black community. But Adidas, one of the top sneaker companies in the world, dropped the ball when the company didn't tell Scott to try again on the design.

The shoes are hurtful, negative and offensive to the same audience Adidas is trying to attract. If this shoe had been released, and blacks stood in line to buy them we might as well wear real shackles.



FACEBOOK/ADIDAS

sneaker's designer, has created a number of shoes that reflect his creative characteristics and more importantly his freedom of expression.

Some of his past shoe designs include wings and a small, stuffed gorilla. The shackle shoe is simply another one of Scott's wacky designs.

America prides itself on being a country where people can enjoy the freedom of self-expression even if it might not be popular to another group. It's sad to see that Adidas can be influenced by people such as Jackson who aren't even hip enough to realize how iconic the sneaker game really is. It's a design, and if it offends you, don't buy it.

Avid sneaker lovers will withstand rain, snow or hail just to get their hands on popular designs, such as Jordans or the Nike Foamposite. The Roundhouse Mids certainly would have been a shoe for sneaker-heads, especially those familiar with Scott's work. Adidas missed the mark when it yanked the Roundhouse Mids.

And critics like Jackson, who couldn't recognize the design as art, are the ones keeping blacks enslaved.

Shoe design
expressive not
oppressive

By Regina F. Graham
NABJ Monitor

Sneakers have stirred up controversy yet again, and this time people aren't throwing punches over a limited pair of Air Jordans.

The debate started after a photo released of the Roundhouse Mids, a pair of Adidas scheduled to hit stores in August.

The high-top sneaker, which Adidas says features shackles "to lock your kicks to your ankles," incited criticism, including civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., who said the shoe was offensive, insensitive and sparks the image of slavery.

Taking the easy way out, Adidas pulled the shoe earlier this week.

I think it's unfortunate because the "shackle shoes" are more about artistic expression than black oppression, and critics who think otherwise are very out of touch with fashion. Jeremy Scott, the

DID YOU
KNOW

Leeds "Lee" Collins, who played along with Louis Armstrong and eventually replaced Armstrong in King Oliver's band was born in New Orleans on October 17, 1901.

Throughout the course of his career as a jazz trumpeter, Leeds would go on to play in cities such as New Orleans, New York, and Chicago with the Chicago Ramblers and various other jazz groups.

But in the mid 1950s he had to retire due to an illness and died at the age of 58 in 1960. His wife wrote the book "Oh, Didn't He Ramble," that was later published in 1974.

BY THE
NUMBERS

Then and Now:

1983 vs. 2012

NABJ hasn't met in the Big Easy since 1983. What's changed?

1983	2012
 New Orleans 1980 Population	 New Orleans 2010 Population
557,515	343,829
Les Payne served as NABJ president from 1981-1983. In 1983, Mervyn Dymally won the election by 15 votes against Al Gore.	New Orleans native Greg Lee was elected NABJ president in 2011. Fun Fact - In 1983 he was only 9!
STATE	LEADERS:
Governor: Edwin Edwards Mayor of New Orleans: Ernest Morat	Governor: Bobby Jindal Mayor of New Orleans: Mitch Landrieu
Conference Start Date: Thursday	Conference Start Date: Wednesday
*Registered Then: 334	*Registered Now: 2100
The job fair, Saturday's special events and the Gospel Brunch didn't exist in 1983.	More than 45 companies and schools recruit at the NABJ conferences.
Host Hotel: Fairmont	Host Hotel: Hilton
1¢ = per 100,000 people	
Credit: Regina F. Graham, NABJ/MONITOR, a.p.p.r.graham Sources: US Census, gov.louisiana.gov and www.nola.gov	

New Orleans is one of the nation's top cities for conventions and employs a large number of African-Americans in the hospitality industry. This week, nearly 3,100 journalists and media professionals will come to the Crescent City for NABJ's first conference here since 1983. The New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau projects the NABJ conference will generate \$3.6 million for the city. That's a nice boost to a city still healing from the economic devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

CONVENTION
HIGHLIGHTS

THE PARENTS OF TRAYVON MARTIN

respond first to NABJ after hearing news that Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee was fired Wednesday. For the full story visit www.nabjconvention.org

9:30a.m.-11:00a.m.: Newsmaker Plenary: Trayvon Martin: A Crime Story in the Digital Age
Powered By HuffPost/BlackVoices
Location: Grand Ballroom

Online: See more stories, databases, photo galleries and videos



No UNITY Reunion in sight

By Kelcie C. McCrae
NABJ Monitor

A commission of NABJ members is recommending the group of black journalists not rejoin UNITY at this time, citing concerns the coalition has lost its focus.

"UNITY was founded to help journalists of color work together to ensure diversity, primarily by organizing a co-located convention of its members," said Keith Reed, NABJ's UNITY commission chairman, in a letter read to the board of directors. "In the years since, the scope and operations of the organization changed considerably."

UNITY, which NABJ split from last year, has made a couple of changes to its structure in recent months. Following the inclusion of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, UNITY dropped "journalists of color" from its name.

Commission member and past NABJ president Sidmel Estes said she is not happy with the new name, UNITY Journalists.

"The change of its name was the deal breaker," Estes said Wednesday. "They are moving away from its original vision."

Nearly 20 years ago, UNITY held its first convention with four minority journalism organizations: Asian American Journalists Association, Native American Journalists Association, National Association of Hispanic Journalists and NABJ.

The coalition's mission, Estes said, was to make sure there was advocacy for racially diverse newsrooms across the country.

The changes to UNITY do not sit well with NABJ President Greg Lee either. He said UNITY has not shown NABJ, a founding organization, the expected level of respect.

"NABJ proposed three changes to UNITY and we were 0-for-3," Lee said. "This new organization comes in and gets what they want. We built UNITY."

According to a report from the Poynter Institute, NLGJA members in UNITY urged the coalition to change its name to be more inclusive. The members told the organization they might not attend the UNITY 2012 Convention in August if the move to include gay and lesbian journalists wasn't made.

NABJ officials announced the organization's departure from UNITY last year, saying coalition membership was no longer in the best interest of the black journalists organization. At the time, one of the main issues was revenue not being properly divided given NABJ's large membership according to a report in the 2011 Monitor.

Shortly after the decision, Lee created a UNITY commission composed of members who had different views about NABJ's departure.

"We wanted people who were very active in the original UNITY negotiation discussions," Lee said. "We wanted to make sure people who were for it and against [it] were represented."

The commission was charged in October with the task of reviewing the board's decision and exploring if it could be reconciled. The group reviewed three main points: UNITY's mission, governance and financial structure.

Reed said they held about six conference calls to discuss the split and the issues surrounding it.

Herbert Sample was a part of the NABJ review board. As a NABJ member for more than 20 years, he was initially upset about the organization's split from UNITY.

"We had to plan the 2012 convention very quickly," Sample said, referring to NABJ's move to a June convention. "Also on a PR level, we came off looking like the group that wanted all the power because we were the biggest group."

Now, nearly a year after the decision, Sample said he is fine with the recommendation not to rejoin UNITY.



"UNITY is supposed to be journalists of color."

By dropping its name, it de-emphasizes what its mission is."

—Herbert Sample, NABJ Member

"UNITY is supposed to be journalists of color. By dropping its name it de-emphasizes what its mission is," he said.

Reed, who is treasurer of NABJ, said the board will take up the recommendation at its business meeting Saturday at the convention. He thinks board members will agree not to rejoin the coalition.

He said removing "journalists of color" from UNITY's name is not in NABJ's best interest, but he has no problem with NLGJA being added.

Reed said he took issue with the inclusion

of NLGJA's white male members because they don't need the same level of advocacy as minority journalists.

"We have white men in NABJ and I have no issue with that," Reed said. "But if NABJ is set up to advocate for African-American journalists and then removes 'black' from its name, it changes the mission. And that's what essentially UNITY has done. UNITY has every right to do that, but NABJ doesn't have to be a part of it."

Another past president of NABJ, Will Sutton, said he never wanted to see NABJ move away from UNITY.

"But I understand why they did," Sutton co-founder of UNITY said, reiterating that the collaborative effort has lost its intended focus.

UNITY President Joanna Hernandez said the group's purpose hasn't changed.

"We still have the mission to promote diversity in newsrooms," she said. "All we've done is expanded it."

The recommendation for NABJ not to rejoin UNITY comes as a disappointment to Hernandez, who said she'd hoped the group would return to the coalition. UNITY also created its own commission to handle negotiations between it and NABJ.

John Yearwood, an NABJ member, leads UNITY's commission and said he's disappointed.

"NABJ will always be my home, but it's important for them to realize that as the world changes, so does the future of our organization," Yearwood said.

He said they were ready to hold conversations with NABJ, but those never came.

Lee said it was not NABJ's intent to collaborate with UNITY's commission, but rather to do what was in the best interest of NABJ.

"UNITY now may not be the best or strongest organization," Yearwood said. "But we all need to be at the table."

Biden talks election, economy

By Lance Dixon and Justin Madden
NABJ Monitor

Vice President Joe Biden addressed the 37th annual NABJ Convention on Wednesday, kicking off Day One of the five-day conference.

Biden greeted more than 2,500 media professionals, journalists and convention attendees in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

TJ Holmes, host of Black Entertainment Television's "Don't Sleep," announced President Barack Obama was unable to attend, joking the second choice was Michelle Obama over Biden. The lighthearted rapport continued as Biden spoke.

"Just be sure of two things, TJ, microphones are always hot, and in Washington, D.C., a gaffe is when you tell the truth, so be careful," Biden said.

The tone quickly shifted as Biden began to discuss the problems the Obama administration inherited as well as highlighting some of the administration's accomplishments. The major focus of Biden's address centered

on economic, social and foreign policies. He also stressed the value of the middle class.

"The middle class in America is a way of life," Biden said. "It's a value set. It's about owning your house, not renting it."

Some in the standing-room only audience shared Biden's sentiment on the economic status of the country and its importance moving forward.

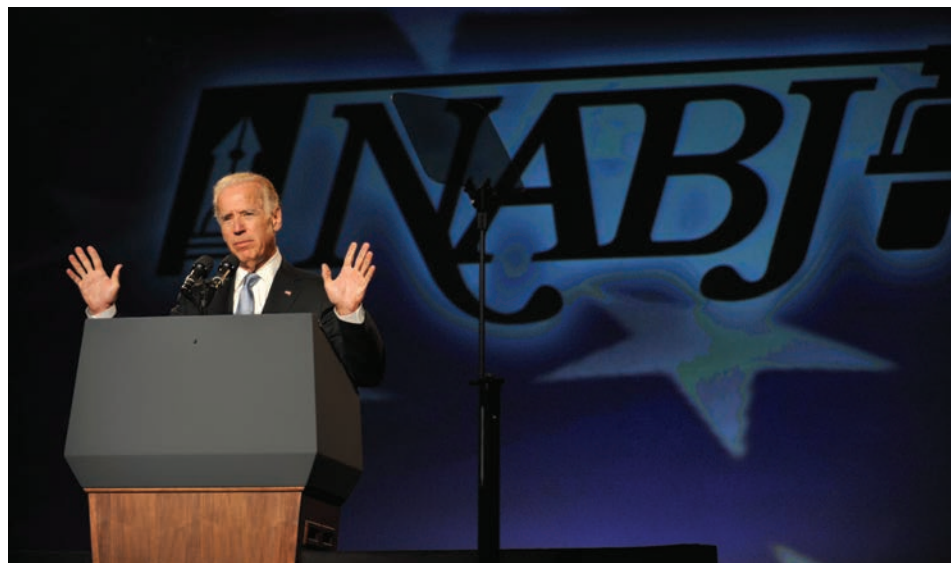
"I think that the economy is what he really needed to drive home," said Porscha Coleman, owner and founder of RiZen Media. "The economy is what's going to drive the polls this year."

Biden concluded his speech by emphasizing why he believes he and Obama will win.

"We have the strongest candidate, the Republicans aren't hiding their balls, they're saying what they believe, and it comes down to a choice, not a referendum," Biden said.

Comparing Obama and former Gov. Mitt Romney, Biden roused the crowd into applause with a quote from former Boston Mayor Kevin White.

"Folks look, don't compare me to the almighty. Compare me to the alternative," Biden said.



KENNETH L. HAWKINS | NABJ MONITOR

Vice President Joe Biden addresses NABJ members in New Orleans on Wednesday. He ended his address, quoting former Boston Mayor Kevin White, "Don't compare me to the Almighty, compare me to the alternative."

The Times-Picayune



Welcome to
New Orleans
37th annual
NABJ convention
and career fair





New chief, name for Baptists

By Marissa Evans
NABJ Monitor

Rev. Fred Luter Jr. was overcome with emotion behind the podium. He pulled out a white handkerchief and wiped tears from his face as he was elected as the first black president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"To God be the glory for the great things He has done," Luter said.

Luter was elected this week at its annual convention in New Orleans. His induction came 17 years after the organization publicly apologized for slavery and racism.

"If we stop appointing people of color to leadership roles after my term is over, then we fail," Luter said. "I'm going to do all that I can to make sure it's not a one-and-done deal. I'm Exhibit A that our doors are open to everyone."

Luter is pastor at the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. Many accredited him to rebuilding the church's membership after Hurricane Katrina to a 5,000-member congregation. At a post-election press conference, Luter said he wants to boost diversity within the organization, but the change cannot end with him.

The religious organization made other history Wednesday. The group voted to adopt an alternative name, the Great Commission Baptists. The vote was heavily debated, and the decision was made with 2,546 votes in favor to 2,232 votes not in favor, according to the Baptist Press.

"This is mostly for the churches on a mission who are planning to build churches in



KENNETH L. HAWKINS JR. | NABJ MONITOR

President-elect Fred Luter Jr. (left) of the Southern Baptist Convention prays with outgoing president Bryant Wright on Tuesday during the group's annual meeting at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

parts of the country where there is a misunderstanding of our history and what the SBC is," said Paul Jimenez, a pastor from South Carolina who voted in favor of the change.

Dr. Steve Lemke, provost and professor of philosophy for the New Orleans Baptist

Theological Seminary, said Luter's election is "an incredible symbol of diversity" and something that was a long time coming.

"It's an exciting day for Southern Baptist (Convention) to look like our country," Lemke said.

"I'm Exhibit A that our doors are open to everyone."

Lemke said that for diversity to increase in the group there has to be more dialogue, listening and understanding about cultural differences. "(Luter) is going to really help be sensitive to other cultures and break down barriers on the Anglo and African American side," Lemke said. "This was something everyone wanted to do and feels good about."

Membership of the group decreased to 1 million this year, contributing to an ongoing five-year membership decline, according to LifeWay Christian Resources' Annual Church Profile.

Steve Beckham, the second vice president for the African American Fellowship, a committee within the group dedicated to diversity, said continuous recruitment is going to be vital for the organization's future.

"Diversity in the (GCB) in general needs to mirror the trends of what we see in society," said Beckham, a pastor in Baton Rouge. "As far as reaching a certain percentage, it's not the most important thing."

Odochi Ibe of NABJ Monitor contributed to this article.

Can you name the company?

We pledged 500 computers to the One Economy "We Are Connected" Campaign to support digital literacy training in underserved communities.

We donated \$250,000 in support of the hunger-relief efforts of 11 food banks across the nation.

We awarded \$60,000 in scholarships to our customers, their children and children of our coworkers.

We supported eight Army garrisons with \$200,000 worth of furniture, electronics, computers and appliances.

And now in New Orleans...

We are pleased to provide computers, furnishings, and electronics in support of the NABJ Convention.



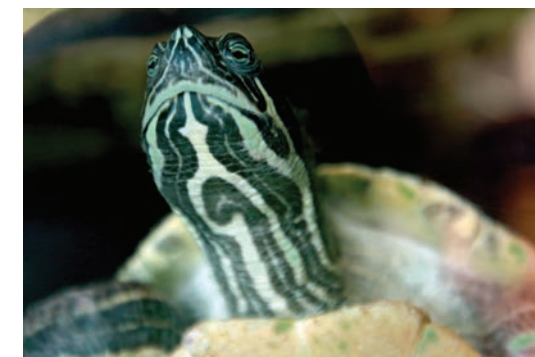
'Sea' beyond the concrete jungle

*Aquarium brings exotic thrills
to downtown New Orleans*

photography by
BEATRICE KATCHER
NABJ Monitor



(Above) Visitors view the Gulf of Mexico exhibit at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans. It is the aquarium's largest exhibit, holding 400,000 gallons of water and containing stingrays, sharks and sea turtles.



(Top) Jayci Mercadel, 9, of Laurel, Md., feeds a parakeet at the Parakeet Pointe exhibit, which features more than 700 parakeets at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans. (Above) A red-eared slider turtle swims in its tank in the Amazon Rain Forest exhibit. (Above right) An anaconda rests in water at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas. Tickets to the aquarium, located downtown, range between \$14 and \$21. (Right) Mark Crittenden, 59, of Rancho Cordova, Calif., tours the Amazon Rain Forest exhibit featuring a bird's eye view of the rainforest and animals, including exotic species of fish.



The Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in downtown New Orleans is a place where locals and city visitors can explore the aquatic environments of North and South America. The aquarium is a part of the Audubon Nature Institute and is home to 10,000 animals representing 400 species.

Each year, more than 3 million people visit the Audubon Nature Institute's attractions. Attractions include the Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium, Entergy IMAX® Theatre, Audubon Zoo, and Audubon Park.

The Gulf of Mexico exhibit is the museum's largest and features an offshore oil rig replica. It holds 400,000 gallons of man-made saltwater and is 17 feet deep. It contains stingrays, sharks and sea turtles – including an endangered green sea turtle named King Mydas.

The Audubon Aquarium also offers hands-on experiences like Parakeet Pointe, a place where guests can walk among more than 700 parakeets. Guests can also feed the birds if they purchase seed sticks for \$1.

Online: See video and multimedia slideshow.

Congratulations to these journalists who have been selected as Knight Fellows in the Class of 2012-13 at Stanford.



Barbara Allen
producer/engineer
WTTW-TV PBS
Chicago, Ill



Latoya Peterson
editor and owner
Racialicious.com
Washington, D.C.



Kevin Weston
new media
entrepreneur
Oakland, CA

Knight Fellows spend a year leveraging the resources of Stanford University and Silicon Valley to broaden their skills as well as perspectives while developing their own proposal to benefit journalism and journalists.



Want to know more about the Knight Fellowships focus on innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership?

Director Jim Bettinger will be available at the NABJ conference and a fellowships panel on Saturday, **June 23**, from **11:45** a.m. to **1:00** p.m. Email him at jbettinger@stanford.edu.

John S. Knight Fellowships
Building 120, Room 422
Stanford, CA 94305-2050
email: info@kf.stanford.edu

Who We're Looking For



We want journalists and journalism innovators who have already accomplished a lot and are ambitious to do more. Ideally, candidates will have at least seven years of professional experience.

What Fellows Get



Fellows receive a stipend of \$65,000, plus Stanford tuition and supplements for moving expenses, health insurance, books, housing and child care. All program activities and most classes are open to spouses and partners of Fellows.

How To Apply



The first step is to review the eligibility and selection criteria for U.S. or international candidates. If you're not certain which category you should apply in, send us an email with your resume to info@kf.stanford.edu. See <http://knight.stanford.edu/application>.

INNOVATION

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

LEADERSHIP



Food, fun, history in Big Easy

By Lance Dixon
NABJ Monitor

Welcome to New Orleans, home of the 37th annual NABJ Convention and Career Fair. This is the first convention in the Crescent City since 1983, and it gathers the sharpest minds in journalism, public relations and academia.

Take time to enjoy New Orleans as a cultural hub -- it's the birthplace of jazz and home to beautiful mansions that can be seen via the historic St. Charles Streetcar. Enjoy traditional po'boys and crawfish boils, but don't eat too much!

Work off the local delicacies by participating in the conference's annual 5K Walk/Run or the Celebrity Golf Tournament at Lakewood Golf Club -- both are scheduled for Saturday.

Here are some key things to see and do in New Orleans:

1 JACKSON SQUARE 504-658-3200 JACKSON-SQUARE.COM

The historic square is located in the French Quarter, along the Mississippi River. It's lined with landmarks, shops, restaurants, cafes, and artists selling new pieces. One central landmark is the St. Louis Cathedral. It's also worth visiting major parts of the Louisiana State Museum, including The Cabildo, Presbytere and the 1850 House. Another notable venue is the Moonwalk/Washington Artillery Park -- a tribute to Louisiana's National Guard. At the south-east end of the square, across the street, is Café du Monde -- home to the popular beignets. If you can't decide on one single thing to do, get down to Jackson Square.

2 LE BON TEMPS ROULE BAR & SANDWICH 4801 MAGAZINE ST. 504-895-8117

Roughly translating to "the good times roll," this corner bar/restaurant is a great place to take a load off for cheap prices. It's in the city's Uptown neighborhood and features typical bar fare with a New Orleans spin. Le Bon Temps Roule features live music with different local bands performing on Friday evenings, when the bar serves free oysters. It's a welcomed return to an All-American watering hole with New Orleans flavor. Keep in mind: Smoking is allowed inside, and Friday nights are busy.

3 LIL DIZZY'S CAFÉ 1500 ESPLANADE AVE. 504-569-8997 610 POYDRAS ST. 504-212- 5656

A great spot for brunch or dinner, this soul food restaurant has two locations: New Orleans' Treme neighborhood, which is in walking distance to Louis Armstrong Park and the Congo Square. The other location is in the Warehouse District, near the Hilton. Lil Dizzy's features a weekday lunch buffet with entrees like trout baquet, strip steak

and shrimp, and catfish platters. Named after jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie and rich in the history of restaurant owner Wayne Baquet's family, it's a great place to get a feel for why food is a central part of New Orleans' history and society. The Poydras Street location is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner and features a full bar. The Esplanade Avenue location, the more historic of the two, is open Monday - Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Poydras Street location is open Monday - Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 5-9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 5-9 p.m.

4 MULATE'S, THE ORIGINAL CAJUN RESTAURANT 201 JULIA ST. 504-522-1492 • MULATES.COM

Located within a five-minute walk from the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, this restaurant is a great fusion of local flavor through food, music and dance. Mulate's

features a menu full of multiple seafood, meat and vegetable dishes. Standout appetizers include shrimp remoulade, Cajun calamari and Zydeco meat pies. Several kinds of gumbo, corn and shrimp bisque, crawfish etoufee and grilled alligator pasta are a part of the varied entree options. Mulate's also features a full bar with specialty drinks like the Zydeco Tornado and the New Orleans Mojito. Don't leave without trying the homemade bread pudding, which the restaurant swears is "the best in Louisiana." Mulate's is open Sunday - Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

5 NEW ORLEANS AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM 1418 GOVERNOR NICHOLLS ST. 504-566-1136 • NOAAM.ORG

The museum is one of the New Orleans' hidden gems -- one of the few institutions devoted solely to the preservation of

the city's black history and culture. The museum is located in Treme Villa, an 1820s Creole home that takes its name from the Treme neighborhood, believed to be one of the country's oldest black communities. One exhibit, "Drapetomania: A Disease Called Freedom," is based on an 1850s pseudoscience that supposedly explained why black slaves fled captivity. The villa is surrounded by lush gardens and a gazebo. It's worth walking around the Treme neighborhood, and nearby Faubourg-Marigny, for a glimpse of the Creole cottages. The museum is open Wednesday - Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is about a 10-minute cab ride from the convention hotel. You can also take the Canal Streetcar to the 91 bus toward the Cemeteries, exiting at Esplanade Avenue and North Villere Street.

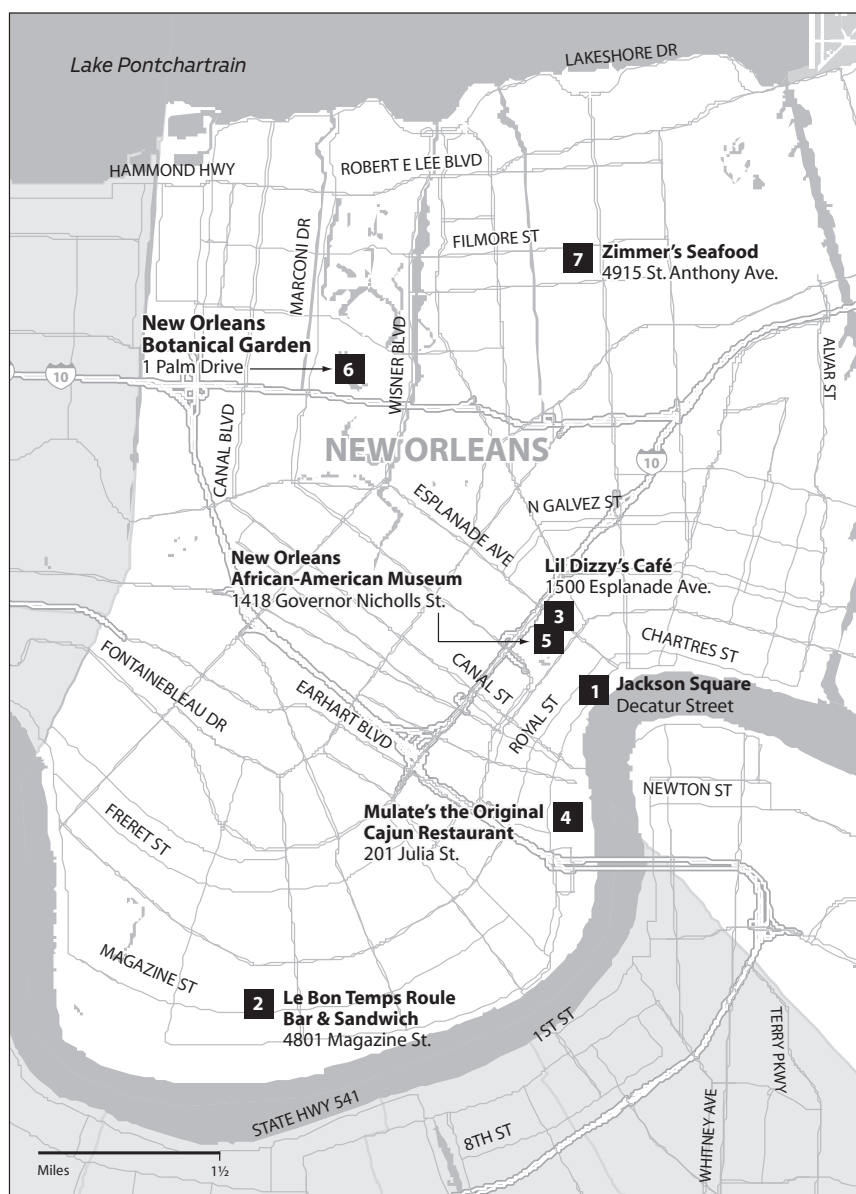
6 NEW ORLEANS BOTANICAL GARDEN 1 PALM DR. 504-483-9386 GARDEN.NEWORLEANS CITY PARK.COM

Housed in New Orleans City Park, the Botanical Garden dates back to the 1930s when it was known as the City Park Rose Garden. Since taking its current name in the early 1980s, it has been a popular stop for tourists and locals alike. The Botanical Garden includes a butterfly walk and the Conservatory of the Two Sisters, which features fossil displays. The Botanical Garden has an international collection of more than 2,000 varieties of plants. It will host a special concert by jazz musician Banu Gibson on Thursday evening from 5-8 p.m. The venue is open Tuesday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can be reached by the Canal streetcar toward City Park and Museum of Art or by taxi.

7 ZIMMER'S SEAFOOD 4915 ST. ANTHONY AVE. 504-282-7150

Located near Dillard University, Zimmer's Seafood has for decades drawn people with its great po'boys -- super-sized sandwiches, usually on French bread, stuffed with shrimp, oysters or roast beef topped with lettuce, tomatoes and pickles. The restaurant also serves other New Orleans staples like boiled crabs, crawfish, turkey necks and sausage. If you want healthier options, there's plenty of fruits and vegetables. For dessert, try the white chocolate bread pudding or pistachio cake. Be sure to call ahead of time for updates on seasonal and general pricing information. Zimmer's is about a 15-20 minute cab ride from the convention hotel. Zimmer's is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (kitchen closes at 5 p.m.) and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Friday (kitchen closes at 6 p.m.).

Online: See map of local restaurants.



SOURCE: ESRI, TeleAtlas

NABJ Monitor



When the waters recede

CONTINUED FROM **KATRINA**, PAGE 1

He remembers Canal Street, the city's main corridor, in disarray with closed shops and schools. Many people relied on the military for food and security. Schools merged, creating tension between students from different neighborhoods.

"Even after the hurricane, people couldn't really come together," Tyler said.

Tyler said he remembers taking art classes in school before the hurricane. He had always loved the arts and film but said art classes seem to be a special privilege at schools these days. For Tyler, the lack of access to the arts is an issue.

"A lot of creative people could do really well — but they're not able to shine because they don't have the right resources or their family situations don't allow them to do so," Tyler said.

This changed for Tyler when he met Brandan Odums, the founder of New Orleans-based community group 2-Cent. Johns began volunteering, helping backstage at 2-Cent's festivals and producing its videos.

Odums started 2-Cent just months before Katrina with two key goals: giving young people a voice, and finding a creative way to look at issues facing the city's recovery.

"New Orleans has strong willpower, I think we can come back."

"It snowballed into something larger than what we thought it would be," Odums said.

The post-Katrina life of the organization includes summer camps and partnerships with local government officials and the New Orleans Hornets to find new solutions to problems afflicting the city's youth. It hosts the Listen Literacy and Arts Festival, where nearly 10,000 books are given to students. This weekend, 2-Cent will partner with NABJ and the New Orleans Public Library to host a community block party, where books will be given to teenagers. One of 2-Cent's next big projects is the Save Our Sons program, which focuses on teenaged black males like Tyler Johns.

Six years after Katrina, Tyler and his family are getting back on their feet. The family's house is nearly finished — just awaiting a front door. Working with 2-Cent has positioned Johns to become a peer counselor at his school. He'll soon begin teaching art classes for kids at the local Boys and Girls Club. This summer, he is studying video production at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts high school. In the future, he hopes to attend film school in California or New York. Johns said he's optimistic about the city's recovery, but believes more job training programs and safe parks are needed for its youth.

"New Orleans has a strong willpower," he said. "I think we can come back."



PHOTOS BY BRENT LEWIS/NABJMONITOR



(Top) Tyler, 15, jokes with his mother, Janelle Delan, 34, inside of their home Tuesday. The home's interior had to be completely redone after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

(Far left) Johns holds a framed portrait of his New Orleans home that was damaged by Katrina.

(Above right) A 2006 drawing of Tyler that was taken at Ohio's Cedar Point amusement park hangs on his bedroom wall. "I grabbed the family photo albums," Delan said. "I felt that it might get that bad."

(Left) Tyler plays with his dog an adopted Siberian Husky, Sky, in his New Orleans home, which was restored after being damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.



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