

**UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism Dean Neil Henry Visits Howard University.**

During a cross-country trip to the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) convention, Berkeley J-School Dean Neil Henry made a special trip to Howard University. On the way, he attended an all-star luncheon that brought together J-School alumni and Washington Post reporters Jackie Spinner, Chris Jenkins, and Theola Labbe; Howard/J-school Alumnus and America's Most Wanted producer Josef Sawyer; Washington Post Editorial Writer Robert Asher, HU School of Communications Dean Janette Dates, HU journalism professor Barbara Hines and one very lucky HU student. The amount of talent, influence, and journalistic wisdom at the table was inspiring and provided the perfect segue into a session about the future of Journalism.

Dean Henry, Sawyer, and Johnson met with about 25 students in Asher's copyediting class in the School of Communications. The class was comprised of mostly juniors still trying to sift through post-graduation options but interested in journalism and where the industry is heading.

During an inspiring speech about the truisms that he impresses upon j-school students, Dean Henry said to the students "Don't assume. There are no stupid questions. Allow yourself to be surprised." Students sat entranced as they listened to stories from his early years as a reporter for the Washington Post and the possible adventures that await them should they choose to become journalists.

The discussion eventually turned to the fact that Howard's newspaper staffers are facing the same problems as the entire industry. The campus daily, The Hilltop, recently stopped printing and will only be available online for the rest of the year. A small group stayed after the formal session to ask more questions about the multimedia instruction offered at Berkeley and together they brainstormed ways for students studying various mediums to join forces and create an interactive web site to help the student body transition away from the paper.

When the floor opened for questions many asked about access that Berkeley's student journalists have compared to larger organizations, the value of pursuing graduate studies in journalism, and the significance of Oakland Post reporter Chauncey Bailey's murder. Sawyer and Johnson shared examples of work produced at the J-School, such as exclusive interviews with the families of murder victims, magazine pieces from the Thailand-Burma border, and documentaries from Iraq. They also touched on internships and gave examples of the full range of opportunities available to help students tailor their studies to prepare them to reach their individual goals.

This event was just one example of the incredible energy the J-School puts into creating opportunities for prospective students to learn about the program. Encouraging current students to candidly participate in the schools outreach and fostering relationships with historically black universities, such as Howard and Clark Atlanta, demonstrates the

schools commitment to diversity and maintaining its position as the top graduate journalism school in the country.

Brittney Johnson is a graduate of Howard University and a first-year television student at the J-School. She has co-anchored and narrated for the television programs CNS news show, and produced pieces on homelessness, education, and violence in the Bay Area.

Brittney aspires to be general assignment or health reporter at a local news station or news network. This summer she will be interning as a health reporter for The Washington Post.