

THE MASS CONNECTION



**JMC opens
\$1.2 million
broadcasting
facility**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Students Earn Top University Honors
JMC Awards Show: The Best of the Best
Justice Dilworth-Media Entrepreneur
Exploring the Global Village

Majors:

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications offers the following areas of concentration leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communications:

Online Journalism
Audio & Video Production
Public Relations & Advertising

Organizations & Activities

Mass communications majors may join the Mass Communications Student Association, the Savannah State University Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, and the SSU Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America. Students may also work on the staffs of the *Tiger's Roar* newspaper, *Tiger's Roar* online edition, WSSU-TV, Channel 96, or the *Estuary*, the university's literary magazine. Students may also volunteer at the university's 6000-watt educational radio station, WHCJ-FM 90.3, and WSSU-FM 104.1. The university has more than 60 student organizations that are available for extra-curricular activities and opportunities, including sororities and fraternities.

The department also sponsors the annual Southern Regional Press Institute, a two-day mass media conference that provides training and career preparation for future media professionals.

Department of Mass Communications

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of JMC's mission is to develop productive students in a global society, prepared for careers in mass communications, and to increase cultural diversity in professional media. The department fosters engaged learning and professional growth through high quality instruction, scholarship, research, service, and prepares students to perform at high levels of excellence in mass media professions and post graduate studies in the 21st century.

The department intends for students to:

- Understand diversity in a domestic society.
- Understand diversity in a global society.
- Understand the historical, theoretical, and applied aspects of their chosen mass media concentration.
- Acquire technical and applied mastery in one or more of the department's areas of concentration- online journalism, audio/video production, and public relations & advertising.
- Internalize the university's and department's core curriculum to provide them with a well-rounded education based on the liberal arts with electives and minors outside their mass communications majors.
- Assist students in developing a broad interdisciplinary liberal arts perspective inclusive of literature, art, film, philosophy, African American studies, music, and history.
- Respect and practice freedom of expression, fairness, truth, and ethical standards of professional media.
- Understand and implement technologies associated with multi-platform media in a converged media educational environment to include all forms of social media applications as they apply to professional media.

Accreditation

In addition to the University of Georgia, Savannah State University's Department of Journalism and Mass Communications is the only program in the State of Georgia that is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC). The department has been accredited since 2007, and was reaccredited in 2013.

More at
www.savannahstate.edu

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On the Cover
The new studio in Whiting Hall.
Cover photo by Terry Manning

Photography:
Jason Miccolo Johnson, Visiting Instructor
Terry Manning, Technology Coordinator

What a Year for JMC

Department recovers after loss of home in Kennedy Fine Arts; Looking forward to new space in Whiting Hall

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness ... it was the season of light.”

■ ***Charles Dickens***



Wanda Lloyd, chair, department of JMC.

Wow, what a year for JMC. Ours was a year much like the author, Dickens, described in “A Tale of Two Cities,” a novel published in 1859, as a season of good times and a season of despair.

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications (now branded as JMC) can count many outstanding accomplishments during the 2015-2016 academic year – even as we lost our home, the John F. Kennedy Fine Arts Building after a fire.

Here’s what happened.

The fire alarm in the Kennedy Building sounded at approximately 1 a.m. on Oct. 14, 2015. A campus security officer responded, and a short time later, the Southside Fire Department arrived and contained the blaze.

Shortly after 3:00 a.m. on the same day, I woke up and instinctively rolled over in bed and checked my phone for messages. An alarming text message from Interim Provost Dr. Kimberly Holmes read something like this: “Professor Lloyd, there was a fire in Kennedy this morning and you will need to reschedule all classes for today and possibly the for rest of this week to other buildings.”

The department’s social media hashtag **#OMGJMC!** was never more appropriate than on that morning.

This was the worst of times. Yet, through many difficult days and weeks, the department has settled in temporary space on campus awaiting a move to more permanent space. By the fall 2016 semester, JMC will occupy four laboratory classrooms in Whiting Hall on campus. And a few months later, the JMC offices for faculty and staff will also relocate to Whiting in renovated spaces on the second floor.

Again, those were the worst of times.

There is plenty of good news to report – great news, in fact.

Thanks to Federal Title III funding, JMC majors will be able to attend classes in a new TV studio with state-of-the-art technology that rivals investments in professional television stations. The goal is to give Savannah State students a chance to compete with students who are ready to step into professional roles and show they understand how to do the job in the studio.

The department has also made a sizeable investment in field equipment so that students can work on projects with all of the tools they need for producing videos. This should help students in all concentrations – audio and video, public relations and advertising and online journalism -- produce high-quality multimedia portfolios. In the department, the faculty and staff stress the industry's requirement for MMJs – multimedia journalists. Students who earn a degree in mass communications at Savannah State should be ready for this multimedia environment.

This edition of *The Mass Connection* has stories about other JMC accomplishments:

- During the 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI), the SRPI Hall of Fame was launched with the induction of 11 great men and women who have been instrumental in the Institute's founding and success over the years.
- A group of staff and faculty members who formed the Golden Tigers Film Society produced a growing SSU Indie Film Fest. The event grew from 11 films accepted for viewing in 2015 to 26 films accepted in 2016.
- The second annual JMC Awards Show, an opportunity for students to gain skills for planning and executing a major event, refocused award categories exclusively on academic topics. Also, the Chair's Award used funds from a JMC account and the Savannah Advertising Club for scholarship awards.
- Several amazingly successful JMC alumni are featured in this issue. They are using skills learned at Savannah State to become highly accomplished in their communications careers.
- SSU junior Richard Walls, a mass communications major, and one of the university's top-performing students, was asked to be one of the featured speakers for the most

recent Honors Convocation. He shares a copy of his speech in this edition of the *The Mass Connection*.

- The third annual SSU Media High hosted 15 high school students who learned how to produce a daily digital news site covering events on campus and in the community. The June 2016 program also included four SSU JMC student assistants, who worked with professional journalists in the program.
- Finally, we are proud to chronicle some of the great research, presentations and service work completed by JMC faculty. Also, some of our staff members are going back to school to improve their own skills to position them to better serve students and the university.

In the past year, new staff members joined the team:

Jason Miccolo Johnson, an award-winning photographer who led two JMC majors to the annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend in Washington, D.C., in September 2015, is teaching a variety of photo classes. The two students had the opportunity to cover policy workshops and photographically shoot President Barak Obama while in Washington.

Terry Manning, a long-time newspaper reporter, photographer and multimedia editor, joined JMC as technology coordinator. Manning is working with students to be sure they have the cameras and equipment needed for their class projects, and that they are responsible stewards of the equipment.

After so much turmoil in the past year, just like in Charles Dickens' novel, JMC is in "the spring of hope." Good things will continue to happen for us. After a rough past year, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications is focused on a new "season of light."

JMC MAJORS EARN

Christopher Boggs is awarded the President's Second Mile Award



SSU President Dr. Cheryl Davenport Dozier presents the Second Mile Award to JMC major Christopher Boggs during the May 2016 commencement ceremony in the T. A. Wright Stadium on campus.

Christopher Boggs Jr., didn't know until his name was called at the May 2016 commencement ceremony that he had been selected to receive one of the university's highest honors awarded to students — the President's Second Mile Award.

"I was shocked and amazed that I was chosen," Boggs said. "I felt blessed and honored to receive the award."

The Second Mile Award honors a graduating senior who has exhibited strong moral values and character, outstanding campus leadership and stellar service to both the university and the community. The award is presented annually during commencement exercises.

He shared the spotlight with Anitra Bosley, a biology major, who was also a recipient of the award at the 188th commencement.

A native of Claxton, GA, Boggs majored in mass communications with a concentration in audio and video production and minored in voice performance. He earned honors during his years at SSU and was a member of the SSU Chapter of the Collegiate 100, the National Society of Leadership and Success, the Choral Music Society-SSU Concert Choir, served as a Tiger Ambassador and volunteered with America's Second Harvest Food Bank.

Boggs also worked as a promotions assistant and

promotions intern at Cumulus Broadcasting in Savannah and as a community assistant in the office of SSU's Housing and Residence Life.

Prior to enrolling at Savannah State, Boggs attended East Georgia College in Swainsboro, and later Ogeechee Technical College, where he earned an associate degree in business.

"I was one of those students who just wasn't focused," Boggs said. "So I sat out a year and a half, worked and then returned to school.

"There was just something about SSU that drew me in," said Boggs, who has a wide, beaming smile and an infectious laugh.

"I came to SSU in 2012 and got a second chance," he added. "Lots of people don't get a second chance."

Boggs said he lives by the motto: "If I can help someone as I pass along the way, then my living will not be in vain."

He has secured a job in Massachusetts to work as a sales and business development representative for Oracle America, Inc.

Understanding his role as an alum of the university, Boggs said, "I want to come back and do all that I can do for SSU."

TOP UNIVERSITY HONORS

Richard Walls selected to deliver 2016 Honors Convocation Address



SERIOUSLY
IMPRESSIVE

Photo by Jason Miccolo Johnson

Richard Walls addresses audience during Honors Day Convocation.

Richard Walls, who grew up in Springfield, Ga., is a mass communications junior with a concentration in online journalism. Walls maintains a 4.0 GPA and plans to become a technical writer, pursue a graduate degree in professional communications, and a Ph.D. He is a member of Savannah State's Golden Key Honor Society and is a candidate to be inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success. In 2015, he was the recipient of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications Chair's Award, an honor bestowed upon students who maintain high GPAs and give service to the department or student media. Walls is a member of the SSU student chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists and is a writer for the *Tiger's Roar* student newspaper. In addition, he is a site coordinator for Upward Bound, an after-school program for students in grades 9-12, where he is responsible for providing mentoring

and academic reinforcement through various subject areas. A Gold Medal recipient, the JMC student was selected to speak at the University's Honors Convocation, representing the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. **Below is the speech that Walls delivered at the 2016 Honors Convocation, which was held March 24 in Tiger Arena.**

During my freshman year at Savannah State, I began to wonder how I could adjust to life on a college campus. At first the whole idea seemed to be a bit intimidating. I wondered if I was ready to be a college student.

More importantly, I wondered if I was ready to become an adult. I realized that the transition from high school to college would involve more than just age and maturity.

Soon, I began looking at the behavior of others and started thinking about what really separates

an adult from a child besides the expected maturity level.

After becoming more comfortable, I stopped looking around for answers and began to realize the mistake that I was making. I expected other people to show me what being an adult was really like. I realized that I could no longer only rely on others for inspiration and that I had to find this inspiration within myself.

I always thought that being an adult was much different from being a kid. I thought that there would be a huge process, or maybe some magical moment where it all clicks.

However, I know now that a person is ready to be an adult whenever they decide they are ready to be different. Being different may have many meanings.

It could mean not being afraid to challenge what is viewed as being normal, such as studying on the

(Continued from page 6)

weekends when you could be out with friends. It could mean taking a chance or simply asking the question “why” when you are told to do something or be like someone else.

Being different will allow you to create your own path, instead of following a path that is familiar to family and friends who may not share your same goals. It is important to not be afraid to walk alone. This could mean eliminating those people from your life who always casts doubt on your abilities or downplays your potential. You must remain confident in whatever interests you want to pursue.

Everyone develops talents and interests that make them unique. I have always enjoyed reading as a hobby. It has always been fun for me to read books that are challenging and that make me think.

Some may find this strange or unusual for a 21-year-old, but I have come to realize that this helps make me who I am. This has helped me understand that becoming comfortable with my own different talents and interests can allow me to begin creating my own unique course to success.

Instead of embracing their own uniqueness, many people may feel pressured to be like someone else. This pressure could come from friends and family members who may not be supportive of their choices.

It could also come from other students who may share similar interests, but not similar goals. Avoiding the urge to conform to other’s expectations will make it possible to become the kind of



Richard Walls.

person that you know you were meant to be.

I am now aware that this outcome can be largely determined by the way you handle your experiences while in college.

“Everyone develops talents and interests that make them unique.”

As I quickly approach my senior year, I have learned that is important to treat every day like an exam. Every student has encountered the difficulties of preparing for an important exam.

This often involves sacrificing time and focusing efforts on getting the best grade possible. The same level of focus can be applied to life.

Any day should be treated as an exam. Every day must be treated as an opportunity to grow beyond any possible boundaries or troubling circumstances.

Every day is a chance to become a better student or a better person. However, the ultimate grade of either passing or failing should be based on what you want your destiny to be. Along the way towards reaching this destiny, you may hear people ask you questions like why you will succeed or why your life will be any better than theirs. These questions should not bother you because you should know that you are different. It is important to remember that by being different, you are not being harmful or negative. You are showing that you are strong enough to be yourself.

Things are **POPPIN'** in JMC

They are activities that are gaining popularity on university campuses across the nation.

They can be held on weekends, such as those that are offered by Stanford University, or they can be one-day only events, like the ones that are held in JMC.

They are pop-up classes, hands-on sessions that strengthen students' skills by providing them with additional instruction in mass communications and other professional development areas.

JMC professors and staff instruct the classes, which are not-for-credit.

"We offered the first pop-up class in the spring 2015 semester, said JMC Chair Wanda Lloyd. "It was a class in business etiquette and interview skills, offered primarily for JMC juniors and seniors.

"Since that first pop-up class, JMC faculty and staff members have suggested and planned other pop-up class opportunities for students," Lloyd said.

In September 2015, Professors Kai Walker and Tracy Haynes, along with Visiting Instructor Jason Miccolo Johnson, a nationally recognized photojournalist, offered a session entitled, "Audio, Video and Photography for Beginners." Students who elected to participate in the mini-course -- primarily mass communications and business majors and minors -- were taught basic visual content.

"The concept of pop-up classes is a great opportunity to reach across other areas of the campus to offer future pop-up classes with students in other majors," Lloyd added. "The JMC faculty and staff will continue to create these opportunities."



Professor Kai Walker talks with a student following session.



Visiting Instructor Jason Miccolo Johnson (r) gives pointers.



Professor Tracy Haynes discusses video with student.

JMC opens \$1.2 million broadcasting facility



Will Martin remembers the first time he walked into Savannah State University's new mass communications studio in the John F. Kennedy Fine Arts Building.

The 20-year-old junior could hardly contain his excitement. His class was the first Mass

Communications classes to take courses in the new broadcasting studio and production room.

"We were blown away," said Martin, who graduated in 2004. "We had a three-camera set-up, and everything was state-of-the-art.

"Toni Bell, Chris Corinthian, Rashiem Wright and I immediately began putting together television shows," he said. "As a student, I anchored Tiger Eye News.

"During the renovation, we were taking classes in Wilcox-Wiley gym and Professor Reginald Franklin was using marked desks as substitutes for cameras to teach the class," Martin added.

Martin, now the department's program director for Tiger's Roar TV, is hoping current and future JMC students will experience the same level of excitement that he experienced more than 10 years ago when the new JMC broadcasting facility opens fall semester 2016.

"We have the latest and best technology that money can buy," said Martin, who also works as an editor at WSAV-TV-3 in Savannah. "There are not many studios that will surpass what we have here in this studio.

"Our studio is par excellence, and probably more superior than what's available at local stations," Martin said.

"We have a three-camera studio equipped with Chroma key technology that allows us to use virtual sets, so we can use any background or set that we choose to use. There were only the thick, blue, theatre-style curtains in Kennedy when I was a student, but now the background is limitless, Martin added.

"Whatever they (students) can generate from a computer can be their background," Martin said.

According to Randall Lowery, Savannah State's safety and quality control manager, the cost of the studio, including equipment and renovation, was \$1.2 million.

JMC chair Wanda Lloyd was instrumental and hands on as the studio was designed and outfitted with technology. Under her leadership, the space was designed with two studios and a control room that also serves as a classroom for at least 18 students.

"This studio is an exciting part of our program," Lloyd



William Martin, program director, Tiger's Roar TV.

said. "We want mass communications majors to go to internships and take entry-level jobs with the knowledge that they have had a chance to work with 21st Century technology, and that Savannah State will be providing them with the best possible learning experience to make them competitive with students from universities with similar programs."

Lloyd added that there has been support from the community, including a news anchor desk valued at more than \$20,000 donated by the law firm of Friedman & Martin, LLP. The attorneys used the anchor desk when they hosted "Law Call," which aired on WTOCTV-11.

Although not officially open, the studio is already experiencing activity.

Classes were held in the control room in the 2015-2016 academic year, and Martin said he has been busy conducting tours of the facility for parents and students who are deciding which university to attend.

"For one student, the studio was the tie-breaker," Martin said. "After seeing the studio, the student decided that this is where he needed to be to go out into the world and compete."



Living Abroad

JMC alumna Rashida Banks heads public affairs office for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Japan District

Rashida Banks, a 2001 graduate of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications with a concentration in print journalism, is the chief of public affairs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Japan District.

A former Tiger's Roar editor, she has 15 years of experience in public affairs, graphic and web design.

Prior to becoming chief of public affairs for the Corps' Japan District, Banks was a visual information and public affairs specialist for the Savannah District Corps

of Engineers. In addition, she was a team member for The Castle, an authorized news magazine for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a team member for the Savannah District's website.

Banks was born and raised in Savannah and graduated from Sol C. Johnson High School. She is married to Ricardo Banks of Albany, GA, and they have three daughters, Jasmine, 14; Jada, 9; and Rhianna, 6. She has been living in Japan for the past two years. Learn a little more about Banks in the Q and A that follows.



Suzanne C.
- PHOTOGRAPHY -

The Banks family in Shibuya, Tokyo, (l-r) Jada, 9, Ricardo, Rashida, Jasmine, 14, and front center, Rhianna, 6.

1. How long have you been employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers?

I have been employed by the Corps for 15 years. I started my career with the Corps' Savannah District as a cooperative education (internship) student while attending Savannah State.

2. Why did you make the decision to move to Japan?

It was a great opportunity to try something new personally and professionally. While I thoroughly enjoyed my job in Savannah, I felt that it was time for me to move on to the next stage in my career. I had been working in the same office for 14 years. Also, I want my children to experience another part of the world, and learn about another culture, which is something I didn't get to do at their age.

3. SSU now has an International Education Center, which seeks to help expose students to a global society. Many students, including mass communications majors, study abroad. Having lived in Japan for the past two years, what advice would you give to students who are indecisive about living or studying abroad?

I would encourage them to go for it. I've learned that sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone in order to grow. I was very nervous about moving to a foreign country and not being able to communicate, but once I got here I realized that it's not bad at all. Living here has changed my perspective on a lot of things and it has inspired me to venture out and explore more of the world.

4. What are your hobbies or interests? What do you do when you are not working?

I enjoy cake decorating and traveling. My family and I have traveled around Japan and to Korea and China, and plan to see as much of Asia as possible. We are definitely taking advantage of this unique opportunity to see this part of the world.

5. If you were in a position to hire mass communications graduates from Savannah State, what kind of candidate would you seek?

I would look for someone who has done internships and/or volunteer work, has strong leadership skills, excellent verbal and written communication skills, a great attitude, an open mind, and a passion for the career field.



Rashida Banks

SSU Media High provides students with multimedia, career development skills

Two-week residential summer program completes 3rd year



SSU Media High student Sierra Vincent takes aim.

Fifteen high school students acquired digital media and career development skills while learning what it's like to live on a college campus.

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications hosted, for the third year, SSU Media High, a two-week residential digital media literacy summer program for teens ages 14-17 who are interested in journalism and mass communications.

The goal of the camp -- to provide students with visual-photography, broadcasting, and editorial and social media skills using the most recent multimedia outlets, mobile apps, social media, blogs and websites -- helps high school students broaden the scope of multimedia and its role in journalism.

The teens also experienced local culture while examining the impact of global media. The rigorous camp was held June 19-July 1, 2016 on the campus of Savannah State University.

Ten media professionals -- including photographers, anchors, bloggers, reporters and cameramen -- worked

with the students over the two-week period.

"We were so grateful to have participation from media professionals from around the region," said Tina Brown, an award-winning journalist and author, who serves as the camp's director. "A journalist who is a blogger in Beijing was also skyped in to talk with the students."

In addition, Mark Gail, an independent photographer/photo editor who worked on the staff of the *Washington Post* for 15 years, instructed the students in the art of photojournalism.

Wanda S. Lloyd, SSU Media High founder and JMC chair, said students walked away with a life-changing digital journalism experience.

"We started SSU Media High in 2014 as a way to teach young people how to tell stories using today's multimedia skills and platforms based on the foundational skills of journalism," Lloyd said.

"We hope that many of our SSU Media High students will return to their high schools to help

revive media projects for fellow students, and that ultimately some of the program's alumni will pursue journalism and mass communications careers in college and beyond."

Other SSU Media High staff members included Francisco Duque, multicultural outreach coordinator, SSU; Tracy Haynes, a veteran television journalist and SSU JMC faculty member; Terry Manning, a veteran journalist who has worked as a newspaper reporter, copyeditor, and newsroom manager and now JMC technology coordinator; Will Martin, program director for Tiger's Roar TV/Channel 96, JMC and a local radio show host, and Melanie Smith, study abroad coordinator, SSU, who worked for several years in television and radio.

JMC student staff members were Aybriel Beckham, Latonia Hunt, Elijah Jones, Xavier T. McKnight II, Lawrence Moore Jr., and Asia Wilkerson.

To view more photos and work produced by SSU Media High students, visit www.ssumediahigh.com.

Exploring the Global Village

JMC faculty, students study and travel abroad

JMC majors understand the changes that have occurred in the media landscape.

For many, future employment may depend upon their ability to function as backpack journalists, a one-person crew that does it all – videography, sound, digital photos and reporting.

Backpack journalists must possess certain tools, including HD video cameras, microphones, tripods, batteries and LED lights, to name a few.

In the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, all students are encouraged to have an additional tool in their backpacks — a passport, one of the most essential elements of a 21st Century resume.

JMC majors have participated in travel and study abroad programs offered by the university dating as far back as 2003. Exchange students from other countries also study mass communications in the department.

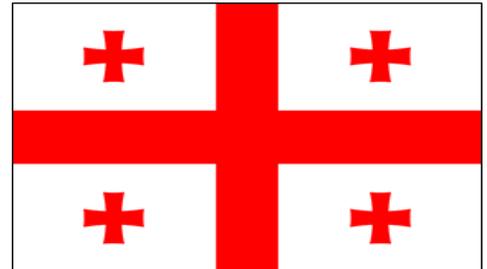
Under the leadership of SSU President Dr. Cheryl Davenport Dozier, an advocate for global education and competence, the university offers mass communications majors, and all of its students, the option of traveling and studying abroad at 26 institutions and 14 countries. The Study Abroad Program is coordinated by the university's International Education Center, which seeks to promote and support efforts to internationalize the university's curriculum and to help expose students to the global society. Faculty are also encouraged to travel and teach abroad.

Five mass communications majors recently participated in the program, joining many others who previously traveled abroad. In addition, two JMC faculty members also traveled abroad in partnership with other organizations, teaching and presenting lectures. On this page, and the following pages, students and faculty share their experiences:

Ashleigh Montford

Tbilisi, Georgia

Fall 2015



Ashleigh Montford, right, poses with an elementary school student she tutored in English during Montford's stay in the country.

Her Experience:

“I will always remember the people I met there. Not only did I meet Georgians, but I also had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world and truly bond with them. I made friends from the South East, as well as Poland and the Caribbean, and even the Motherland. Meeting so many people really allowed me to take in perspectives from around the world, and with so many views, I gained insight that I could never have gained being stagnant in America my whole life. It was definitely a life-changing experience. Being in a different culture, away from everything that I have ever known, allowed me to view the world in a different light and broaden my way of thinking.”

Jalvin Lovett

Thailand

Summer 2016



Jalvin Lovett in SangKhla Buri.

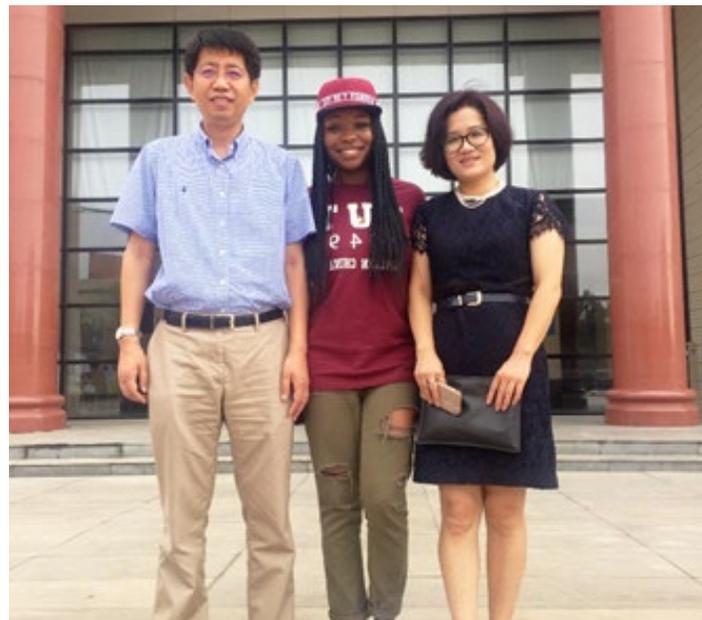
His Experience:

“This place is called SangKhla Buri, and it’s five hours away from the heart of Thailand, Bangkok, away from tourists and the fast pace of the city. There are beautiful, long roads and mountains as tall as the clouds where the giant Buddha sits, and there are small villages all around. The smells of market food fill the air, as fresh-water fish cuts through your nose, followed by a rush of assorted vegetables and fried rice like you’ve never had before. I am with two Americans, one named Jimmy and the other named Lei, both respected business owners here who haven’t seen the U.S. in more than 20 years, so their stories and recollection of the States are outdated. I laughed one moment when Jimmy mentioned a Playstation and a DVD player. However, that just goes to show you that sometimes a life out of touch is a life in tune. The people and culture of SangKhla Buri are rich and nurturing. Oh, did I mention that a small parade passed by this morning? Well, that’s just Thailand.”

Ayrmis Driver

China

Summer 2016



Ayrmis Driver, center, pauses for a photo on the campus of Dalian University of Technology with two of the university’s administrators.

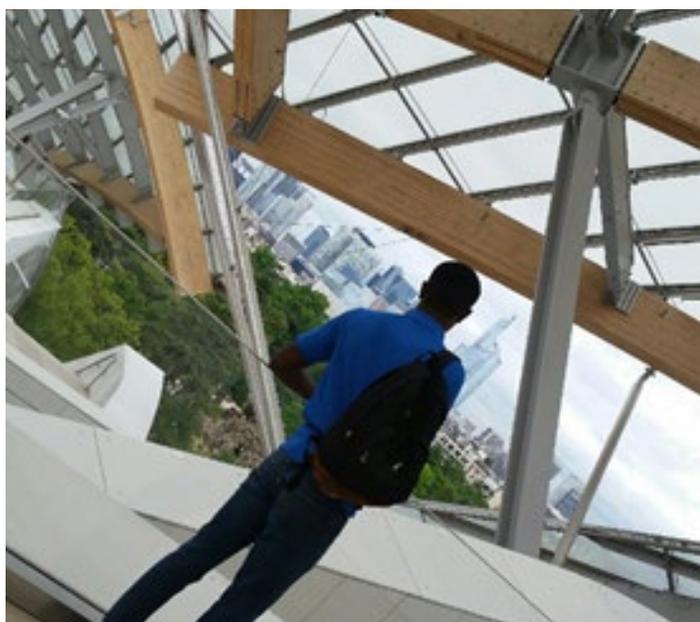
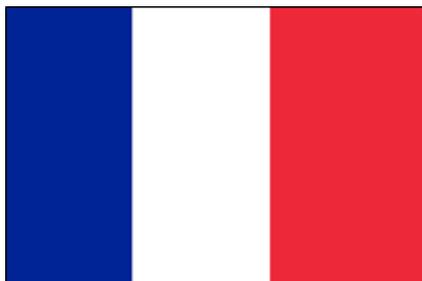
Her Experience:

“I attended Dalian University of Technology, which is one of the best universities in China. I am so glad that I had an opportunity to study abroad there because not only do you learn the Chinese culture, you’re also learning other cultures as well. The school takes international education seriously. Anyone who can see their own success beyond the United States should definitely consider studying abroad. This trip has changed my whole perspective on what I actually want to achieve in life. I picture myself being one of the best international public relations specialists in the nation, coming straight from Savannah State University where, “You really can get anywhere from here.”

Alfonzo Berry

Paris, France

Summer 2015



Alfonzo Berry stands on the top level of Paris' Louis Vuitton Museum gazing at the skyline of La Defense, the business district.

His Experience:

“Traveling to Paris was my first time traveling abroad. The trip was made possible with help from the university and a few scholarships. It is something that I will never forget. There is a true beauty in waking up and hearing different languages, appreciating and respecting the people and their way of life. It is extremely humbling and in many ways made me a more compassionate and appreciative student, parent and future media professional. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to travel abroad.”

Nicole Wiggins

Jiujiang, China

Spring 2015



JMC major Nicole Wiggins, far right, with her friends and campus guides, CoCo, Right, and Doris, center, on the campus of Jiujiang University.

Her experience: Ni Hao! (Hello in Chinese):

“The university I attended was Jiujiang University, located in Jiangxi Province. The university has a student population of about 40,000 and also houses the faculty and staff. There are about 200 foreign students who study medicine or the Chinese language. The majority of the students were from Pakistan, Somalia, Ghana and Nepal. However, I studied with students from Cambodia, Sudan and Russia. The most interesting experience for me was communicating with the Chinese and foreigners who all wanted to practice their English-speaking skills. I have traveled to different destinations such as: Beijing, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Yinchuan, ShenZhen, and the city of JhendeZhen (where porcelain was historically created and mass produced). The most memorable places were the smaller towns, villages, and the countryside nearby.”

JMC Exchange Students

Three exchange students studied in JMC during the 2015-2016 academic year. In addition to Ady Liu and Ling Ling Wang, both from Jiujiang University, China, Roberthalyne Kollie, a mass communications major from the University of Liberia, was also an exchange student. Kollie, who held the title of Miss University of Liberia, is concentrating in audio and video production.



Ady Liu



JMC Chair Wanda Lloyd, left, and Roberthalyne Kollie.



LingLing Wang

Professor Angela Wilson explores the Great Wall of China, presents research at international conference



Angela Wilson stands in front of the Communication, Media and Governance in the Age of Globalization International Conference's banner.

Angela Wilson says she wants to go back to China one day, and take with her a group of students to study abroad.

Wilson, an assistant professor in the Department of JMC, traveled to China in July 2016 to participate in an international conference co-sponsored by the National Communication Association and the Communication University of China Beijing.

"I was afforded the opportunity to present research and insight on the impact and implementation of social media on national and international political campaigns and strategies," Wilson said.

"The people were beautiful, and I am so grateful for the new international friendships," she said. "I have learned so much about such a beautiful country. My dream finally came true to walk the Great Wall and experience the culture first hand from both educational and social perspectives."

The Communication, Media and Governance in the Age of Globalization International Conference selected 40 scholars out of 150 who applied to present research on media and globalization. Of the 40 selected to present,

20 were from American colleges and universities.

"Others represented a vast group of international universities from around the world," Wilson said. "It was a pleasure to represent Savannah State University."

Wilson, who joined the JMC faculty in 2012, has also traveled to South Africa as a Fulbright Scholar, to Montreal, Canada, to participate in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) conference, and to Central America, her mother's homeland. A graduate of Howard University, Wilson instructs courses in the public relations and advertising sequence.

"I will most remember the great students of China who taught me so much about their college and culture, and the study of communication and media from China's perspective," Wilson said.

It is definitely a place where students should study abroad and would be especially beneficial to media students, she added.

It will broaden their horizons of international media and communications, she said.



Professor Angela Wilson at the Great Wall of China, the country's pre-eminent symbol of strength and pride.

Visiting Professor Lester Sloan Travels to Russia



Visiting Professor Lester Sloan, far right, explains to Russian students involved in mass communications what his work involved as a professional working journalist and as a university professor.

Russia is a must stop for students traveling abroad, according to JMC Visiting Professor Lester Sloan.

“Without a doubt, Russian students know more about America than American students know about them,” he said. “We must catch up.”

A former Newsweek photographer, Sloan said sometimes the best way to get to know your own country is to see it through the prism of another -- another way of saying “walk a mile in his shoes.”

Sloan traveled to Russia in spring 2015 as a part of a group of journalism professors from five American colleges and universities. The trip, which centered around the historic city of St. Petersburg, was sponsored by Indiana University.

“We met with professional journalists and students,” Sloan said. “While we had a translator, many of the

students spoke better English than we did Russian. “Except for one, we were all people of color: two African Americans, one East Indian, an Asian and one Caucasian, either by design or intention, a rough approximation of Russia’s ethnic make-up,” he said.

Although Russia was not his first choice, Sloan said he jumped at the chance to go there when the opportunity presented itself, and has no regrets.

“In terms of land mass, Russia is the largest country on earth, made up of Europeans, Asians and East Indians,” he said. “The American writer Langston Hughes said that in some parts of Russia, he felt at home. No longer a union of Soviet States, today she’s more like the United States, rich, powerful and greedy.

“It is more like this country before it became a ‘perfect union,’” he added. “It’s no wonder we don’t get along.”



JMC Awards Show hosts Shaunii Rawls and Alfonzo Berry present the first award.

JMC AWARDS SHOW

An Evening with the Stars

Students receive scholarships, awards for outstanding performance

They did it with style, elegance and Tiger Pride.

Department of JMC students, usually clad in jeans, T-shirts, and other casual wear, took a stroll down the red carpet dressed in radiant, glamorous formal and semi-formal attire.

Like any true-blue star-studded event, the paparazzi were present too.

Photographers from JMC Visiting Instructor Jason Johnson's photojournalism class eagerly took pictures of the student luminaries as they proudly and confidently paraded around the room, admiring each other's swag.

There were selfies galore, some taken with local celebs, including popular news anchors, and faculty and staff who came out to support the best of the best at the 2nd annual JMC Awards Show.

Sponsored by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, the event, with a structure similar to that of the nationally televised Emmy Awards Show, was held on March 30, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Savannah Ballroom of the King Frazier Student Center on campus.

Now in its second year, The JMC Awards Show was the brainchild of Tatia Adams Fox, an alumna of

the department, who returned to teach as an adjunct professor during the 2014-2015 academic year. An entrepreneur and public relations strategist, Fox is the president and founder of The New School of Etiquette, a social intelligence, leadership and etiquette academy.

After Fox's departure, the JMC faculty and staff decided to follow the old adage: "The show must go on."

JMC's Online Content Manager Kareem McMichael, also a JMC alum, was up to the challenge, and agreed to serve as coordinator for the 2016 JMC Awards Show. McMichael's day job consists of



JMC Awards Show presenters Valerie Mackey and Terry Claybourne announce winner.

(Continued from page 20)

working with the *Tiger's Roar* student media staff; he is also a filmmaker and an actor.

"I decided to coordinate the show because many students, including those involved with the first show, really wanted to continue The JMC Awards Show as an annual tradition," McMichael said. "It took almost three months to pull off.

"There was one month of planning and getting paperwork done, contacting potential guests, and outlining the rundown of the show and the components we would have in the show, from videos to performers," he said.

"The rest of the time was spent selecting student hosts, preparing a script, practicing, determining the judging and voting process, forming student committees to work on projects, and producing videos for the show," McMichael said.

"The students pulled their weight," McMichael added. "Jocelyn Stargell-Zachery, the student coordinator, was a key person because she was one of Fox's students who helped to produce last year's show."

Other outstanding volunteers included Sierra Walton, president of PRSSA, along with other PRSSA members; Xavier McKnight, editor in chief, *Tiger's Roar*, and members of the *Tiger's Roar* staff; and Eleanor Powell, Alexisa Brown and Whitney Keitt. Jessica Sparks, JMC assistant professor, also assisted by working backstage during the show.

The JMC Awards Show received outstanding support from the community.

Susan Catron, executive editor, *Savannah Morning News*, and

Kim Gusby, anchor, WSAV-TV-3, were among those who presented awards.

This year the categories and voting process were different, McMichael said.

The categories, recommended by the students, were changed to become all academic, he added.

The JMC faculty and staff submitted and voted on nominees.

“Also, for this year’s show I wanted more student involvement, so student members of NABJ, *Tiger’s Roar*, and PRSSA helped with different aspects of promotions, setting up the auditions for hosts, and they also helped give some input into show,” McMichael said.

Hosted by JMC seniors Alfonzo Berry and Shaunii Rawls, The JMC Awards showcased student work in the department’s three areas of concentration: audio and video production, online journalism, and public relations and advertising.

In addition, there were 14 categories for academic awards, including three Chair’s Awards scholarships funded by a \$4,000 donation from the Savannah Advertising Club, and a \$500 contribution from the Department of JMC.

The Chair’s Awards, presented by Wanda Lloyd, department chair, were given to students who had high grade point averages and who also provided outstanding service to student media and the department.

“We are very proud of our high-performing mass communications majors who also devote a great amount of time and expertise to student media and JMC student organizations,” said Lloyd.

“The Chair’s Awards were created to



Presenter Tydell Mosley looks on as Ariana Knight receives award.

reward high academic performance, but also to encourage other students to emulate the success of their peers,” Lloyd added. “Xavier McKnight, Shayanna Bonner and Sierra Walton embody those qualities.”

The 2016 JMC Award winners were:

Best Integrated Marketing Campaign – Kinyana McCoy
Best Radio Program
 Marissa Russell

Best All Around JMC Students
 Ariana Knight
 Jocelyn Stargell-Zachery

Best On-Air Talent
 Alfonzo Berry

Best Documentary
 Jalvin Lovett

Best Video Journalist
 Ariana Knight

Best Photographer
 Sha-dasha Poe

Excellence in Sports Writing and Reporting – Xavier McKnight

Best Graphic Layout Designer
 Asia Wilkerson

Best Agency Branding – Liaisons

PR (James Ofori, LaShawn Charles, Morgan Mapel, and Rochell Middleton)

Best Applied Research and Communications – “The Analysis of Caitlyn Jenner on Twitter,” by Alfonzo Berry

Excellence in Feature Writing
 Brittany Rossette-Jones

Best Video (Creative Non-News)
 Dante Ferguson

Best Research for a Campaign
 Quality Control Agency (Alfonzo Berry, Jacqueline Owens, Brittani Williams, and Ashley Adams)

Best Website or Blog – Spotted by Shaunii by Shaunii Rawls

Excellence in News Writing and Reporting – Travis Nixon

JMC Chair’s Awards:

Academic Achievement Scholarship
 Xavier McKnight

Savannah Advertising Club Marv Vawter/JMC Scholarship
 Shayanna Bonner

Savannah Advertising Club Marv Vawter/JMC Scholarship
 Sierra Walton



1. Naomi McGee and Dante Ferguson presenting an award. 2. l-r, Shayanna Bonner, Sierra Johnson, and Asia Wilkerson pose with their awards. 3. WSAV-TV anchor Kim Gusby (far left) and WSAV-TV reporter Courtney Cole (2nd left) view selfie with JMC attendees. 4. JMC Awards Show coordinator Kareem McMichael brings closing remarks. 5. Shayanna Bonner accepts Chair's Award. 6. Jocelyn Stargell-Zachery with her mentor, WSAV-TV reporter Courtney Cole.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KIMBERLY BLAKE

Class of 1983 | News Producer | WSAV-TV-3 Savannah, GA



How did the education you received in the Department of JMC help you in your career?

My education helped give me the training and confidence I needed to step into broadcasting. I think the internship at WSAV-TV-3 was very helpful and I credit my instructors at SSU for helping me to push myself and try reporting, even though it was a scary prospect.

What was your fondest memory of the Department of JMC?

My fondest memory is working on a documentary about a halfway house and traveling to Atlanta to tour CNN.

Your best advice for current SSU mass communications majors:

My best advice would be to make sure you know how to write well and speak well before you leave college. Also, get as much experience reporting and shooting video as you can. You don't need to have a full-time job to get that experience. Do as much reporting and writing as you can while in school and put together a strong video resume.

My favorite hang-out was:

The mass communications building, Professor Novella Holmes' office and the library.

What are your specific job responsibilities?

I produce the 5 p.m. Monday-Friday newscast. That means I write stories and choose video for the newscast, including packages and live shots from reporters and photographers. I give time cues to on-air talent during the newscast and assist the director.

If I could do it all over again (the years in the Department of JMC), I would:

I would tell myself to be more confident in myself and my abilities.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

TRACI ADAMS

Class of 2000

Senior Vice President of Promotions

Epic Records



How did the education you received in the Department of JMC help you in your career?

My education assisted with my career because it allowed me to communicate and strategize better in my day-to-day interaction with both my team and my clients. In the field of entertainment, I deal with multiple personalities, such as programmers, mixers, artists and management. At times it becomes challenging to reach a solution that appeases all partners involved. Knowing how to conduct multiple team-effort assignments, while having one common goal, has definitely been an asset I've taken from SSU and utilize every day.

What was your fondest memory of the Department of JMC?

My fondest memory was during my senior year when my team produced a documentary about my father, Jazz Trombonist Teddy Adams. It was exciting for me to interview family, friends and Ben Tucker (now deceased) for this piece. My father was pleased with the finished product and our team received an "A." Thank you Professor Franklin!

Your best advice for current SSU mass communications majors:

Gain as much hands on experience while in college. Intern, intern, intern!

What are your specific job responsibilities?

My job responsibilities include managing a team of eight and mainly being held accountable for airplay with our Epic artists on Mainstream/UAC Radio. Some of the artists I garner airplay for currently include Future, Yo Gotti, DJ Khaled, Kent Jones, Puff Daddy, Travis Scott, French Montana and Fifth Harmony, to name a few.

My favorite hang-out was:

Frozen Paradise.

If I could do it all over again (the years in the Department of JMC), I would:

I wouldn't change anything I did while attending SSU.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CHILE MANUEL

Class of 2007 | Digital Utility Crew (ICG) Tyler Perry Studios | Owner, Manuel Media



What are your specific job responsibilities?

As a digital utility crew member with the International Cinematographer's Guild (ICG), I am responsible for running video cable in order to receive an image on the monitors. Organization is very important; we are required to label and color code everything for easy functioning within the department. I've worked on several network shows and films, but for the past three years I've been at Tyler Perry Studios. My credits include the Vampire Diaries, Single Ladies, Drop Dead Diva, Devious Maids, Walking Dead, Rectify, Disney's Million Dollar Arm, Identity Theft, TLC Biopic, Trouble With the Curve, The Haves and Have Nots, Love thy Neighbor, If Loving You Is Wrong, For Better or Worse, Boo! A Madea Halloween, and Single Mom's Club. I have a Local 479 Union Card for the grip department and a Local 600 Union Card for the camera department.

How did the education you received in the Department of JMC help you in your career?

My education taught me to never, never give up. Adversity in any form is a test of your perseverance. Just how badly do you want it?

What was your fondest memory of the Department of JMC?

Being around beautiful, hungry dreamers like myself.

Your best advice for current SSU mass communications majors:

At first I did not believe it. I wondered to myself how this was possible. Even after hitting "rock bottom" a couple of times, I found it even harder to believe. I know now why Savannah State's motto is, "You can get anywhere from here." The sky's the limit for you. The power is within you. If you do not have the drive, you will go nowhere. The department at SSU taught me the importance of adding value to myself. Though you may have colleagues working with you on a project, everyone will not give 100 percent. Sometimes you might have to carry the weight of the team. Who gets the credit? Usually the team gets recognized, but it's not about boasting or even putting your colleagues on blast. The REAL work speaks for itself. You are adding value to yourself. That's what matters in the end.

My favorite hang-out was:

The Student Center

If I could do it all over again (the years in the Department of JMC), I would:

Do the same thing.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

RONALD T. SHIELDS II

Class of 2014 | Communications Specialist | Clayton County Public Schools

What are your specific job responsibilities?

I serve as a public information/relations staffer for the Clayton County Public Schools District. In this capacity, I support the director of communications in several areas, including increasing parental and community involvement by keeping stakeholders (internal and external) informed, using a multitude of platforms that support the district's community and media relations, and working with community, business, and school partnership outreach efforts.

Specifically, I manage the creation and distribution of media releases as well as manage the district's social media content for Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Additionally, I assist in the coordination and facilitation of special events, meetings and activities, provide photo coverage of events, manage media distribution lists, create and maintain the district's new magazine, *Clayton Proud*, and assist the superintendent in the preparation of media interviews and other correspondence.

How did the education you received in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications help you in your career?

Things I learned in the online journalism concentration are used daily, such as research, photography, specific writing styles and terminology native to the industry. They are all vital to my work tasks. Because these things were emphasized during my collegiate career, they have become second nature to me, which allowed for a smooth transition into the work environment.

What is your fondest memory of the Department of JMC?

My fondest memory is the people I came in contact with – professors, faculty/staff members, and my fellow classmates. Being around a talented group of individuals who care about what they do really drove me to work harder on my craft to become the best that I could possibly be.

Your best advice for current SSU Mass Communications majors:



My best advice would be to not become complacent. Never be satisfied with “good enough.” Always strive to be better than the best. Take advantage of every opportunity and don't be afraid to be uncomfortable because that's how you grow. If you're comfortable doing something, that means you are probably not getting better at it.

My favorite hang-out was:

My favorite hang-out was the student media office.

If I could do it all over again (the years in the Department of JMC), I would:

Be more involved. Even though I worked for the *Tiger's Roar* and tigersroar.com for years, and eventually became the editor-in-chief, there was so much more I could have done. There are so many clubs and organizations in the JMC department that there is really something for everyone. Even if it's not joining a club, helping out with other students' projects can be an option.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DARNISHA GREEN

Class of 2014 | Public Affairs-Public Information Assistant | Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police



position. Most of my work is based on disseminating information to the media and the public. Having a fervent knowledge of what I am required to give by law, and always being ethical, helps me to be successful as a public affairs-public information assistant.

What was your fondest memory of the Department of JMC?

My fondest memory would have to be my matriculation through the COMM 4106 Communications Practicum course. In a semester, I not only put all my knowledge of my major into one project, but I also learned so much about what it would mean to be a real communications professional. It gave me great insight into my future.

What are your specific job responsibilities?

I write, research, edit and proofread written materials prepared by the SCMPD public affairs office staff. In addition, I monitor and document local and national media coverage of SCMPD; collect and assist in dissemination of newsworthy information to the media, other law enforcement agencies and to the public. In addition, I establish, maintain, and facilitate effective relationships with the media and other community organization; assist in planning and organizing outreach programs; maintain and update the SCMPD social media website and social media pages; assist in preparing and maintaining the budget for media projects; track budget spending; update media representatives on police events and represent the SCMPD and the public affairs office at public forums.

How did the education you received in the Department of JMC help you in your career?

A full understanding of all the coursework in writing for the media, learning proper AP Style usage, and media ethics and law aided me in succeeding in my current

Your best advice for current SSU mass communications majors:

Utilize all your resources. The information you are given is invaluable, even if you do not see an immediate need for it. Volunteer your services for projects, complete a ton of internships (even if you do not get paid) and network so that when you graduate you will have a solid resume and have job opportunities.

My favorite hang-out was:

Professor Kai Walker's office. Life lessons, laughs and so much fun await you there.

If I could do it all over again (the years in the Department of JMC), I would:

I don't think I would have done anything differently. I am thankful to all my professors and mentors in the program and I am proud to be alum of Savannah State University's JMC.



Justice Dilworth, center, surrounded by her team, (l-r), Michelle Alvey, MT Pickett, Kristin Ziegelbauer, and Shanay J. Campbell.

New JMC grad takes the entrepreneurship path *Justice Dilworth launches Plug In Brand Management*

When opponents on the other side of the net came face to face with Justice Dilworth, they knew after only a few minutes that they were in for the fight of their lives.

A former Savannah State University volleyball scholarship recipient, Dilworth holds the university's record for having the highest number of recorded kills since SSU became a Division I school.

On the court she was quick, had a gift for reading her opponent, possessed confidence, leadership, aggressiveness and the ability sharpen her game, a game she has played since she was 14 years old.

These impressive athletic characteristics easily transferred into skills she would use in life, especially in business.

So when Dilworth walked across the stage in December 2015 and

received her Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communications, unlike many other graduates who were seeking opportunities for employment, Dilworth had already made the decision that she was going to become a media entrepreneur.

"I had a really good support system from mentors and advisers," Dilworth said.

The message from them was clear.

"If I got a job in Savannah, I would be doing the same thing for them (the employer) that I would be doing for myself," she said.

Her mentors include JMC alumnae Tatia Adams Fox, founder and CEO, The New School of Etiquette, and Jazmyn Samms, owner and CEO, Front Row PR. Erica Backus, director of public relations, Visit Savannah, is also one of her mentors.

And of course, Dilworth said she would never forget Dr. Juliana Trammel, associate professor in the Department of JMC, who instructs courses in public relations and advertising.

"Trammel makes you do things right the first time," Dilworth said. "She taught us that mass communications is more than something that's glamorous; it involves planning and research, and you must be accurate in order to do things right.

"Fox gives you the life skills and business etiquette so that you can make connections, learn how people think, and strategize," Dilworth added.

While still a student at Savannah State, Dilworth, who concentrated in public relations and advertising, said she networked often by attending meetings and activities of public relations and marketing

professionals, many of whom had been in the business for 20 or more years.

“They told me that I had to go ahead and do it,” she said. “By Jan. 1, 2016, I had my LLC license, and I launched the business Feb. 17, 2016. Within two months I had over 10 clients.”

Her company, Plug in Brand Management, is a full-service branding firm that provides a variety of creative services, including online presence development, web development, graphic design, brand identity and public relations.

The business has taken off and is getting an added boost from Dilworth’s ingenious creation of the [foodiefeature.com](http://www.foodiefeature.com), a subsidiary of Plug in Brand Management.

“Our goal is to bring awareness and promote the food culture that is growing in Savannah,” Dilworth said. “There is a connection between the customer and the restaurant, and it goes deeper than just having good food.”

As consumers, we see the front end, all the glitz, but behind the scenes there is more, she said.

“Chefs like to share with people, so there’s more about the people who are behind the scenes and the quality of the ingredients,” Dilworth said.

The site is getting 2,300 hits per week, and Dilworth projects that by 2017, the site will have more than 100,000 views per month.

I get messages from people from all over asking me to recommend to them a good place to eat, Dilworth said.

“I even put together an itinerary for a traveler who was coming to Savannah,” she said. “We are becoming an authority.”

For more information about Dilworth’s company, go online to www.pluginbrandmanagement.com. and www.thefoodiefeature.com



Noteworthy

Department of Journalism and Mass
Communications Faculty and Staff Highlights



Wanda S. Lloyd
Chair, Department of Journalism and
Mass Communications, SSU

HONORS

Wanda S. Lloyd was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from her alma mater, Spelman College in April 2016. An award-winning journalist, Lloyd is chair and associate professor for Savannah State University's Department of Journalism and Mass Communications. She retired from Gannett in March 2013, where she was a long-time newsroom leader, project manager and diversity advocate.

Prior to joining the faculty at SSU, she was executive editor of the *Montgomery Advertiser* for nine years. She served extensively with media industry organizations, academic advisory boards and as a speaker and newsroom trainer.

Lloyd was an editor at seven daily newspapers, including *USA Today* and *The Washington Post*. Lloyd's vision for the journalism and mass communications program at Savannah State is to prepare students for 21st Century careers in digital and traditional media, to raise the profile of the program nationally and regionally, and to find opportunities for student and faculty scholarships domestically and abroad.

She served as a member of the Spelman College Board of Trustees for 19 years. In that capacity Lloyd chaired committees on Board Affairs, Community Service and Student Affairs.

CONFERENCES

- Attended the National Association of Black Journalists Annual Conference in August 2015, in Minneapolis, MN.
- Served as chair of SSU's Women's Leadership Conference, March 2016. The conference, "Women Rising in Media and the Arts: Blazing Trails and Leaving a Legacy," featured as speakers Pulitzer Prize-winner Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and Dr. Tonea Stewart, an actress and university professor widely known for her role as Aunt Etta on the television series, *In the Heat of the Night*.

PRESENTATION

- Delivered a presentation at the HBCU Title III Administrators Conference, July 2015, "*SRPI, Jobs and Sesso: How Mass Communications Intersects with Practical Learning*."

COMMUNITY

- Member, MLK Observance Day Association, Brunch Committee
- Inducted into the Savannah (Ga.) Chapter, The Links Incorporated, May 2015
- Founder's Day Program emcee, Savannah Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., March 2016
- Member, City of Savannah Arena & Canal District advisory subcommittee on Community Education and Engagement

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- ACEJMC Accrediting Committee member, attended committee meeting March 2016, Chicago
- Accreditation site team member, February 2015, San Diego State University School of Journalism and Media Studies
- Secretary, Savannah Chapter, National Association of Black Journalists
- Elected to serve a three-year term as a member of the AARP/GA Executive Council.

Noteworthy

Department of Journalism and Mass Communications Faculty and Staff Highlights

Faculty



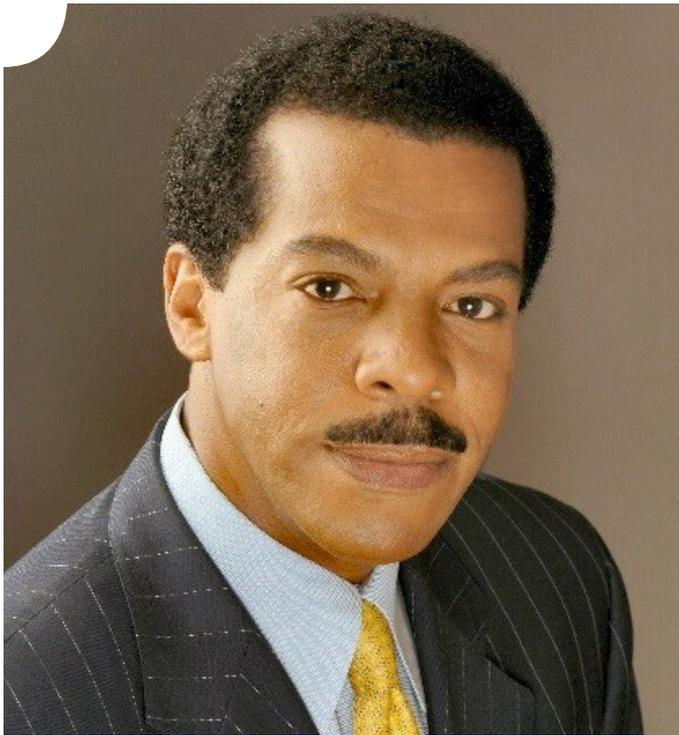
Canyon Ranch founders Mel Zuckerman (l) and Jerry Cohen (far right) pose for a photo with Reginald Franklin (center), associate professor, Dept. of JMC, after Franklin received the Enid and Mel Zuckerman Volunteer of the Year Award for 2015.

Reginald Franklin Associate Professor

inspire, and empower every person to prevent disease and embrace a life of wellness. Through Franklin's involvement, JMC students have benefited from several CRI projects, including video productions and marketing internships.

Accomplished the following:

- Directed Savannah State University's 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute. The SRPI, a two-day communications conference primarily for college students from the Southeast, was held on Feb. 18-19, 2016.
- Presided over the inaugural Southern Regional Press Institute Hall of Fame induction ceremony, February 18, 2016.
- Was selected the Enid and Mel Zuckerman Volunteer of the Year for 2015 for Canyon Ranch Institute.
- Continued work with the Canyon Ranch Institute's Life Enhancement Program, ensuring the Curtis V. Cooper Primary Healthcare, Inc., works in conjunction with the CRI. The mission of the CRI is to educate,
- Also, selected by CRI to be a core team member for the 5th and 6th groups of the Life Enhancement Program (as a graduate of the 1st group), where his primary function is to coordinate the alumni meetings of the graduates of the program.
- Served as vice chair of the Board of Directors, Curtis V. Cooper Primary Healthcare, Inc.
- Directed the workshop entitled "*Covering Breaking News: Five Essential Skills Every Anchor and Journalist Must Have (Broadcasting Workshop)*" at the 65th annual SRPI.
- Served as a consultant in the 65th SRPI workshop titled, "*Get the Reel Truth: Learn How to Produce Your Indie Film.*"



Jason Miccolo Johnson Visiting Instructor

the Fall/2015 Issue 5 of *The Write News* (The Write Attitude newsletter), along with two inside photos. Shot the photo used on the SSU website slider from the Honors Convocation in March, and had another photo published in *Rising Tide* newsletter (April 2016) of President Cheryl D. Dozier and Monica Kaufman Pearson taken during the 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI).

Accomplished the following:

- Attended the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) “Broadband and Social Justice Summit” in Washington, D.C. in January 2016. MMTC is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation’s leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.
- Traveled to Memphis, Tenn., February 2016 and served as the guest photojournalist at the Memphis Theological Seminary’s *29th Annual Dr. Henry Logan Starks Scholarship Dinner & Awards Ceremony*; Johnson was also the keynote speaker for the *Ruby Wharton Luncheon & Gallery Talk*. The seminary hosted Johnson’s national traveling photography exhibition, “*Soul Sanctuary: Images of the African American Worship Experience*” for the month of February.
- Photo was featured as the cover photo for the Fall/2015 Issue 5 of *The Write News* (The Write Attitude newsletter), along with two inside photos. Shot the photo used on the SSU website slider from the Honors Convocation in March, and had another photo published in *Rising Tide* newsletter (April 2016) of President Cheryl D. Dozier and Monica Kaufman Pearson taken during the 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI).
- Photo included in the forthcoming Smithsonian Institution book, *Picturing Children* (June 2016 release date), and another photo in the second printing of *Through The African American Lens*, which, in addition to being the book’s title, is the name of the current National Museum of African American History and Culture exhibition on view at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. The exhibit features six of Johnson’s photos.
- Served as the official photographer for the 65th annual SRPI and the 2nd annual JMC Indie Film Fest. Also shot professional portraits for JMC and the College of Business Administration’s seniors, faculty, and staff.
- Attended the *Non-Fiction Writer’s Workshop* led by author Kevin Powell (April 2016 at SSU).
- Served as keynote speaker for The Write Attitude’s April 2016 *Lunch and Learn* series at SSU.
- Has a photo included in the latest Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture book, “*Double Exposure: Picturing Children.*”

Dr. Juliana Trammel Associate Professor

Accomplished the following:

- Presented a paper titled, “*Social Media, Women and Empowerment: The Uses of Social Media Platforms by WNGOs in Jamaica and Brazil*” at the National Women’s Studies Association in Milwaukee, WI.
- Is completing a book chapter titled, “*Saving Face: Applying the Spiral of Silence Theory to Social Media Self-Censorship in the Midst of Controversial Issues*” for the **Social Media: A Reference Handbook** to be published by ABC-CLIO, edited by Dr. Kelli Burns, University of South Florida.
- Published a piece titled, “*Six Tips to Gain Employee and Stakeholder Buy-In for CSR Success*” in **PR News Trade Magazine**.
- Is a recipient of Savannah State University’s 2016 President’s Mini-Grant.
- Has sent current research for peer-review: *A Disaster after the Disaster: A Comparative Framing Analysis of the Dam Collapse According to Samarco, News Media and the Impact on Social Media Discourse*. This piece will also be featured as a case study in the June 2016 issue of **PR News**.
- Is completing an article titled, “*Participatory Culture & YouTube: Using NodeXL Network Visualization Tool to Examine the Prevalence of Black Characters on YouTube Videos for Toddlers and Preschoolers*” for the May issue of **PR News**.
- Is currently serving as a blind reviewer for the AEJMC Annual Conference.
- Served as a director for the workshop titled, “*Want to Build a Mobile APP? We’ll Teach You How*,” 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute, SSU.
- Is scheduled to attend the Black Doctoral Network Conference in Atlanta, GA., October 2016.
- Is scheduled to attend a conference, Brazil-USA Colloquium on Communication Research, Boston, MA, July 2016.



Kai Walker Assistant Professor



- Produced a video documenting the 3rd annual Tybee Island MLK Celebration.
- Produced the first eNewsletter for the 67th Savannah Black Heritage Festival.
- Conducted an interview with former White House Press Secretary Dana Perino as a part of the QEP Write Attitude initiative.
- Participated in a Q & A dinner for Bobby Seal, founding member of the Black Panther Party (QEP activity).
- Selected to serve as a juror for the 11th Macon Film Festival.
- Served as director for the workshop titled, *“Get the Reel Truth: Learn How to Produce Your Indie Film,”* 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute, SSU.

Angela Wilson Assistant Professor



- Was selected as a Kopenhaver Fellow, a fellowship program sponsored by Florida International University’s Kopenhaver Center and the AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women.
- Presenting a paper at the AEJMC conference on Media and Literary Journalism in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 2016.
- Presented a paper on crisis communication and problem solution implementation at the International Crisis and Risk Communication Conference at the University of Central Florida, March 2016.
- Participated in an online learning and implementation presentation at the University System of Georgia’s Teaching and Learning Conference-University of Georgia, April 2016.
- Served as co-adviser of PRSSA. The student group was instrumental in developing a social media campaign for the annual Southern Regional Press Institute.
- Served as director for the workshop, *“Social Media, Blogging and Copyright: Policies and Legal Concerns (Public Relations Workshop),”* 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute.

Staff

William Martin Program Director



- Pursuing the Masters of Professional Communications and Leadership Degree at Armstrong State University.
- Enrolled in the Georgia Film Academy Certificate Program, an 18-hour credit certificate program that trains individuals to work on professional movie sets.
- Served as a consultant for the workshop titled, *“Become a Story Chaser: Creating Multimedia Stories (Elementary and Middle School Workshop), 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute, SSU.*
- Launched Seriousways Multi-Media Group, an entrepreneur venture that creates multimedia projects for local and national organizations.
- Hosted, for the 16th consecutive year, *“Will Serious,”* a weekly radio show that airs on Thursdays on WHCJ-FM, 90.3. Martin started the show, then named Tiger Beat, in 2000, when he was a mass communications student at SSU.

Kareem McMichael Online Content Manager



- Attended the Dow Jones News Fund Conference at the Western Kentucky University. The conference, which was a week long workshop about reporting and app building, provided McMichael with the skills to build an APP for the Dept. of JMC.
- Produced, in conjunction with SSU students Sylvia Alls and Nicole Lowery, a documentary titled, *“Road to Desegregation,”* which won the Jim Demulling Award for Best Documentary with a Social Justice Theme. McMichael attended the Humboldt International Film Festival in Arcata, California for the screening.
- Was appointed to the Savannah Film Commission’s Advisory Board.
- Spearheaded the production of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications JMC Awards Show and the SSU Indie Film Festivals.
- Was presented awards for the short film *Crazy Night*, produced in 2015 and picked up a few awards at the SSU Indie Film Fest.
- Served as a facilitator for the workshop titled, *“Become a Story Chaser: Creating Multimedia Stories (Elementary and Middle School Workshop), 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute, SSU.*
- Served as a facilitator in the workshop titled, *“Want to Build a Mobile APP? We’ll Teach You How,” 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute, SSU.*
- Enrolled in the Georgia Film Academy Certificate Program, an 18-hour credit certificate program that trains individuals to work on professional movie sets.

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR WORK IN JOURNALISM



Photo by Jason Miccolo Johnson

(l-r, Travis Nixon, editor-in-chief, *Tiger's Roar*, accepts the Larry Peterson Memorial Award for Collegiate Investigative Journalism from Lani Lippincott Peterson, Larry's wife. In the background is Sharon Dunten, assistant regional director, Society of Professional Journalists – Region 3. A photo of Peterson is on the lectern).

Travis Nixon receives the Inaugural Larry Peterson Memorial Award for Collegiate Investigative Journalism

Congratulations to **Travis Nixon**, editor-in-chief, *Tiger's Roar*, fall semester, 2015, for having received the inaugural **Larry Peterson Memorial Award for Collegiate Investigative Journalism**. The award is named in honor of Larry Peterson, longtime *Savannah Morning News* investigative journalist, columnist, and political reporter, who died in 2014.

Nixon won for the series headlined, "SSU Band: Investigated, Suspended and Reinstated," along with four other stories, all published on tigersroar.com.

The Larry Peterson awards were established by the Peterson family to recognize excellence in investigative journalism for one professional journalist and one student journalist.

Proven Winners

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR WORK IN JOURNALISM

Online News Award

Travis Nixon also received the **Online News Award** from the Georgia Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) on Nov. 14, 2015.

The conference, which drew professional journalists and student members from across Georgia, included several workshops on how to improve journalism skills. Wanda Lloyd, chair, Dept. of JMC, Jessica Sparks, assistant professor, Dept. of JMC, and Erica Relaford, JMC senior, also attended the conference. Sparks advises the *Tiger's Roar* staff.

Visiting instructor Jason Miccolo Johnson served as the official photographer.



(l-r, Wanda Lloyd, chair, Dept. of JMC, Erica Relaford, Travis Nixon and Professor Jessica Sparks).

Tiger's Roar staff members take home publications contest honors

Tiger's Roar staff members won awards at the 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute. The student publications contest entries are judged by *Savannah Morning News* staff members.

The winners were as follows:

Sam Gladden-First Place, News Photography, Medium University

Sha-dasha Poe-Second Place, News Photography, Medium University

Travis Nixon-Best Editorial, Medium University

Xavier McKnight-First Place, Best Sports Writing, Medium University

Tiger's Roar Staff, Best Overall Online News Outlet, Medium University



Xavier McKnight

Students attend IRE Conference, awarded Knight Fellowships



Jocelyn Stargell-Zachery



Brittany Rosette-Jones

Two mass communications majors, Brittany Rosette-Jones and Jocelyn Stargell-Zachery, were awarded Knight Fellowships to attend the **Investigative Reporters & Editors** conference in New Orleans, June 16-19, 2016.

The Knight Fellowships, funded by the John S. & James. L. Knight Foundation, provide funds for college students at selected historically black colleges and universities to attend the IRE's annual conferences.

The scholarships covered the students' travel and registration, and provided them with mentorship before and during the conference in an effort to give them an enriching experience. They were also required to contribute to the IRE's blog during the event.

The conference offered more than 150 panels, hands-on classes and special presentations about covering business, public safety, government, health care, education, the military, the environment and other key beats. In addition, key speakers discussed how to

locate documents, gain access to public records, find great stories and manage investigations.

Rosette-Jones, news editor, *Tiger's Roar* and **tigersroar.com**, also received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Georgia Press Education Foundation for 2016-2017 academic year.

"I feel really blessed to be selected for a scholarship through the Georgia Press Foundation," Rosette-Jones said. "I really was not expecting it. It is validation for me that I am headed in the right direction to have a successful career in journalism."

A SSU Tiger Ambassador, Rosette-Jones has been a contributing writer for the *Tiger's Roar* since 2013.

For Stargell-Zachery, who served as president of the SSU student chapter of NABJ, the conference was an eye-opener.

A contributing writer for *Tiger's Roar* and **tigersroar.com**, Stargell-Zachery said, "After attending the IRE conference in New Orleans, I feel like journalism is what I am supposed to do."

Proven Winners



Above, in the winning photo taken by Sam Gladden, SSU President Dr. Cheryl D. Dozier comforts a student at a memorial gathering held in honor of Christopher Starks, a mass communications major who was slain on campus.



Sam Gladden

Sam Gladden wins third place in the Georgia College Press Association's better newspaper contest

A photo taken by **Sam Gladden**, a JMC major, won **third place** in the **Georgia College Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest**. Gladden's photo showed SSU President Dr. Cheryl Davenport Dozier comforting a student during a campus vigil following the death of SSU student Christopher Starks.

Gladden also attended the **Georgia Press Institute** conference in February, where he was elected to serve on the College Association's board. He has won numerous awards for his work, including the U.S. House Of Representatives Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, and the 2014 Turner Voice/NBAF First Glance People's Choice Award. A contributing editor for the *Tiger's Roar*, Gladden has worked at Georgia Public Broadcasting and the Media Education Foundation of Georgia as a digital media and post-production intern.

JMC students Sha-Dasha Poe and Cattany Brown travel to Washington, photograph President Obama



Sha-dasha Poe

A competition in Jason Miccolo Johnson's photojournalism class resulted in an experience that two JMC students will remember for the rest of their lives.

Sha-Dasha Poe and Cattany Brown traveled to Washington, D.C. to photograph the Congressional Black Caucus's Legislative Weekend, which was held Sept. 16-20, 2015.

It all started when JMC Visiting Instructor Johnson, a nationally known award winning photojournalist and author, gave an assignment the first week of class. Students were to take photos of 20 signs of the time. From the class of 20-25 students, Poe and Brown emerged the winners.

While at the Caucus they had the opportunity to do



Cattany Brown prepares to take photo.

something extraordinary---they photographed the president, along with other congressmen and women.

"It was crazy, chaotic and surreal," said Brown. "The ballroom was filled with people in gowns and tuxedos."

Seeing him, Sha-Dasha and I rushed the line with the other photographers to take photos, she added.

"It was great thinking that I took photos of the first black president," Brown said. "The moment took over me."

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SRPI: Alive@65

Theme: "SRPI Through the Years: Celebrating 65 Years of Journalism and Mass Media Education"



7



The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications produced Savannah State University's 65th annual Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI) February 18-19, 2016. The SRPI is a two-day mass media conference primarily for college students from the Southeast. A few workshops are also offered for elementary, middle and high school students who are involved in student media. The SRPI provides training in all areas of mass communications, focusing on contemporary issues, including ethics, innovations in media, new media, entrepreneurship, and more.

Twenty-seven workshops were offered, including a job and internship fair that was held on Feb. 17. In addition to outstanding speakers and workshops, the event also featured the inaugural induction of the Southern Regional Press Institute Hall of Fame. Inductees are individuals who have worked as SRPI speakers, consultants or workshop directors for 20 or more years.

Professor Reginald L. Franklin, director, 65th SRPI
Professor Novella Cross Holmes, associate professor and special projects coordinator
Professor Wanda Lloyd, chair, Department of JMC

1. Serena Garcia, JMC alumna and communications director, AARP Georgia, addresses students attending the plenary opening session.

2. Professor Reginald Franklin, director, 65th SRPI, brings opening remarks.

3. JMC chair Wanda Lloyd and Professor Reginald Franklin pose for photo with Katrina Sharpe, who was presented the Louis J. Corsetti Award for Career Achievement.

4. Professor Tom Grant, student publications adviser, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, gives thanks after receiving the Wilton C. Scott Award for Scholastic Journalism.

5. Students participating in JMC Visiting Instructor Jason Miccolo Johnson's photojournalism workshop learn techniques.

6. SRPI attendees listen attentively during a workshop.

7. Legendary WSB-TV (Atlanta) anchor and Emmy award-winning journalist Moncia Kaufman Pearson speaks to students at the Milledge-Owens Awards Luncheon. Pearson was presented the Robert S. Abbott Memorial Award for Meritorious Service in Mass Communications.

Inaugural SRPI Hall of Fame Honorees



Pictured L-R, Inaugural SRPI Hall of Fame recipients (front row) Dawn Baker, Dr. Charles J. Elmore, Dr. Kristie Kemper, Lawrence Corsetti (accepted the award for his deceased father, Louis J. Corsetti), (back row, l-r), Roger Shank, (accepted the award for his deceased brother-in-law, Wilton C. Scott, the founder of the SRPI), Mark Streeter, Dr. John English, Yvonne Shinhoster Lamb, Mary Ann Goldwire (accepted the award for Professor Louise Lautier Owens) and Dr. Harold Jackson. Dr. Luetta C. Milledge was also one of the recipients, but is not included in the photo.

SRPI Hall of Fame Honorees

Ms. Dawn Baker, Anchor, WTOC-TV-11

***Lou Corsetti**, Professor Emeritus of Journalism, West Liberty State College

John English, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Journalism, Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Georgia

Charles J. Elmore, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Humanities and Department Head, Savannah State University

Harold Jackson, Ph.D., President, The Jackson HeathGroup, Inc

Kristie Kemper, Ph.D., Professor of English and Journalism, Georgia Highlands College

Yvonne Shinhoster Lamb, retired *Washington Post* Editor

Louise Lautier Owens, Professor Emerita of English, Savannah State University

Luetta C. Milledge, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Humanities and Department Head, Savannah State University

***Wilton C. Scott**, Founder, Southern Regional Press Institute and Associate Dean, Extended Services, Savannah State University

Mark Streeter, Editorial Cartoonist, *Savannah Morning News*

**Posthumously*



Dr. Charles J. Elmore, professor emeritus of humanities, SSU, and former SRPI director, delivers the keynote address at the inaugural Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Elmore is a former chair of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, SSU.



SSU President Dr. Cheryl D. Dozier applauds as Dr. Julius Scipio, interim dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, presents Dr. Harold Jackson with the SRPI Hall of Fame Award. Jackson, president and CEO of The JacksonHeathGroup, Inc., is also an SSU alum and a former SRPI director.

Filmmaking returns to SSU's campus, but this time the filmmakers are JMC students, not Paramount Pictures

“The Gathering” and “The Indie Film Fest” provide budding JMC filmmakers training for Georgia’s growing film industry



Paramount Pictures crew films in front of Hill Hall.

Photo courtesy of SSU Archives.

Longtime members of the Tiger family may recall the days when Hollywood came to Savannah State University.

Exteriors of buildings on the campus’ quadrangle -- “the yard” -- as it is known, were expertly transformed to resemble Fort MacCallum, the fictitious army base that was used for Paramount Picture’s 1998 filming of *The General’s Daughter*, starring John Travolta, Madeline Stowe, Timothy Hutton and James Wood.

The front of Hill Hall, which was portrayed as the general’s office, was hand-painted red by the crew, resembling the original brick that was laid by Georgia State Industrial College faculty and students who helped to construct the building in 1901.

Mass communications students were not left out of the action. Selected students worked on the set of the film to acquire experience.

Although that was 18 years ago, students’ passion for the art of filmmaking has never died. In fact, it has grown stronger and is right on target with Gov. Nathan Deal’s push to make Georgia the Hollywood of the South by providing special incentives for the film industry.

Deal’s plan is working. More movies were filmed in Georgia last year than in California, and in 2015, more than 270 productions were filmed in Savannah/Chatham County. The economic impact of the industry and the jobs that it is producing in the state, and in the city, created the perfect backdrop to increase training of JMC students for the industry.

To accomplish this, Professor Tracy Haynes, a 25-year-television veteran, filmmaker and an instructor in the department in 2014, lead the creation of the Golden Tiger Film Society. The Society annually sponsors “The Gathering” and the “SSU Indie Film Fest.”



SSU
INDIE
FILM
FEST

THE GATHERING

The first Gathering, held Oct. 22, 2015, in the Social Sciences Building, brought together SSU faculty, students, alumni and filmmakers who have a love for the art. Filmmakers presented brief clips of their work, still in production, and were presented with a platform to find actors, songwriters and crews to help complete their film projects.

A workshop was also offered that provided instruction on the many aspects of film production.



THE INDIE FILM FESTIVAL

The 2nd annual SSU Indie Film Fest, held April 13-14, 2016, in the Howard Jordan Building, featured the work of 25 films and music videos, judged by professional filmmakers. Films were screened in the following categories: music video, comedy, documentary and drama.



The event was coordinated by JMC visiting instructor Tracy Haynes, and Kareem McMichael, a filmmaker, actor, and JMC's online content manager, who was also recently appointed to the advisory board of the Savannah Film Commission. Tina A. Brown, a journalist and administrative assistant in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, is also a founding member of the Golden Tiger Film Society.

"There is a strong interest for film growing among the students in JMC," McMichael said. "In fact, many of the students like My'Ron West, Tydell Mosley and Raysean Williams were creating films in high school and continued doing so at SSU.

"Professor Haynes and I saw this as an important opportunity to create a film festival that would give the students a platform to showcase their work beyond campus," McMichael said. "Also, we hope that the festival creates an opportunity for students to connect with film and television industry professionals to help them start a career or find other avenues to better produce films and distribute their work."

The festival has grown significantly in the two years it has existed, he said.

"The first year we had 15 entries and the second year we had 29," McMichael said. "I anticipate that the entries for the third year will be even higher."

"We've taken what some think is a bold step in the direction of film instruction now at SSU," Haynes added, "but the real goal of the Indie Film Fest has always been to get young people to learn by doing."

2016 INDIE FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS

BEST STUDENT PICTURE:

Duck for Duchess (producer My'Ron West)

BEST STUDENT SCREENPLAY:

Duck for Duchess (written by My'Ron West)

Renee Bishop, executive producer and writer of televised films, addresses the audience.

WSAV-TV reporter Whitney Harris with Sylvia Alls, the winner of Best Picture Faculty, Staff and Alumni at the 2016 SSU Indie Film Fest.



From l-r, Mekhi West, baby Chyance Wilson, My'Ron West, Malen West, Ma'Cail Reynolds West and Jamal Childs. The West children, My' Ron's nephews and niece, are seasoned actors who frequently star in productions.

Kareem McMichael and Tracy Haynes hold the Golden Tiger.



BEST SCREENPLAY (FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI):
Time-cations (written by Enocha Van Lierop)

BEST DIRECTING (FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI):
Drew Hunt – Time-cations

BEST DOCUMENTARY (FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI): Teddy Adams, The Quintessential Jazz Man (Tracy Haynes)

BEST MUSIC VIDEO: Chosen Ones (Andso Productions)

BEST ACTOR: Patrick Roper – Scalawag

BEST ACTRESS: Nikki Heard – Jacket

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE: Scalawag (score by Adream Thompson)

People's Choice Award - Duck for Duchess (Producer My'Ron West)

BEST STUDENT CINEMATOGRAPHY:

Duck for Duchess (My'Ron West)

BEST STUDENT DIRECTING:

My'Ron West & Jamal Childs – Duck for Duchess

BEST STUDENT DOCUMENTARY:

Slighted (producer Dante' Ferguson)

BEST STUDENT COMEDY:

The Rookies (producer Tydel Mosley)

BEST PICTURE (FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI):

Because I Can (producer Sylvia Alls)

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY (FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI):

Because I Can (Darius Hunt)



OMG THE **SSU JMC** APP IS HERE!

**EXPERIENCE SSU
JOURNALISM AND
MASS COMMUNICATIONS
ON THE GO**



... Farewell



Mrs. Louise Lautier Owens, 95, professor emerita of humanities, SSU, and an early organizer of the annual Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI), died on July 4, 2016. Professor Owens retired from Savannah State University, her alma mater, on October 7, 1986, following a teaching career that spanned 45 years. A colleague of the late Wilton C. Scott, founder of the SRPI, Professor Owens rendered invaluable assistance during the formative years of the SRPI, and continued to work actively in its development after retirement. She is the daughter of the late Louis R. Lautier, distinguished journalist in whose honor the SRPI's Memorial Award for Career Achievement was established. Her father, considered to be the "Dean of Negro Journalists," was the second African American to become a member of the White House Correspondents' Association. In acknowledgement of her continuing dedication to serving the SRPI, the Louise Lautier Owens Press Institute Luncheon was established in 1990. Her work with the SRPI helped to prepare hundreds of students to become journalists.



Mr. Edwin Morris, 51, a 1987 graduate of the Department of Mass Communications (now the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications), departed this life on January 31, 2016. Edwin began his career in mass communications with Savannah stations WJCL-TV-22, WTOG-TV-11, WSAV-TV-3, and other stations in Statesboro and Atlanta, GA. He later pursued a career in teaching, and taught school at Bartlett Middle School, St. Paul Academy, and the Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro, GA.



Mr. Christopher Starks, 22, a junior mass communications major from Stone Mountain, GA., died on August 27, 2015 after he was shot during an altercation in Savannah State University's Student Center. An aspiring musician, Starks attended Appalachian State University on a football scholarship prior to attending SSU.

... Welcome

The Department of JMC has had several new additions since our last publication



Little Miss **Lily Sparks**, daughter of JMC Professor Jessica Sparks, and her husband, Dustin, was born on August 24, 2016. Lily also has a big sister, Emma Lynn, who is 3-years-old.



Master **Tyler Trammel**, the son of Dr. Juliana Trammel, associate professor, and her husband, Michael, was born on December 12, 2014. Tyler has a big brother, Michael Jr., who is 5-years-old.

Terry Manning joined JMC in September 2015 as the technology coordinator. A veteran multimedia journalist with skills in digital, print, video, audio and photography, Manning was a communications assistant for Montgomery (Ala.) Public Schools prior to coming to SSU.

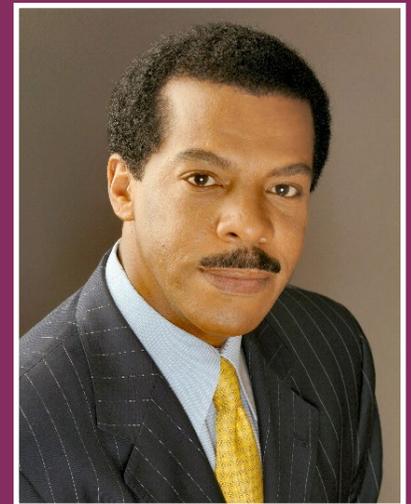
His extensive work with daily newspapers includes having worked as a reporter, copy editor, page layout editor, online news and multimedia editor, and newsroom manager.

A graduate of Clemson University, Manning was editor of his college newspaper, and worked professionally at *The Herald* (Rock Hill, S.C.), the *Pensacola News Journal*, *The Greenville (S.C.) News* and the *Montgomery Advertiser*.



Award-winning photojournalist **Jason Miccolo Johnson** joined the JMC team in August 2015 as a visiting instructor. With more than 40 years of professional photography experience, his images have appeared in 30 books, more than 60 magazines and numerous national newspapers. A few of his books include *Through the African American Lens*, *Songs of My People*, *Standing in the Need of Prayer*, *Q: The Autobiography of Quincy Jones*, *Cooking Up South*, and *Committed to Image*. Selected publication in magazines includes *Time*, *Essence*, *Financial World*, *Smithsonian*, *Entrepreneur*, *Ebony*, *Washingtonian*, *Black Enterprise* and *Washington Post Magazine*.

He has appeared on CNN, C-SPAN Book TV, NPR and Radio One, and has worked for *USA Today*, ABC Network News and Good Morning America. While in Savannah, the Howard University graduate continues to work on his next book, *Legends of Our Lifetime: 100 Black Men Who Influenced America*.



Meet Tina A. Brown

A self-described geek and movie buff, Brown is an author and award-winning journalist whose work focuses primarily on crime, health and social trends. She is the editor/director of SSU Media High, the residential digital journalism camp for high school students at Savannah State University, and the administrative assistant in the Department of JMC. The author of “**Crooked Road Straight: The Awakening of AIDS Activist Linda Jordan**,” Brown has conducted community self-employment workshops for youth on various aspects of storytelling. She also teaches GED preparatory courses at Savannah Technical College. Brown is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Narrative Media Writing at the University of Georgia.



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