

JAC

SPRING 2022

A woman with vibrant red curly hair, wearing a maroon velvet dress, smiles while holding a bouquet of white flowers. In the background, a person is dressed in traditional regalia, including a feathered headdress and a patterned garment. Another person in a red cap and face mask is partially visible on the left. A person with a camera is also present in the background.

**NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES
VISITS SCRIPPS HOWARD**



Hampton University first-year students Gianna and Madison laugh as they struggle to snap a selfie on the Twister. The university's branch of the National Pan Hellenic Council celebrated the homecoming season with a picnic and mini-carnival.

Photograph by Kayla Kennedy '22

JAC FEATURES

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COVER: PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES RECEIVES A FLOWER FROM CHADRA PITTMAN. THE FLOWERS WERE THROWN INTO THE WATER AT THE FORT MONROE BEACH HONORING ENSLAVED AFRICANS WHO DIED IN TRANSIT. **BELOW:** KADEN PERKINS, CENTER, AND CIARA WHITE-SPARKS INTERVIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH CLEAN-UP PROJECT MANAGER DAVE KROUBSKY.



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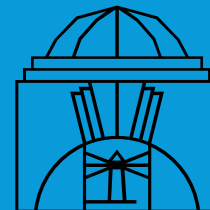
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BRINGING A GLOBAL VISION

— DEAN JULIA A. WILSON

We are in a fascinating and dynamic time in the world. As digital platforms continue to dominate the media, our job as journalists and strategic communicators is as pertinent as ever. Beyond being the documenters of history, culture and life in general, we are increasingly called upon to be the fair and balanced voice of reason in an oversaturated media space laced with fake news. And, to speak truth to power.

I am honored to be the new dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. I appreciate the warm welcome and administrative support I have received since joining the Hampton University family. I bring a global vision to our school of empowering our students with competitive skills in this digital age. We want to train and mentor our students to be critical thinkers, and to be discerning, truthful and fair journalists and strategic communicators. Key to this endeavor is ensuring that our faculty is supported to become adept at using and teaching the latest technologies and staying abreast of fast-moving trends in education. And, we will spotlight our alumni successes to motivate our students.

We are organizing a stellar Advisory Council, comprised of corporate professionals, educators and industry leaders, (including successful alumni and a student), who will partner with us in our quest to become a premier journalism and communications school. Our aim is to develop culturally literate, diverse and internationally competitive journalists and strategic communicators, who perform their craft with the highest standards of ethics and excellence.

We are working to build a Global Media Center to propel our school as an international hub of collaboration, teaching and inspiration for international study and careers. We are solidifying and diversifying our partnerships to increase internship and mentorship opportunities, as well as create more student scholarships. I am excited about the future growth potential of our school.

In this issue of JAC Magazine: We spotlight special events and visitors such as Nikole Hannah-Jones, the creator of “The 1619 Project,” our return to an in-person “High School Day,” and the induction of six of our top students into the Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society. We also feature the in-person celebration of the 2020 and 2021 graduates whose formal ceremonies were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, our investigative class is featured in a story about this year’s Superfund site investigation that was funded by the Scripps Howard Foundation.

As spring 2022 semester ends, I wish all of you graduating students the best of luck in your future endeavors. Please remember that our school will always be your Home by the Sea. We remain a resource for you and look forward to hearing of your career progress and global exploits. We know you will make us proud. To our continuing students: welcome to the fall semester. We appreciate the opportunity to help guide and support each of you, as you solidify your place in the world.



Dean,
Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications
Hampton University

Prior to her appointment on Jan. 1, 2022 as dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications, Julia A. Wilson was the CEO and founder of Wilson Global Communications LLC, an international public relations and strategic communications consultancy headquartered in Washington, D.C. A former print and broadcast journalist in Los Angeles, Dean Wilson covered the historic South African election of President Nelson Mandela and the presidential inauguration of Liberia’s Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. She has lived and/or worked in 13 countries. Dean Wilson brings to Hampton’s SHSJC rich global experiences, and a dedication to, and passion for, international journalistic and communications excellence.

NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES: REFRAMING AMERICAN HISTORY

BY SYDNEY BROADNAX

Pulitzer Prize-winner Nikole Hannah-Jones began her search for truth when she was just 11-years-old. It was then, in 1988, that Hannah-Jones learned of the racial divide within the United States. That discovery began an impassioned search for the true Black history, rather than the one she saw being taught of a people erased, their story twisted.

Hannah-Jones, best known for “The 1619 Project,” a 2019 New York Times Magazine special edition, spoke to Hampton University journalism students on Nov. 10, inspiring them with personal stories of victory and harassment, including multiple death threats, for telling the truth about the Black experience in America.

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NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES

“The 1619 Project” magazine contains 10 essays accompanied by photos, poems and fictional stories depicting the legacy of the first enslaved Africans brought to Port Comfort, near Hampton, Va., in the year 1619. Hannah-Jones released “The 1619 Project,” an expanded book version of the magazine, in late 2021, along with a children’s version, “Born on the Water.” Her essay on the project explored how African Americans can love a country that hates them and won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

The mission of “The 1619 Project” is to “reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of our national narrative,” according to The New York Times Magazine website. The project explores how the extended legacy of slavery has determined everything from the type of capitalism this country practices to where its highways are placed.

“I hope the legacy of this would be that Black people get their rightful place in the American story. We weren’t just empty vessels with no knowledge or intellect, who just gave our labor to this country. We gave so much more,” said Hannah-Jones, who is currently the racial

JOURNALIST NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES IS INTERVIEWED BY MARY N. ELLIOT, CURATOR AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, IN THE SCRIPPS HOWARD STUDIO. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.







JOSIAH BELFON-VALENTINE, LEFT, AND COLANGELO PARKER WATCH THE INTERVIEW OF NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES BY MARY N. ELLIOT. THE INTERVIEW WAS BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL ON CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

injustice reporter for the New York Times Magazine and the new Knight Chair of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University.

In her conversation before a live studio audience at the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton, Hannah-Jones urged students to write the truth, even if it is difficult. The vitriolic backlash to “The 1619 Project” was tough to take at times, she shared.

Former President Donald Trump called “The 1619 Project” and critical race theory “toxic” and said it “warped, distorted, and defiled the American story with deceptions, falsehoods, and lies.” U.S. Senator Cynthia Lummis re-introduced the Saving American History Act in June 2021, which would prohibit federal funds from being used to teach “The 1619 Project” curriculum in K-12 schools.

“Never before has there been an entire issue of a magazine, a special section of a podcast series, a live event series for one project,” said Hannah-Jones of the largest

single project ever published by the New York Times. “I was just shocked and overwhelmed by the response to it...and then I was also shocked by the backlash.”

Hannah-Jones said she has had to rally from down times because of the backlash, but manages to find hope.

“I have somehow, in the last two years, become a symbol,” Hannah-Jones said. “Either a symbol to those who love my work, or a symbol of those who hate my work. But I’m not a symbol, I’m a human being... Let the book come out and deal with the fact that everything they tried to do to suppress this work has only made it bigger.”

As a child, Hannah-Jones was a “big nerd,” she said. This intellect drew her to reading and inspired her to fill in the gaps.

“As an 11-year-old Black girl, I knew the reason Jesse Jackson did so poorly in the Iowa primaries was because he was Black. Our country needed to realize that one day we were going to have a Black man as president,” said Hannah-Jones.

She wrote an opinion piece for her local paper, which she read daily with her father, then waited impatiently for it to be published.

“I would go to the newspaper and open it to see if it got published, and one day, it did. That’s when I felt a sense of power,” said Hannah-Jones, “You could write something, and it could be published, and you could force people to think about something that maybe they hadn’t or see the Black experience differently.”

After earning a degree in history and African American studies, from the University of Notre Dame, the writer wanted to work for a Black paper about Black experiences, but ended up at the Raleigh News and Observer. She earned her master’s degree from the University of North Carolina’s Hussman School of Journalism and Media as a Roy H. Park Fellow in 2003.

After three years in Raleigh, Hannah-Jones went to The Oregonian in 2006, then worked for Pro-Publica before going to The New York Times in 2015. That same year, she helped found the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting to increase the numbers of journalists of color.

Students said hearing her story was transformative.

“Meeting Nikole was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had in my life,” said Lauryn Bass, a senior journalism major at Hampton. “I feel like my journalistic heart has been set ablaze and I am more motivated to pursue the stories that I feel need to be heard.”

Hannah-Jones got her inspiration for telling the truthful Black history and its impact on modern life in high school when her only Black teacher encouraged her to speak out about injustice around the school through her school newspaper. He showed her the book “Before the Mayflower: A History of the Negro in America, 1619-1962.” This book grew from a series of articles once published in Ebony Magazine. The book entails little-known knowledge about Black people and their origins in western Africa. It also showed her the importance of the year 1619 and laid the foundation for “The 1619 Project.”

That teacher told her that if she would not bring to light the injustices that surrounded the community, that she should “shut up and stop complaining about it.” This was the spark that set her on her path of truth telling, she said.

“He told me if I was not going to do anything about the things that made me upset, I should just shut up,” said Hannah-Jones.

The published author’s love of journalism began as a child reading the local newspaper and discussing the stories with her father.

“Even as a child I was very skeptical of the narratives of the media because it did not match the reality I was seeing,” said Hannah-Jones. “I started to think about who has the power to shape the narratives about our community.”

In grade school, she was bused to a predominantly white school as a part of desegregation. “I would say that I witnessed

the landscape of inequality through the school bus window,” said Hannah-Jones. “I rode the bus two hours every day, and we’d see how everything about our community changed as we left the Black side of town.”

The white side of Waterloo had paved roads and more parks, restaurants, and stores compared to the blue-collar Black neighborhood right next to it. According to the media, Black people did not work, which confused her because her family was made up of hard-working blue-collar workers.

“The 1619 Project” came about in 2019 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of American slavery. She wanted the project to exist beyond the anniversary and talk about how Black history is American history.

One unexpected shock for Hannah-Jones was not being welcomed with open arms to her alma mater, the University of North Carolina, where she was offered a professorship. At the last minute, the board denied the tenure linked to the offer. Hannah-Jones took her skills to Howard instead.

Hannah-Jones also advised SHSJC students on some of the problems all journalists face. “The night before the



SENIOR JOURNALISM STUDENT SYDNEY SHULER PHOTOGRAPHS NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES AND DEAN JULIA A. WILSON BEFORE THE INTERVIEW. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

release, I was full of anxiety that no one would read or care about ‘The 1619 Project,’” shared Hannah-Jones.

“Talent alone doesn’t get you to be a good journalist,” she said. “We can’t control anything outside of ourselves. We can’t control whether people value our stories or not. We can’t control whether our editors will trust or not, but we can

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DURING A CEREMONY HONORING ENSLAVED AFRICANS WHO DIED IN TRANSIT, NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES AND OTHER DIGNITARIES TOSS FLOWERS INTO THE WATER AT THE FORT MONROE BEACH. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

HONORING AFRICAN ANCESTORS

BY ALEX KELLY

Drummers led the way to commemorate the 1619 arrival of enslaved people on the Great Lion ship to Point Comfort, Virginia. While the exact point of landing is unknown, a group of Hampton University students joined regional leaders, professors, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Nikole Hannah-Jones near a commemorative plaque on the beach at Fort Monroe.

The group tossed roses into the gentle surf to honor those who were kidnapped and who died on the way. Local ancestral historian Chadra Pittman lit sage and told the history of Africans who were captured from their homes, imprisoned and shipped to the Americas like cargo.

“It was a beautiful moment,” said junior Zaria Middleton. “I didn’t think it would bring out emotion, however, I think the going over of the names and the symbolic meaning behind us placing the flowers is what got me.”

Representatives of the Tucker family, who trace their lineage to their ancestors who arrived on the Great Lion, said they were grateful for the opportunity to connect and thank their ancestors.

Historian Mary Elliott, Vincent Tucker, and Pittman joined

Hannah-Jones for a panel discussion about the importance of tracing family roots and self-educating on the history of Africans in America.

Hannah-Jones, who edited and wrote portions of “The 1619 Project” for The New York Times, was given an oak tree sapling to be planted at Fort Monroe, in honor of her courage in telling the history of the legacy of slavery, which continues to take its toll in modern society.

“Oak trees are important to the Black community because their roots run deep,” said Pittman.

Pittman gave each person a cowrie, a tiny shell, as a symbol of those original enslaved Africans. Everyone, it seemed, rubbed their thumbs over the smooth shiny outer shell and held it tightly in their palms, gazing out at the water.

“This shell is a representation of your ancestors who were brought here in bondage,” Pittman said. “This is in remembrance of them and those who have fought for us to be where we are now and will continue to go,” she said.

The 1619 Project Continued from page 9

control our own excellence.”

Those personal stories of tenacity in the face of setbacks inspired Hampton students. “I think the most crucial piece of key information that I picked up from Nikole Hannah-Jones was that even in denial, you must push forward,” said Hampton student Jeremiah Williams, describing Hannah-Jones’ climb to national recognition after years of work. “The biggest thing I received from the conversation with Nikole Hannah-Jones is that this business takes grit and grind.”

Other journalism majors agreed with the journalist’s strength in the face of backlash.

“She didn’t lie and say that it didn’t affect her,” said Miles Fawcett. “She was open about how poorly it made her feel and how she was able to move past it.”

It also made students realize that they too could publish the true stories of the Black influence on the country.

“I am all about telling Black’s people stories,” said Tigist Ashaka. “Hearing the truth and being a part of this is just magical.”

CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE MILES FAWCETT,
NOAH HOGAN AND NICOLE PECHACEK



ABOVE: NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES POSES WITH HAMPTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND NATIONAL PARK MEMBERS UNDER A HISTORIC OAK TREE AT FORT MONROE.

LEFT: NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES RECEIVES AN OAK SEEDLING THAT WILL BE PLANTED IN HER HONOR AT FORT MONROE. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

Taking New York by **FORCE**

HU's Marching Band performs in the 95th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

BY WINSTON ROGERS, '22

For the millions watching the 95th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade at home or in person, the 2021 holiday event had a sense of comfort and return to normalcy after the pandemic forced last year's only cancellation in history.

The 175-member Hampton University Marching **FORCE** made school history during the 2.5-mile journey to 34th Street, marking the first performance in the largest Thanksgiving parade in the country.



ABOVE: JOURNALISM MAJOR KYLE SNIPES PLAYS THE SOUSAPHONE IN CENTRAL PARK DURING A PERFORMANCE IN NEW YORK CITY.

RIGHT: JUNIORS JOSCELEON NAPIER, RIGHT, AND XAVIER CROSS REACT TO "STEVE" FROM THE CHILDREN'S TELEVISION SHOW "BLUES CLUES" BEFORE MARCHING IN THE 2021 MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARCHING FORCE MEDIA

The marching band's show, titled "A Celebration of Family," featured "Workin' Day and Night," by Michael Jackson, "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge, and "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang.

The trip was a new experience for many students. "Going to Macy's was my dream because I watched it every year with my family," said third-year snare drummer Josceleon Napier. "Being able to go and be a part was a complete dream come true."

Fourth-year sousaphone player Kyle Snipes has been to The Big Apple before, but it was his last trip with the band. "It definitely holds value as it's the last major performance I'll have with my section," Snipes said. "It's sad but bittersweet."

In April 2019, the Marching **FORCE** was selected from more than 100 bands to participate alongside the University of Alabama's "Million Dollar Band."

Morgan Harris, a third-year trumpet player, was upset when the 2020 performance was cancelled. "When I was told we weren't going to go, I was devastated," Harris said. "But everything happens for a reason and in a timely manner...It gave us more time to perfect our performance and anticipate the moment."

In another high-profile performance, the Marching **FORCE** was one of five bands - and the only HBCU - invited to ring in the 2020 New Year in the Vatican City in Rome, Italy for the annual Rome New Year's Day Parade.

Soon after, the band earned an invitation to the Honda Battle of the Bands in Atlanta, Ga. for the second time.

PREPARATIONS

In late October, the excited and nervous band began preparing for the trip. "I was counting down; I was so excited," drummer Napier said. It was unbelievable, like we're really going to be in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thanksgiving Day."

Third-year sousaphone player Daelyn Clayton originally

Continued on following page



New York by Force continued

felt nonchalant. “When we actually started practicing for it, I was like ‘Oh wow! In less than two weeks we are going to be on one of the most viewed, broadcasted events in the country,” Clayton said.

The time on the actual star is short, about 1 minute and 15 seconds. Everything had to be perfect, band director Dr. Thomas L. Jones Jr. told band members every day.



SENIOR SCRIPPS MAJOR WINSTON ROGERS PERFORMS IN CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK, BEFORE PERFORMING IN THE MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCHING FORCE MEDIA

CENTRAL PARK

Jones meant perfection not just in the star, but in performances around the city leading up to the parade, including in Central Park.

On Nov. 22, the band held a two-hour performance

in Central Park's amphitheater for about 100 alumni and bystanders.

The band performed familiar radio tunes, and the drum line got a chance to display their chops.

THANKSGIVING DAY

On Thanksgiving Day, band members were up, dressed and in downtown New York City by 3 a.m. Stepping into 39-degree weather, they had to practice on the infamous star despite lack of sleep. They had 12 minutes. Any musical issues had been fixed during a 3-hour practice in Connecticut the previous day.

“That's it, that's all you get,” Dr. Thomas Jones Jr. said as the band finished its rehearsal. “Sometimes in life, you only get one shot.”

Next was a 3-hour breakfast, a last-minute nap and a gathering of nerves for the next six hours.

At 7 a.m., the band lined up at West 77th Street and Central Park West. The temperature was warmer than anticipated and band members were much more social than a few hours before, excited with anticipation.

Band members were lined up next to floats from nostalgic TV shows like “Sesame Street” and “Blues Clues,” a trip down memory lane.

“This was my favorite part of the trip,” Napier said. “Getting to meet all my favorite TV show characters and have fun with the others before the parade started.”

Then it began. The hour marching 2.5 miles became a blur with crowd excitement building as the

band approached the star.

“I was focused on the cadences and the music,” Clayton said. “But when I saw the astonishment on some of the kids' faces and heard the cheers from the crowd, it all felt so unreal.”

NEW DEAN SHARES GLOBAL VISION FOR SCRIPPS HOWARD

BY SYDNEY SHULER '22

Dean Julia A. Wilson was a newly hired professor for only two days before the provost announced her promotion as interim dean to the faculty and staff on September 1, 2021. It was a surprise to everyone, including her, she said. Her background in print and broadcast journalism, international public relations and business, brought new insights to academia. And with her appointment as full dean, effective January 1, 2022, the international public relations business executive is laser focused on bringing international education and culture to Scripps Howard.

"The internet has forever changed the communications landscape by connecting us throughout the world," said Wilson. "It is critical for our next generation of journalists, strategic communicators, and educators to fully embrace new digital technologies and trends as storytelling tools globally."

As the founder and CEO of Wilson Global Communications, LLC, Dean Wilson has connected America's best in business, media, education and civic affairs to their counterparts abroad. As a columnist, magazine publisher, on-air international television news reporter and print journalist, she honed her writing and communication skills.

In her first job as a fashion writer at the Los Angeles Sentinel, a Black newspaper in Los Angeles, her column, "Julia's Fashion Qs," was so popular that the publisher agreed to give Wilson more space if she agreed to sell ads. By the time Wilson left the newspaper for other adventures, her column included six pages of local and national fashion stories. Then, a car accident altered her path.

"I started praying and told God, 'Well, if you let me up, I'll go back to school and get my journalism degree,'" Wilson said. In 1991, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Facing a tough hiring market upon graduation, Wilson couldn't find work.

So, she created Good News Magazine, published in English and Spanish, to bridge racial gaps in Los Angeles after the civil unrest following the brutal police assault of Rodney King. Wilson used her ad sales experience to raise money to fund and publish her magazine. Toyota paid for Wilson to publish 15,000 copies in the first month. Within three months, Wilson was publishing 45,000 copies for distribution and attracting numerous other advertisers. Her magazine was distributed in 7-Eleven stores throughout southern California and at the LAX airport concessions.

When Nelson Mandela ran for president in 1994, Wilson secured a deal with KCOP – FOX11- TV in Los Angeles to connect her with CNN to satellite her stories to the station during the South African presidential election for airing. In her stories, she featured interviews with Afrikaners, Black and Colored South Africans. What she saw when she landed in South Africa surprised her. "I saw palm trees, freeways like in LA, Africans in business suits with briefcases, ATM machines at the airport; I was in tears,"



DEAN JULIA A. WILSON GREET'S PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. HARVEY DURING HIS VISIT TO THE SCRIPPS HOWARD TV PRODUCTION STUDIO. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

Wilson recalled. "I'd been lied to all my life. I'd heard all these bad things, negative things about Africa and its peoples."

Wilson teamed up with four Black South African public relations professionals to start Simeka, the first Black-owned, full-service PR company in the newly democratic South Africa. Nine months later, she founded Wilson Global Communications Ltd. and landed the Coca-Cola Company International as her first client. She has since secured business clients such as the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre on behalf of the Republic of Ghana, launching Ghana Club 100 during the visit of Pres. Bill Clinton, African Union Mission to the United States, Go Africa TV covering the Democratic nomination acceptance of Pres. Barack Obama in Denver, CO, the Prince of Wales Trust, China-United States Exchange Foundation, the National Urban League and 40 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She also received a Fulbright grant from the U.S. State Department in Paris to lecture in France on social entrepreneurship.

In 2014, Wilson launched the HBCU-China Scholarship Network to disburse 1,000 scholarships awarded by China's Vice Premier Liu Yandong for HBCU students to study in China. The scholarships have been used by students to study in various Chinese universities from two weeks up to two years. Wilson Global also facilitated a program that sponsored two-week student study visits to China for students in Congressional Black Caucus

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INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM: RIGHTING THE WRONGS OF ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

WRITTEN BY JAC 451 INVESTIGATIVE CLASS



Senior journalism student Daelin Brown stood looking into pooled surface water at a Superfund Site she and a dozen other students had been investigating since September. It was now March and she knew it was still full of toxins. Lead, PCBs, cobalt, arsenic, asbestos, chromium, cadmium, mercury, nickel and silver all spilled into the ground. At every high tide, the toxins have been washing into the adjacent creek during the 50 years the site was used to cut up and recycle everything from U.S. Navy ships to electrical transformers.



INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM:

Now, with every high tide, the toxins wash into the adjacent creek.

There were even active radioactive hotspots before Brown started making calls to the Environmental Protection Agency. She believes her calls are why the EPA sent in a cleanup crew in December to load the dangerous materials into a 50-gallon metal drum and get them off the property.

She also believes the EPA hit the gas pedal on publishing a cleanup proposal right before Christmas, just months after students started digging around, some 20 years after the EPA told the property owner that the site was an “imminent danger,” and 12 years after the site was designated Superfund.

“When I first started interviewing the EPA, none of the EPA officials could tell me if the Peck Iron and Metal site was dangerous for the community of Cradock across the creek,” said Brown. After Brown started asking questions, the EPA did testing and determined that Cradock residents were not at risk.

Often there was a high level of enthusiasm in the classroom when student reporters shared their findings. “Looks like real journalism going on,” one professor said when he stuck his head in the doorway to watch the excited team of reporters discussing their next moves.

But, there were times when students felt overwhelmed and unsure of their destination. The 1100-page EPA scientific analysis report of the Peck site was daunting. Students still joke that no one ever read it word for word.

“Beginning an investigative project is like walking in a thick fog,” said Professor Lynn Waltz, director of the new investigative journalism program. “You have to trust that your reporting will cut through and eventually the truth will emerge.”

In previous classes, students had interviewed and written original stories, but now they were using data, official federal toxin reports and interviewing officials at state and federal agencies like the Environmental





PREVIOUS PAGE: AN EXCAVATOR DREDGES PARTS OF PARADISE CREEK SOUTH OF THE PECK IRON AND METAL SUPERFUND SITE TO REMOVE PCBs FROM WATERWAYS.

FAR LEFT: JOURNALISM STUDENT NOAH HOGAN TRIES TO AVOID CONTACT WITH WATER AFTER FLOODING FROM RAIN ON THE PECK IRON AND METAL SUPERFUND SITE.

LEFT: SYDNEY SHULER, LEFT, AND DAELIN BROWN, BOTH GRADUATING JOURNALISM STUDENTS, EXAMINE FLOODING IN ABANDONED BUILDINGS ON THE FORMER RECYCLING PLANT. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

Texas beamed in to talk about data, reviewing an Excel spreadsheet that showed that all five Superfund sites in or adjacent to Portsmouth had been identified as extremely dangerous because of sea level rise and the possibility that storm surges and hurricanes could wash more toxins into the waterways.

One of the biggest dangers is PCBs in Paradise Creek, which accumulate in oysters, then bio-magnify in the fish who eat the oysters, and again bio-magnify in humans who eat the fish. PCBs were outlawed in 1979, after birds, such as eagles and osprey, were unable to hatch their eggs.

Students at Hampton have been asking for investigative reporting classes for years, but with the death of George Floyd in 2020,

Protection Agency. All on their own.

“This class had its trials and tribulations, but it’s been a true learning experience in the real world,” said junior journalism major, Noah Hogan. “I’ve never participated in journalism like this before. I felt like we were always in training mode, but now we were off the leash and allowed to chase a real story.”

They had a prestigious guide for the trip. Vernon Loeb, the executive editor of Inside Climate News, or one of his reporters, Zoomed in about once a week to lecture on reporting techniques, the Freedom of Information Act and the importance of environmental justice to African American communities. Loeb has worked at The Atlantic, The Los Angeles Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Washington Post and The Houston Chronicle.

During one class, an investigative journalist from

they grew more passionate.

“Seeing how some social justice stories were portrayed in the media, I understood the importance of Black journalists and our voices,” said Brown. “I wanted a class where we were able to depict social justice stories from our perspective.”

Beyond classroom instruction, Waltz networked with investigative journalism organizations, organized national speakers and developed programs to connect students with career opportunities. “I was extremely excited to be given the opportunity to give our students the tools they need to take a seat at the table,” Waltz said. “We need Black voices in places of authority and prestige in the newsrooms around the world.”

The class was a great opportunity for students to not

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM: CONTINUED



KADEN PERKINS, JOURNALISM SENIOR, INTERVIEWS DAVE KROUBSY UNDERNEATH A BRIDGE OVER PARADISE CREEK IN PORTSMOUTH. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

only understand the world of investigative journalism, but also understand how environmental threats can coincide with racism.

“I’ve always been into environmental justice, but this class helped open my eyes to the reality of what’s going on in the world and how different categories of racism are constantly swept under the rug,” said junior journalism major Sherdell Baker.

Students said they didn’t realize that pollution affects African Americans at a higher rate than whites. They were shocked to find that Portsmouth has the highest rate of breast cancer and highest death rate from colon cancer. And, that Black men in Portsmouth die of prostate cancer at nearly four times the rate of white men.

“When they started adding up what they had, I think the students were surprised that they could make a case

for environmental injustice based on race,” Waltz said. “They started to ask why Superfund sites were built next to Black communities.”

A highlight of the investigation was when students got to interview the owner of the Superfund site, David

Peck. Students had not gotten answers to numerous emails and phone messages. Prof. Waltz dropped off a letter at his house, modeling how phone calls and emails are not enough.

“I told him they wanted to tell his side of the story,” Waltz said. “He tried to talk us out of even doing the article, but I said the best thing we could offer was the truth and to tell his story. Eventually, he agreed.”

Students also had to interview public officials and review federal court documents, state laws and regulations, and local environmental advisories. Senior journalism major



Continued on page 28

JUNIOR WRITER UNPACKS GENERATIONAL TRAUMA OF LYNCHINGS IN WACO, TEXAS

Journalism student Nicole Pechacek had been feeling overwhelmed by her research into the racist past of white newspapers and the role they played in attracting crowds to lynchings in Texas. Now it was time to go south to find and interview the descendants of lynching victims.

It was July 2021. Pechacek's mother drove their black rented SUV from the airport down Washington Avenue toward the Brazos River and immediately on its opposite shore, looming before her, were the metal trusses of a large steel bridge. She immediately recognized it from newspaper clippings she had studied.

"I was in shock," Pechacek recalled. "I immediately told my mom. She was horrified. I didn't think we would be so close to one of the sites so early."

She couldn't keep back the images. She imagined Sank Majors' 18-year-old body hanging from the metal trusses of the 120-year-old bridge.

"I wondered how loud the crowd was cheering," Pechacek said, imagining the tens of thousands of people who turned out to celebrate the hanging of a young man accused – but not convicted – of raping a white woman.

The local newspapers had spread news of the rape, which fueled the crowds, and stirred up anger and hate. The newspapers also printed false information concluding guilt

before the trial.

As she looked down at the wide river, Pechacek couldn't bring herself to imagine the mutilation of the body that followed the lynching, a typical practice in the south. Instead, she was swiftly crossing the 450-foot span, transported surreally into "Magnolia" land in downtown Waco amid ubiquitous advertisements for former HGTV celebrities Chip and Joanna Gaines. The predominantly white downtown with its fancy restaurants and tourist attractions had no commemoration of victims, even on official tours of the city.

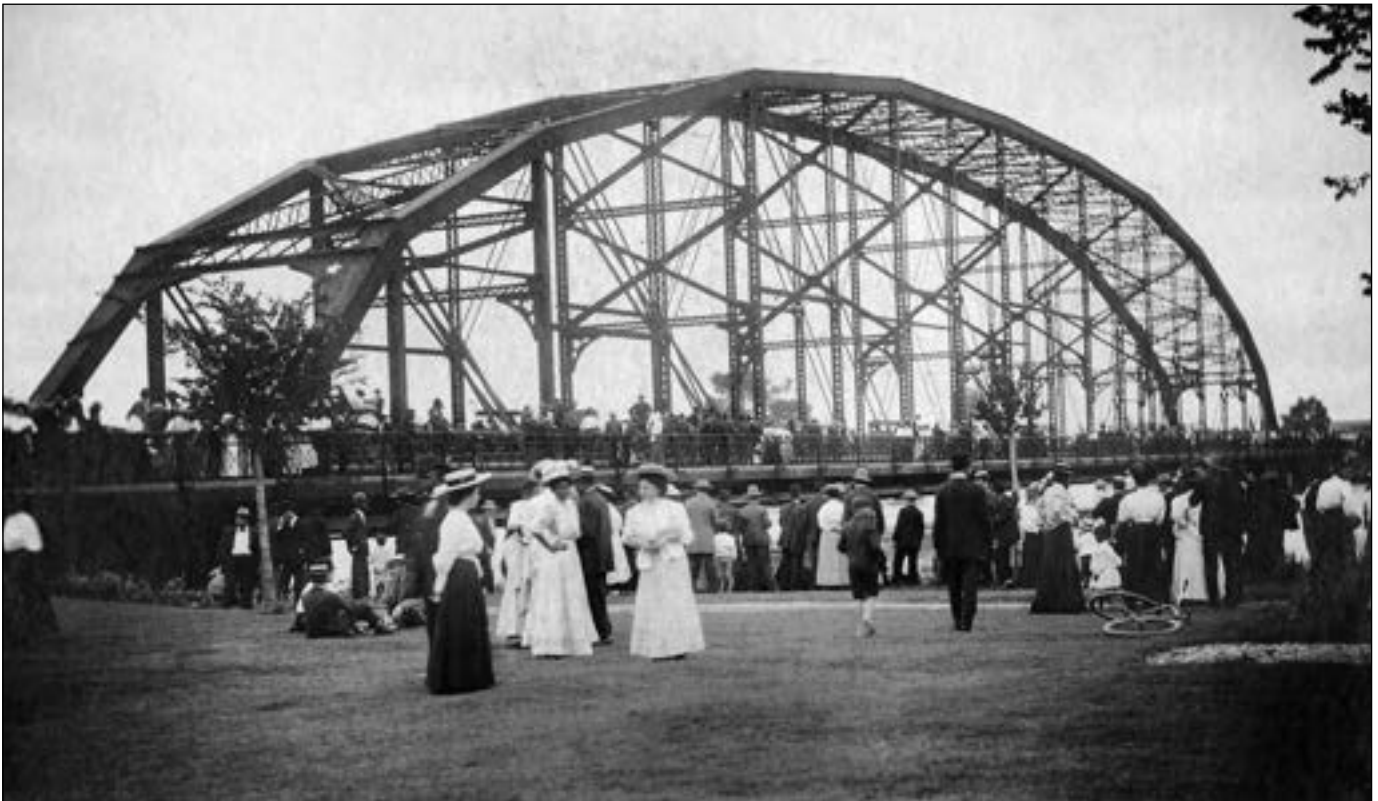
Just as suddenly, it seemed, she was in the living room of a black community activist looking at a barbecue spread and three homemade pies, surrounded by seven people who had either descended from men lynched in Waco, or who had made the city publicly take responsibility.

"Most of them lived in Waco their entire lives," said Pechacek. "But they didn't learn the details about the local lynchings or the crowds they drew, until they were much older. Maybe, deep down, they knew, but never the details."

That was the case for 74-year-old Anthony Fulbright, one of the first black students at Baylor University.

"I knew never to go across the Washington Avenue Bridge," he said. "I didn't know until I was much older the

Continued on page 29



PICTURED ABOVE IS A HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF WACO'S WASHINGTON AVENUE BRIDGE TAKEN IN THE EARLY 1900s ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE BRAZOS RIVER, THE SITE OF SANK MAJORS LYNCHING. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TEXAS COLLECTION, BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

SCRIPPS TURNS 20



ABOVE LEFT: CONSTRUCTION ON THE CURVED FRONT OF THE SCRIPPS BUILDING SHOWS THE SKELETAL FRAMEWORK. **ABOVE RIGHT:** THE BUILDING AFTER COMPLETION. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCRIPPS HOWARD SCHOOL ARCHIVES

BY SARA AVERY '22

In 2002, the Department of Mass Media Arts was just another program in the school of Liberal Arts and Education. There were four curricula offered: public relations, print journalism, broadcast journalism and advertising.

Although students were graduating and beginning successful careers, faculty members knew that in order to keep up with the rapidly converging media industry, they would one day need a space of their own. In 1999, they saw the first inkling of their dreams becoming reality when Judy Clabes, the former President and CEO of the Scripps Howard Foundation, approached the university with the idea to establish an independent school of journalism and communications.

"I remember her inviting the faculty out to lunch, and one of her questions was, 'What do you think the department of mass media needs to grow and move forward?' One of the faculty members said 'We need a new building,'" said Rosalynne Whitaker-Heck, the first administrator of the Scripps Howard School and currently associate provost at Champlain College. "She didn't blink an eye and said, 'Maybe that could happen.'"

Clabes didn't land at Hampton by accident. She was also on the board of the American Society of Newspaper Editors that had a goal of increasing equity in their newsrooms by the year 2000. Unfortunately, that goal wasn't met.

Clabes began to dig into why diversity was lacking and was tasked with moving the needle in a dramatic way. She discovered that more than 30 percent of middle class Black Americans with college degrees had earned them from HBCUs.

Clabes went on the search to find HBCU journalism programs, but was saddened to see that communications was not an option at most of them. She then set out to find an HBCU journalism program that the Scripps Howard Foundation could invest heavily into.

"I looked at the stats and looked at graduation rates. I looked at leadership, I looked at sustainability," she said. "So I came up with a handful of schools that would meet our criteria. And we chose Hampton to be the school that we wanted to invest in."

After a few more meetings with President William R. Harvey and \$10 million later, the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications was constructed.

"Dr. Harvey was terrifically involved and gracious and impressive. He committed that corner lot right at the entrance of the school, and several months later, we were turning dirt," Clabes said.

The mass media arts program moved from a few classrooms in Armstrong Hall to a new two-story building with state-of-the-art and industry-standard technology. A week-long celebration ensued with executives, reporters,



ABOVE LEFT: THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER OF 2002 AND FEATURED MRS. NORMA R. HARVEY, LEFT TO RIGHT, PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. HARVEY, JUDY CLABES, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION, AND KENNETH LOWE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE E.W. SCRIPPS CO. **ABOVE RIGHT:** HIGH SCHOOL DAY IN APRIL OF 2022 ATTRACTED THOUSANDS OF VISITORS TO THE 20-YEAR-OLD BUILDING. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCRIPPS HOWARD SCHOOL ARCHIVES

and industry professionals ushered in by the melodies of The Marching Force.

However, the move didn't come without growing pains.

"Part of the challenge was the new auditorium because it did not have side aisles," said Whitaker-Heck. "The atrium skylight started to leak so we had to have a crew come in and fix that issue."

Once the integrity of the building was up to par, students began matriculating through the new "Taj Mahal" of campus. Twenty years later, the school's motto "Give light and the people will find their own way," has continued to ring true for each class that has matriculated through Scripps Howard.

Now more than ever, it is important that an HBCU journalism school produce Black journalists who can tell stories and provide insight relevant to their community. Since Scripps became a school, it has graduated nearly 2,000 students who have gone on to work at Bloomberg, ABC, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Good Morning America, Burson-Marsteller and other notable journalism and public relations organizations.

"I remember Judy Clabes having a conversation with faculty members about their interest in diversifying the different industries, media industries both journalism and communications. And how one day, we would see Scripps Howard graduates in the boardrooms of these media entities," said Whitaker-Heck. "To see that there is a former

student who is an executive, and I still remember them as a fresh faced, first-year student, still trying to figure out their life, is what I really, really, really am proud of."

Rashida Jones, 2002 graduate of Hampton University Mass Media Arts, is currently president of MSNBC.





AFTER THE 2020-2021 GRADUATION CELEBRATION, 2020 GRADUATE LORYN HAIRSTON, LEFT TO RIGHT, PROFESSOR KEISHA REYNOLDS AND 2020 GRADUATE CHELSEA DAVIS POSE FOR A PHOTO. PHOTO BY TIGIST ASHAKA

PANDEMIC GRADUATES CROSS THE STAGE AT LAST

BY SYDNEY SHULER, '22

Due to the pandemic, the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021 missed their official ceremony. In December, they were able to return to Hampton University for their commencement celebration.

In pandemic-friendly fashion, the recent Hampton alumni registered to attend a scaled-down ceremony at the Convocation Center and smaller events for the individual schools, including the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. President William R. Harvey gave sound financial advice before Hampton alumna and President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Attorney Spencer Overton, shared her post-graduate experience and favorite Hampton memories.

"It was really an honor...[to] actually shake the hands of the students who had already graduated, who didn't have an opportunity to graduate in a normal way, because the pandemic prevented that," Dean Julia A. Wilson said. "I could see the happiness on their faces. They were so proud of themselves to have graduated. They were just happy – and



KTA AWARDS THE BEST OF SCRIPPS STUDENTS



THIS YEAR'S KTA HONOREES ARE TARYN-MARIE JENKINS, LEFT TO RIGHT, SARA AVERY, EVAN TAYLOR, AMARAH ENNIS, DEJA HOBBS, KIMBERLEE-MYKEL THOMPSON, RYANNE HOWARD. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

This year's top scholars from Scripps held GPAs of 3.9 and higher in one of the most elite successes for the Hampton University chapter of Kappa Tau Alpha (KTA), the national honors society for journalism and mass communications.

"Some would say that you are naturally smart or naturally talented, but I know and you know that is not enough," said Dean Julia A. Wilson at the KTA induction April 8. "It takes will and fortitude and hard work to be at the top. I know each and every one of you has applied your natural skills and added courage and determination."

Sara Avery, a journalism major, won the coveted Top Scholar medal from KTA, which goes to the graduating senior with the highest GPA. She was featured at the spring honors program and received a framed certificate from Dean Wilson.

"I'm proud to have received this award," Avery said during this year's induction. "I want to thank all the professors who supported me during my time here."

The highly prestigious Kappa Tau Alpha is reserved for those who rank in the upper 10 percent of their class. The non-profit honor society was founded two years after the University of Missouri opened the first school of journalism. Since 1910, the society has formed 99 chapters and has inducted around 75,000 students.

"Like the academic stars who have preceded you, you

will move into positions of power where you will bring your unique perspective to make things better for all of us," Dean Wilson told the inductees. "You are just beginning your journey, and you've already had to overcome so much. You missed more than a year on campus. You missed your friends and your professors. Some of you had serious obstacles to overcome, yet you did more than just survive. You raised yourself above your peers and thrived, despite the barriers laid before you."

Wilson awarded certificates while Assistant Deans Marisa Porto and James Ford placed medals and blue and gold cords around their necks. Each inductee also received a key pin. The quill on the key symbolizes communication of knowledge to the public. Honorees included Avery, Amarah Ennis, Deja Hobbs, Rianne Howard, Taryn-Marie Jenkins and Evan Taylor. Bria Dickerson and Kimberlee-Mykel Thompson were inducted last year.

All honorees said they were excited and, in some cases, surprised by the honor. The Greek letters Kappa Tau Alpha mean The Truth Will Prevail. The membership oath says that knowledge is power; that members are devoted to the communication of truth.

JAMES FORD SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

BY MORGAN HARRIS, '22 AND SYDNEY SHULER, '22



PHOTO BY WINSTON ROGERS '22

A scholarly exchange program to address fundamental problems of democracy will gain the insights of Scripps Howard Acting Assistant Dean James Ford, who was named a Whisenton Public Scholars fellow in 2021.

Ford will collaborate with other fellows from minority-serving institutions to increase democratic practices in the communities and especially on their campuses.

Ford is among nine fellows for the class of 2021-2023, a two-year initiative sponsored by The Charles F. Kettering Foundation, in partnership with Joffre T. Whisenton & Associates.

"My son Conrad and I chose Dr. Ford for the fellowship because he is most impressive and, most importantly, he and his wife are very involved in their

communities," said Dr. Joffree T. Whisenton, who was the first African American student to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama. "Community involvement is something that we encourage our fellows to teach their students and fellow faculty members."

Ford has served in his home community of Isle of Wight as a director of the planning commission, vice chair of the Economic Development Authority, a board member of the Arts League and as full-time director of music at his church. He also plays piano in a jazz band. His wife, an educator, is equally involved in the community.

"We regularly support all the cultural and civic activities of the county," Ford said. "That's part of giving back."

In 1998, the Kettering Foundation, a non-partisan research organization experimenting with innovative ways to diversify democratic representation, partnered with Whisenton & Associates to investigate ways that faculty from minority institutions could work together to answer the fundamental question: What does it take for democracy to work as it should?

"Collaborating with other educational professionals lets you exchange what works and doesn't work in trying to develop democratic practices in university environments," Ford said. "Someone at another university may have had your experiences and you can benefit from listening and sharing with them about how to affect change."

Whisenton & Associates pairs each diverse group of Scholars, from education, media, and STEM backgrounds, with a particular problem to research on their respective campuses. At the end of the two-year program, the fellows will present their findings to the Kettering Foundation, which publishes the research for Congress to review.

Ford believes that the Student Government Association (SGA) is an important vehicle for students to understand how government representation is important in the process of developing civic responsibility after college. "At this juncture in my life experiences, I believe this is what I can best offer my school and my community," Ford said.



THOMAS HEFFRON

FACULTY NOTES

Film and studio production professor, **Thomas Heffron**, has been making headway on and off-campus with his hand in numerous projects. During the 2022 spring semester, Heffron oversaw the production of the newly-launched, student-led sports show, “Saber Sports.”

Professor Heffron also is in the early stages of research for a book about world-renowned independent filmmaker James Fotopolous; he hopes the publication will include a re-release of the artist’s film catalog.

Professor Heffron was honored as the first recipient of the Scripps Howard School “Faculty of the Month” award in April 2022.

Professor **Keisha Reynolds** celebrates becoming a two-time Amazon best-selling author. As a co-author in the anthology *Sister Leaders, Reflections and Success Stories of Women Leaders Who Purposely Collaborate With Other Women*, she writes about her success in both business and career as a thought-leader, marketing strategist, and college professor. Reynolds’ chapter,

“Collaboration NOT Competition: Leading With Grace,” is a synopsis of her life’s story. It highlights several of her defining moments, including the making of her renowned nonprofit organization, EmpoweringHER, which was recognized by the City of Norfolk and its mayor, Kenny Alexander, as a leading women’s organization, proclaiming the first weekend in August as EmpoweringHER Weekend. The chapter also details how important it is to trust God’s timing and how to become clear on your life’s purpose. After nine-plus years at The Scripps



KEISHA REYNOLDS



PETER DENNANT

Howard School, **Peter Dennant** retired in February 2022. Dennant served as a chief television engineer for Hampton’s WHOV-TV program after previously working as a director of engineering and senior broadcast engineer. In this role, he assisted students with operating and maintaining broadcasting equipment. He also gave instruction for broadcast production courses.

Dennant developed a passion for broadcast and wireless communication after growing up listening to the radio. He received an opportunity to work in radio while in high school. After receiving his degree in electrical engineering from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he took his expertise to areas like Hawaii and Washington, D.C.

While he is excited to spend his retirement with his family and on his sailboat, Dennant enjoyed his experience at Hampton University and was happy to be able to impart his knowledge to the next generation of communicators.

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM: CONTINUED

Sydney Shuler found the class challenging because students had to interview people outside of Hampton University.

“Interviewing someone on campus is much easier because you know somebody, who knows somebody,” said Shuler. “So we had to have the confidence in what we were doing and the knowledge to explain what we were doing to ordinary citizens we wanted to interview in the Cradock community.”

Students working on a broadcast version had to get consent to record interviews and take live footage of strangers. Students partnered with Adrienne Mayfield, producer at WAVY-10 in Norfolk, who guided them through the process.

“This is totally different because the people I’m interviewing don’t know me and I’ve got a camera in their

face asking them questions,” Hogan said.

Reporters found it challenging to summarize scientific and government documents. “This class has enhanced my writing skills,” said junior journalism major Sydney Broadnax. “Having to take a long document and reduce it to a couple of paragraphs has been a learning experience.”

Best of all, the students learned first-hand that they can make a difference, communicating important information to residents and shining light on under-reported stories of interest to the African American community.

“I think all of us in the class can agree that the most satisfying part about going out and being able to report stories like this is the appreciation that we young Black journalists are getting from the Black community members of Cradock,” said Brown. “Without us, the voices of the community would not be heard.”



FLOOD WATERS FROM THE POLLUTED PARADISE CREEK IN PORTSMOUTH ALMOST REACH THE APARTMENT DOORS, CAUSING HEALTH CONCERNS FOR RESIDENTS. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

districts. Currently, Wilson Global continues to help bring virtual international exchange opportunities to HBCU students.

Hampton University was a member of the HBCU-China Scholarship Network when Wilson and her staff first met with Dr. William R. Harvey. After several students and administrators traveled to China with the Network, another collaborative effort was formed to translate and market Dr. Harvey's book, the "Principles of Leadership," to Mandarin Chinese language and market that book in China. She secured a publisher in Beijing and launched the book at the 2018 Beijing International Book Fair.

Wilson, also created a seminar, "Going Global with Julia Wilson," presenting cross-cultural tips and guidance for small businesses and students to better understand the importance of foreign culture and history, social mores, and laws of other

countries before those participants traveled abroad and interacted with other cultures.

"I've used this same approach when teaching my international journalism and communications class," Wilson said. "It's time for me to give back to students – and help them develop their careers in journalism and strategic communications. I've had so many positive experiences in my life, traveling abroad, and I still don't see enough of 'us' at the table in these countries."

She is now engaged in building a Global Media Center as part of her vision as dean to globalize the Scripps Howard School. The Center will serve as an international hub of cross-cultural collaboration, instruction, and inspiration, training the next generation of foreign journalists and international strategic communicators.

Lynchings Continued from page 21

reason people avoided it was because of the lynching."

Pechacek and two others from Hampton University, Mikayla Roberts and Jordan Sheppard, worked with about 60 other students chosen from eight colleges, mostly historically black, for an elite summer internship at the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland. They spread out across the south reporting for a project published in October called "Printing Hate."

The project went on to win one of two medals issued to exemplary projects by Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), the 2021 IRE Award in the Student category and was a finalist for the News Leaders Association's 2022 Punch Sulzberger Innovator of the Year Award (sponsored by The New York Times).

"I couldn't believe my name was attached to such a massive project so early in my journalism career," Pechacek said. Pechacek was given the opportunity because of partnerships formed through Hampton's new investigative journalism program.

The student researchers determined that Texas had about 376 lynchings between 1877 and 1950, many along the stretch of the Brazos River from Waco to Mexico. At least 22 black men were lynched in Waco and McLennan County between 1861 and 1922. Hampton students tracked down descendants of two of those lynched.

"I was surprised they would have continued living in a place that destroyed the lives of their families," Pechacek said.

While the huge crowd at the Washington Avenue Bridge lynching was unusual, Pechacek's research showed that two other lynchings in the city had also drawn large crowds.

"To have three public lynchings in the same city set off a mental alarm in my head," Pechacek said. "I immediately let my editor know and we agreed I had to go to Waco."

In 1905, three years after the Washington Bridge was built, Sank Majors was taken from his jail cell by a white mob

and hanged, then mutilated for the alleged rape of a neighbor.

On May 5, 1916, a mentally disabled 17-year-old farmhand, Jesse Washington was mutilated, hanged, doused with coal oil and possibly burned alive for allegedly murdering his boss' wife. About half of Waco's population of 30,000 turned out. It was known as the "Waco Horror."

On May 26, 1922, Jesse Thomas was shot for alleged murder and rape, then his body was stolen by a mob of 6,000 white residents from the morgue and burned in the town square. It was the last recorded lynching in McLennan County.

The city of Waco was best described as a cowboy town, with nicknames like Athens of Texas, The Wonder City, The City with a Soul, with 63 churches and a Baptist University. Of course, locals like to joke, there were more saloons than churches and the red-light district was more popular than the churches.

The city still struggles with its so-called "Unfinished Legacy." In 2006, the Waco Tribune-Herald joined several other newspapers to apologize for encouraging racial violence through its coverage. In 2016, the mayor of Waco apologized to African Americans saying the city (and white people) needed to "own up." A historical marker was placed at the site of one of the lynchings.

As Pechacek left the city a few days later, she again crossed the Washington Avenue Bridge.

"People in Waco did not know about the lynchings or were forced to be silent about them," she recalled. Still, Pechacek said, she had the privilege of coming back to Hampton University and could leave the stories behind.

"I only had to go across the bridge twice," she said. "Imagine if you had to go over it every day. I wonder how many of the people going over that bridge know what happened there."

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



SCRIPPS SENIORS CIARA WHITE-SPARKS, LEFT TO RIGHT, CYRUS HENRY AND CAMILLE BIRDSONG ALL RECEIVED THE 2022 PRESIDENT'S CUP. PHOTO BY RIKESHA FRY BROWN

THE 2022 PRESIDENT'S CUP AWARD

Three of five President's Cup Awards went to Scripps Howard students in spring of 2022. They were graduating seniors Ciara White-Sparks, Cyrus Henry and Camille Birdsong. "I could've never imagined that my time at Hampton would lead to this four years ago," said Henry after receiving his award.

All seniors who are eligible to participate in the May 2022 graduation ceremonies and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above were invited to submit for the award. Only five awards were given out and Scripps Howard seniors won three.

RASHIDA JONES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarships were given to Lauren Turman, Jonathan Scott and Eryn DeShields. Certificates were given by Rashida Jones, president of MSNBC, during a virtual ceremony.

NBCU FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This year's recipients for the NBCU Fellows Scholarship Fund were Sarah Buckner, Tigist Ashaka, Logan Russell and Mikayla Roberts.



PRESIDENT OF MSNBC RASHIDA JONES, LEFT, AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO LAUREN TURMAN, LEFT TO RIGHT, JONATHAN SCOTT AND ERYN DESHIELDS DURING A "VIRTUAL" CEREMONY. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

'UP IN THE AIR' PODCAST LAUNCHES

Dean Julia A. Wilson's International Journalism and Communications class launched the "Up In The Air" podcast with a listening party in April. The 30-minute student-produced podcast explored experiences of students studying abroad, debunking global travel fears. The student production team consisted of: producers: Nyle Paul, Camille Birdsong and Alfred Johnson; show host/assistant producer/outreach manager: Lauryn

Bass; voice over specialist Kimberlee-Mykel Thompson; script writer Alfred Johnson; editor Paige Brown; audio engineers Alfred Johnson and Nathan Abdul-Haqq; researcher Casimere Street; administrators/relationship managers Lauryn Bass and Kamila Green; graphic designer/online manager Josiah Belfon-Valentine and Nathan Abdul-Hagg; and outreach managers and publicity Zoë Beavers and Brenan Holston.



END OF AN ERA: CALDWELL RETIRES



CALDWELL WAS FEATURED IN JAC MAGAZINE FROM THE SPRING OF 2015.

After 19 years at Hampton University, first as the Scripps Howard Endowed Professor, then as a Writer-in-Residence, Earl Caldwell has told his stories, interviewing famous, and not-so-famous journalists, authors, and editors. He has influenced and mentored generations of students and faculty alike. "I came along in the perfect time," he said. "I had enlightening moments. I was tested. I stood up for what I believed in. I'm not finished. I want to do many things. Hampton has been wonderful to me. When I first got here, I didn't see the story. But now I do. My whole life is the story of the American newspaper," he said during a 2015 interview in JAC Magazine. The Caldwell Cafe can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9wAwS5p2qWJKSkKov0aJ7g>

HIGH SCHOOL DAY 2022 BIG SUCCESS



HUNDREDS OF GUESTS TOUR THE TELEVISION STUDIO DURING THIS YEAR'S "HIGH SCHOOL DAY." PHOTO BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.

This year's "High School Day" attracted thousands of visitors to Hampton University. The Scripps Howard School was featured prominently. Hundreds of guests were able to tour the building, read a broadcast in our television studio, see demonstrations of animation, film-making, and photography. It was the first in-person opportunity for recruitment at the university in three years.



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