

Black College Wire Success Stories

Anthony Anamelechi
Black College Wire 2006 Summer Intern

Anamelechi is the new morning police reporter for the Tallahassee Democrat in Tallahassee, Fla. He is a graduating senior (December 2008) majoring in newspaper journalism at Florida A&M University. After interning with Black College Wire during the summer of 2006, he received three internships at daily newspapers: The Ledger of Lakeland, Fla., The Tallahassee Democrat and The News-Press in Fort Myers, Fla. He also participated in The New York Times Student Journalism Institute. Anamelechi was a summer 2008 Chips Quinn Scholar, a Knight scholar and the recipient of a PGA of America scholarship. He hopes to eventually attend graduate school and to teach when he retires from his journalism career.

Nikki Bannister
Black College Wire Contributor, 2005-2006

Bannister is a staff reporter at the Lancaster (Ohio) Eagle-Gazette. Before taking the position in April 2007, she was the city government and enterprise reporter for the Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville, Ky. Bannister also is a blogger for honeymag.com, the official Web site of Honey magazine, and contributes to Black Collegian Magazine.

She has been a contributing sports reporter for the New Orleans Times-Picayune, where she covered Southern University football and other collegiate sports for three years. She also worked as a contributing sports writer for the Advocate in Baton Rouge, La.

Bannister is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and was a "nontraditional" student at Southern University in Baton Rouge, where she she worked on the staff of the campus newspaper, the Southern Digest, and became editor-in-chief in 2005. During her stint as editor, she supervised coverage of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Bannister and her staff received numerous honors while she was editor-in-chief, including Black College Communication Association awards for best newspaper, best design and best individual photograph.

She also won a Black College Wire "Katrina Award" for outstanding reporting and photography. Also, the Southeast Journalism Conference named her its 2006 Student Journalist of the Year.

Daarel Burnette
Black College Wire First Amendment Correspondent, 2005-2006

Daarel Burnette, a 2006 Hampton University graduate, is an education reporter for the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal. Before graduating, he held summer internships with Scripps Howard News Service, the Knoxville (Tenn.) News Sentinel and the Denver Post. He also participated in the New York Times Student Journalism Institute.

In 2004, Burnette wrote a story about health violations in the Hampton University cafeteria for the student newspaper, The Script. The story led to the administration's confiscation of the newspapers and a lengthy dispute over student press rights at Hampton.

Burnette was Black College Wire's First Amendment correspondent, covering a variety of stories related to collegiate press freedom, censorship and open records. He received the Black College Communication Association's Pearl Stewart Freedom Fighter Award in 2005.

Faith J. Hannah
2007 Black College Wire Summer Intern

Faith J. Hannah, a 2007 honors graduate of Jackson State University, is a news producer at WAPT-TV in Jackson, Miss. She majored in mass communication and minored in vocal music. Hannah was a summer multimedia intern in the Black College Wire/Diversity Institute program. After completing the three-week training program, she worked as a reporter at the Herald-Times in Bloomington, Ind., and the Times-Mail in Bedford, Ind. After her internship ended, she was hired by WAPT.

Hannah is among an emerging group of young professionals trained in print, broadcast and online journalism. In addition

to the Black College Wire program, she completed the National Association of Black Journalists' broadcast short course and was an intern at WAPT. She also served as a staff writer for JSU's campus paper, the Blue and White Flash, and a section of the Jacksonian Yearbook. She also participated in the summer 2007 Hearst Argyle News Leadership Symposium at North Carolina A&T University.

Chantel D. Harley
Black College Wire Audio Anchor, 2004-2005

Chantel Denise Harley is the new host for Generation PRX's YouthCast on National Public Radio. She has worked in the digital media department of National Public Radio as a user care associate. She also has been a night news aide and writer at the Washington Post. Harley was offered both opportunities after graduating summa cum laude from Howard University in May 2005. During her senior year at Howard, she was freelance anchor of Black College Wire's weekly audio summaries.

While at Howard, Harley was a news reporter and on-air personality for the student radio station, WHBC, a contributing writer for the student newspaper, The Hilltop, and a communications intern for both the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a radio station in Philadelphia, WDAS.

While freelancing for Black College Wire, Harley anchored reports, conducted interviews and wrote and edited scripts.

Ashley Harris
Black College Wire Intern, Summer 2006

Ashley Harris, a 2007 graduate of the University of Houston, in Houston, Texas, is the first ever Maynard Parker Fellow at Newsweek Magazine. She is inaugurating the program as a business reporter for the magazine based in New York City. Before accepting her position at Newsweek, she was a Donald Reynolds Business Center intern at the Houston Chronicle immediately following her graduation.

Ashley began her journalism career in high school, but took a detour to pursue a volleyball career at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School, and the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. After three years in Colorado, she decided to resume her love affair with journalism and transferred to Dillard University where she majored in mass communications. After one year of serving as layout editor and associate editor in chief, she rose to the rank of editor in chief for the 2005 school year. In the summer of 2005 she worked as a Dow Jones business reporting intern at the Reno (Nev.) Gazette-Journal. Upon returning to Louisiana, she had to immediately evacuate with her family at the beginning of the school year when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans.

She transferred to the University of Houston in 2005, and served as staff writer for the university's daily newspaper, The Daily Cougar. She also freelanced for Black College Wire and The Black Collegian magazine doing extensive coverage of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and contributing personal stories. All of this earned her a BCW Katrina Award for exceptional coverage of Hurricane Katrina. That subsequent summer Ashley was selected as a member of the 2006 class of the New York Times Student Journalism Institute and interned as a Black College Wire Intern at the Houston Defender.

She has served as president of Dillard University's Association of Black Journalists and Region V student representative for the National Association of Black Journalists.

Ashley Hindsman
Black College Wire Intern, Summer 2006

While she was still a senior at Albany State University, Ashley Hindsman was hired as a general assignment reporter by the Albany (Ga.) Herald.

Before her graduation in 2007, Hindsman served as editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, the Student Voice. Under her leadership, the paper won numerous awards from the Georgia Collegiate Press Association and the Black College Communication Association's HBCU Student Newspaper Contest. As editor-in-chief, she also increased the frequency of publication from once every three months to weekly.

As a Black College Wire intern, Hindsman, an Atlanta native, worked as a reporter at the Atlanta Daily World. She also attended the New York Times Student Journalism Institute in 2006.

In addition to participating in the summer internship program, Hindsman was a Black College Wire contributing writer. She covered the arrest of suspects in the 2006 slaying of a Morehouse College student. She also reported on the 2004 voter turnout on HBCU campuses.

Titus Ledbetter III
2004 Black College Wire Summer Intern

Titus Ledbetter III is a general assignment reporter for the Anderson Independent-Mail in Anderson, S.C. He was a general assignment reporter for the Gazette Newspapers in Md., a subsidiary of the Washington Post, for over two years.

Ledbetter won an award in the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association's 2006 Editorial Contest for an article about a county's decision to raise the rent \$2,200 a month for tenants operating a family farm in Dickerson, Md. He graduated from Hampton University with a bachelor's degree in print journalism in May 2005.

In addition to his internship with Black College Wire, he has been a reporter for the Scripps Howard Foundation Wire, the ASNE Reporter and the New York Times Student Journalism Institute.

Ledbetter wrote three front-page articles as a correspondent for the South Bend (Ind.) Tribune featuring David Tidmarsh, the 2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion. During his time at the Hampton Script, he held various positions including graphic designer and local & world editor. Ledbetter also graduated from the Poynter Institute's News Reporting & Writing Program for College Graduates.

Shauntel Lowe
2006 Black College Wire Summer Intern

Shauntel Lowe, a 2007 graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, is a staff writer at the Vallejo Times-Herald in Vallejo, Calif. She is also a 2008 fellow in the USC Annenberg/ California Endowment Health Journalism Fellowship program.

Lowe was a summer 2008 Chips Quinn Scholar with an internship at the Oakland Tribune in Oakland, Calif. In 2005, she was awarded the Ozzie Roberts Scholarship from the San Diego Association of Black Journalists. She was a regular contributor to Black College Wire during and after her summer 2006 internship.

Kendrick Marshall
2005 Black College Wire Summer Intern

Kendrick Marshall is a general assignment reporter for the Lake County News-Sun in Waukegan, Ill., covering local events and breaking news. He began working in that position on Nov. 28. In August 2006, Marshall graduated from Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., where he was editor of the Blue & White Flash, Jackson State's student newspaper, for three years. He was selected as a Black College Wire intern in 2004, but surgery interrupted his internship. He reapplied in 2005, and was again accepted and assigned to the Chicago Crusader.

Marshall later landed an internship with the Chicago Sun-Times, which led to his current position with the News-Sun, which is a member of the Sun-Times News Group. Marshall was among a team of student freelance reporters who covered the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for Black College Wire. He received an award of appreciation for his work.

Bridgette Outten
2005 Black College Wire Contributor

Bridgette Outten is county reporter for the Springfield News-Sun in Ohio. She was promoted to the position after working as the night and townships/villages reporter in July 2007. Prior to working at the News-Sun, Outten was education reporter for the Marshall News Messenger in Texas. Outten, 24, graduated magna cum laude from Texas Southern University in December 2005 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and a minor in speech communications. By January 2006, she was working at the News Messenger.

The Chicago native began her journalism career at 20 as a correspondent for the Houston Chronicle. In addition to freelancing for Black College Wire, Outten worked for the Houston Defender and covered Hurricane Katrina's effect on Houston's college campuses for both publications. Outten also interned at ABC-13 and the former WB-39 in Houston. She received scholarships from Houston Association of Black Journalists and American Women in Radio and Television

and was editor-in-chief of Texas Southern University's Herald newspaper, which won awards for editorial content and photography under her tenure.

In addition to her duties as county reporter, Outten is also responsible for filming and editing enterprise videos for the News-Sun's Web site.

Shannon Pittman-Price
2005 Black College Wire Summer Intern

Shannon Pittman-Price is online associate producer at The Daily Press (Tribune Interactive) in Newport News, Va. Prior to accepting the position at the Daily Press, she was an online intern at the Roanoke Times.

Pittman-Price graduated in 2006 from North Carolina A&T State University, where she majored in journalism and mass communications with a concentration in print journalism. At A&T she worked as a contributor and the wires editor of the student newspaper, the A&T Register. During the summer of 2005 she was a Black College Wire intern, dispatched to the New Journal and Guide in Norfolk, Va. During her senior year at A&T, she was an online intern at the News & Record.

Pittman-Price always wanted to work in online journalism, so she applied to Syracuse University to pursue a master's degree in new media. While at Syracuse she was an online intern at Syracuse.com and the first public editor of the student newspaper, The Daily Orange. She graduated from Syracuse in June 2007.

Alexia R. Robinson
2006 Black College Wire Summer Intern

Alexia R. Robinson is a news desk copy editor at the Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville, Fla. She has previously served as the associate editor of the Capital Outlook newspaper, the only black-owned newspaper in Florida's capital, Tallahassee. A graduate of Florida A&M University, Robinson studied magazine production and served as the editor in chief and copy desk chief of the university's student-run newspaper, the Famuan. She also worked as the lifestyle and features editor for the campus magazine, Journey. While at FAMU, Alexia also served as the secretary of communication for the Student Government Association and delved into public relations. In addition to her campus experience, Robinson, a 2005 Dow Jones Newspaper Fund editing intern, has worked at several of Florida's top publications, including the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. Last summer, she worked at IMDiversity.com and the Black Collegian magazine as a Black College Wire intern.

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., she plans to launch her own magazine in 2008. Robinson's personal motto infuses her work, "Mediocrity as a standard is unacceptable."

Rebecca K. Roussell
Black College Wire Freelance Writer 2005-2006

Rebecca K. Roussell is a business reporter at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. She was hired in September after a three-month summer internship there. In July, she graduated cum laude with a degree in mass communication from Dillard University, about 11 months after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the campus, forcing the school to close for its fall 2005 semester. Several of Roussell's articles for Black College Wire related to Katrina recovery.

In addition to freelancing for Black College Wire, Roussell has written for The Black Collegian magazine. She participated in the 2005 New York Times Student Journalism Institute, and she was a 2005 NABJ intern at the News & Observer in Raleigh, N.C. Roussell was a 2004 Dow Jones Newspaper Fund intern at the Tennessean in Nashville.

At Dillard, she began as a features reporter for the school paper, the Courtbouillon, and worked her way up to managing editor.

At the Post-Dispatch, Roussell writes about small local businesses.

Marlon A. Walker
Black College Wire Contributor 2003-2005

Marlon A. Walker is currently a reporter for the Associated Press in Raleigh, N.C. He previously worked as a reporter for the News & Observer in Raleigh and as a copy editor and reporting intern for the St. Petersburg Times in Florida.

Walker is a Detroit native who graduated from Florida A&M University in 2005 with a bachelor of science degree in journalism. While at FAMU, he held various positions on the school newspaper, the Famuan, including editor in chief during its award-winning coverage of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

In addition to having his work published on Black College Wire, Walker wrote for the magazine Black Issues in Higher Education. During his college years, Walker had internships at papers that include the Detroit Free Press, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Wall Street Journal and the St. Petersburg Times. In his current position, he is the night general assignment/Wake County police reporter for the News & Observer.