

## **Sherri Williams**

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### **EDUCATION**

- **Ph.D.** student in Mass Communications, Syracuse University, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse, NY. May 2013 (expected graduation). Syracuse University fellow, fall 2010-spring 2011
- **Certificate of advanced study** in Women's & Gender Studies, Department of Women's & Gender Studies, Syracuse University. May 2012
- **Master's degree**, Magazine, newspaper and online journalism, Syracuse University, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse, NY. May 2010
- **Bachelor's degree**, English/journalism, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS. August, 2000

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Adjunct faculty**, Syracuse University

NEW 205 News writing (fall 2011): Taught 16 undergraduate students the required news writing class for all journalism public communications majors. Taught students the fundamentals of news writing including AP style, newsgathering and fact-checking skills and story arrangement. Devised lesson plans, writing exercises and in-class press conferences with real political activists. Also incorporated social media into reporting

COM 246 Race, gender and media (spring 2012): Taught 26 undergraduate students about how different groups of people are portrayed in the media. Taught students media theories and concepts such as agenda setting, framing, cultivation, stereotyping, intersectionality, spiral of silence and political economy so they could understand the forces that lead to absences and silences in media portrayals. Groups and issues taught include African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, Native Americans, Indians (Southeast Asia) religion, women, the LGBT community, people with disabilities and class. Also invited expert speakers into the class including Neal Powless, co-producer of Crooked Arrows, a film about Native American lacrosse players. Incorporated Twitter into the class discussion, students participated verbally and by using the #RGMSU (race, gender, media, Syracuse University) Twitter hashtag I created. Also encouraged students to share their final projects on social media. Projects were seen far beyond our classroom because of social media.

- Guest lecturer on diversity issues (spring 2011) in master's level broadcast ethics class, Donald Torrance, instructor, Syracuse University

- Guest lecturer on diversity issues (fall 2010) in master's level journalism ethics class, Walter Wasilewski, instructor, Syracuse University
- Teaching interests: Journalism, social media, media and diversity and media theory

### PUBLICATIONS

Chen, G.M., **Williams, S.**, Hendrickson, N., & Chen, L., *Male mummies: A social comparison perspective on how exaggeratedly overweight media portrayals of Madea, Rasputia, and Big Momma affect how black women feel about themselves*. Accepted for publication in *Mass Communication and Society* on March 3, 2011

### CONFERENCE PAPERS

**Williams, S.** (March, 2012). More than numbers: An intersectional examination of media portrayals of Gladys and Jamie Scott. University of Akron Graduate Gender Symposium in Akron, Ohio

**Williams, S.** (September 2011). Picture perfect? Latinas' impressions of media of images of themselves in print media. Paper presented at the Second International Conference on the Image in San Sebastian, Spain

**Williams, S.** Weaver, C. & Williams, L. (August 2011). Americans Misbehaving: Anti- and prosocial behaviors on minority vs. mainstream television networks. Paper presented at Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in St. Louis, Missouri

**Williams, S.** (July 2011). *Reading for Realness: Race and Weight on RuPaul's Drag Race Season 3*. Paper presented at the International Popular Culture Association Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica

Chen, G.M., **Williams, S.**, Hendrickson, N., & Chen, L., (August 2010). *Mammy Revisited: How Media Portrayals Of Overweight Black Women Affect How Black Women Feel About Themselves*. Paper presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. This paper was awarded the top student paper award in the Commission on the Status of Women division in Denver, Colorado

**Research interests:** Media portrayals of women of color, people of color (including immigrants and refugees, queers of color, journalism practices and social media use

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Contributing writer, *Upscale* magazine, Atlanta, GA, February 2012  
Wrote a profile story about Paul Carrick Brunson, a black male matchmaker and his quest to increase black marriage rates
- Freelance writer, *Heart & Soul* magazine, Baltimore, MD April 2010 to present  
Wrote stories about the BP Oil Spill's impact on the health of communities of color in the Gulf Coast, the recession's impact on women's physical and mental health, social networking sites' impact on relationships, electronic readers and ebooks and HIV testing for the nation's leading health magazine for black women (bimonthly circulation more than 300,000)
- Contributing writer, *The Source* magazine, New York, NY August 2011  
Wrote a story about the trend of extreme weight loss and improved health among rappers Fat Joe, Paul Wall, Nore and David Banner
- Freelance writer, *Essence* magazine, New York, NY, August 2010  
Wrote a story about how women's social circles affect their health for the nation's leading magazine for black women (monthly circulation more than 1 million)
- Reporter, *The Columbus Dispatch*, OH, May 2003 to April 2009  
Covered neighborhoods, census/demographics and immigrant/refugees/communities of color. Broke the story about the state fair director's ethics violations and resignation. Enterprise stories: Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Ohio and Money, Miss. 50 years after Emmett Till's death. Produced multimedia projects for the web
- Contributing writer, *Ebony* magazine, Chicago, IL, July 2008  
Wrote stories about AfroCubans and the conflict between Africans and African-Americans for the nation's leading magazine for African-Americans (monthly circulation 1.3 million)
- Freelance writer, *Essence.com* (Essence magazine), New York, NY, Nov. 2005  
Provided the only live coverage of Rosa Parks' funeral for the nation's leading black women's magazine
- Education/federal courts/social services/pop culture reporter/columnist, *The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, MS, January 2000 to May 2003  
Stories included the federal trials of corrupt police officers and the state's first execution in 13 years and enterprise pieces about slave sites and Freedmen's Banks. Broke the story about the Justice Department's investigation of the state's juvenile jails
- Writer, *The Associated Press*, Jackson, MS, January 1999 to October 1999  
Spot news coverage included the federal corruption trial of a city official, a Ku

- Klux Klan rally and two local hostage standoffs. Ran the bureau during weekends
- **Radio and television** show guest, 2006 to January 2009  
Appeared on *Columbus on the Record*, a weekly public television reporters' roundtable show. Also discussed my stories on radio programs
- On-air announcer, *Arrow 94*, Jackson, MS, August 1994 to December 1998  
Announced songs, news and weather and cut and produced spots

#### **AWARDS/HONORS**

- 2010 Ohio Society of Professional Journalists First Place Award, Minority issues reporting, a body of work
- 2009 Ohio Society of Professional Journalists First Place Award, Minority issues reporting, Iraqi refugees resettle in Columbus and the impact of homicide on a black family amid high rates of killings of young black men
- 2009 National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Salute to Excellence Awards finalist, International magazine-reporting category for story about AfroCubans (*Ebony* magazine).
- 2007 Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies Havana, Cuba delegation
- 2006 Council on American-Islamic Relations (Ohio) I-CAIR Award for Fair Media
- 2004 NABJ Ethel Payne Africa Reporting Fellow (AIDS orphans in South Africa)
- 2003 Associated Press (Mississippi) First Place, Best Planned Series of Stories Award, "Sugar Ditch to Casino Rich" about Tunica County's evolution from the poorest county in the nation to a casino capital
- 2003 Gannett Great Effort Award, local coverage of the Iraq War
- 2001 Associated Press First Place, Continuing Coverage Award, Coverage of the state's controversial Confederate flag vote. My story explored low voting rates in mostly black counties

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- 2012 Ed Smith Middle School Media Day, media literacy day volunteer. Led a session on body image and Photoshop in magazines, *Magazine images: Is what you see real?*
- 2011-2012 Faculty search committee member for professor or practice and visiting professor positions at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications
- 2011 member of the Status on the Commission of Women at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference in St.

- Louis, MO. Launched and maintained the Twitter account for the group
- 2011 National Association of Black Journalists Convention and Job Fair, panel moderator (making the transition from the newsroom to the classroom), panel moderator (men as partners in women's health), Philadelphia, PA
  - 2011 National Association of Black Journalists Conference on Health Disparities, panel moderator (social determinants of health) and panelist/presenter (multimedia tools to use now), Kaiser Family Foundation, Washington DC
  - 2011 Girls Inc. of Central New York media literacy volunteer, led a discussion group on sexualized images of teen girls in magazines, Girls Inc. office, Syracuse, NY
  - 2010 Second Annual Writing Our Lives Urban Youth Writing, writing/media literacy workshop facilitator, devised and led a workshop on writing and representation, Percy Hughes Magnet School, Syracuse, NY
  - 2010, Syracuse University National Association of Black Journalists Centennial Celebration of *The Crisis* (NAACP) magazine, panelist, discussed stories that needed to be told about African-Americans today, Syracuse University
  - 2010 S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications convocation speaker. Chosen by student colleagues to represent the voice of students at convocation during graduation weekend. Shared the stage with Donnie Deutsch, former CNBC talk show host, Syracuse University
  - 2010 National Association of Black Journalists Conference on Health Disparities panel moderator (AIDS in black America), Kaiser Family Foundation, Washington DC
  - 2009 National Association of Black Journalists Conference on Health Disparities panel moderator (AIDS in black America), Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
  - 2009 Minorities in the Media panelist (part of the Free Your Mind Campaign), talked about media representations and pressures of journalists of color, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
  - 2007 Associated Press Managing Editors and UNITY Journalists of Color participant in research focus groups/roundtables on retaining print journalists of color in newsrooms, Lancaster, OH
  - 2007 National Association of Black Journalists national convention planning committee, Las Vegas, NV

- 2007 World AIDS Day Town Hall Meeting on AIDS in the Black Community, organized the first-known town hall event on the epidemic's impact on black Americans in the city, Columbus AIDS Task Force, Columbus, Ohio
- 2007-2009 President, Columbus Association of Black Journalists, Developed workshops for student journalists, established a scholarship fund to honor a deceased colleague and organized the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the chapter, Columbus, OH
- 2005-2006 Vice president, Columbus Association of Black Journalists, conducted and organized a college writing workshop, conducted outreach to journalism departments at historically black colleges, Columbus, OH
- 2005-2009, Central Ohio Society of Professional Journalists board member, organized diversity programming for the chapter including an ethnic media managers dinner and discussion and religious reporting event, also helped develop a multimedia training session for professional journalists, Columbus, OH
- 2005-2008, Guest speaker in journalism classes at Ohio State University (Columbus, OH), Otterbein College (Westerville, OH) and Wilberforce University (Wilberforce, OH)
- 2005 Columbus Association of Black Journalists College Writing Workshop, Central State University, Wilberforce, OH
- 2004-2008, Annual Columbus Association of Black Journalists College Internship Workshop, founder, organizer and moderator, the event helped college students prepare for and obtain media internships, *The Columbus Dispatch* newspaper, Columbus, OH
- 2003 Black College Communication Association National HBCU Student News Media Conference, judge for student media awards contest
- 2001-2002, Annual Jackson Association of Black Journalists College Internship Workshop, founder, organizer and moderator, the event helped college students prepare for and obtain media internships, *Clarion-Ledger* newspaper, Jackson, MS
- 2002-2003, Jackson Association of Black Journalists president, Jackson, MS
- 2001-2002, Jackson Association of Black Journalists vice president, Jackson, MS
- 2001-2002 *Clarion-Ledger* diversity committee
- 2001 *Clarion-Ledger* young reader development committee