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NABJ Region IV Conference Speaker Bios

OPENING RECEPTION

Andrew Humphrey

Andrew Humphrey, CBM, is an Emmy Award winning meteorologist and reporter regularly appearing on Local 4 News and ClickOnDetroit.com. He spearheads science and technology reports for “Tech Time With Andrew Humphrey” and is proud to have earned the AMS Certified Broadcast Meteorologist (CBM) distinction. This is indicative of Andrew’s passion for weathercasting and telling stories that help people stay informed and safe.

Andrew came to WDIV from Fox affiliate in Toledo, Ohio, where he was chief meteorologist. Prior to that, he was seen globally on CNN and CNN International and got his start in Washington, D.C. at the local NBC and Fox stations. He worked as a research scientist at NOAA and NASA, also.

MULTIMEDIA, SOCIAL MEDIA...THE NEW DEADLINE IS NOW

Pam Perry

Pam Perry is known as the “Social Media Guru” by the late, great Angelo Henderson and "Marketing Whiz" "PR Coach" by national media such as Detroit Free Press, Publisher’s Weekly and Gospel Today magazine. She was twice-named as one of the Top 50 Black Women Business Online by BBWO.

Perry has arguably been one of the more high-powered and visible figures in public relations. Her career serves as a notable example of the potency of journalism training can have in the wrangling world of media. She career began when she worked in advertising for the *Detroit Free Press* and eventually moved into nonprofit public relations. Learning the business from the inside out, Perry eventually formed her own consulting firm, Ministry Marketing Solutions, Inc. in 2000. She is also the author of Synergy Energy - which is a how-to manual on PR, joint ventures, social networking and book marketing. Perry has now leveraged her talents to become the current Marketing and PR Director for the Charles H. Wright Museum. Her job is to garner publicity and awareness to the 300+ programs the museum hosts a

year - via digital marketing, social media marketing, traditional/grassroots marketing tactics, producing the new TV show, *The Wright Times* and of course - media relations.

Oralandar Brand-Williams

A courts reporter for The Detroit News, Oralandar Brand-Williams has covered many high-profile criminal and civil cases. A former Vice-President/Print for the Detroit chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, Oralandar is an award-winning longtime News staffer whose past beats have included the Race Relations/Diversity, Education and Religion beats.

Oralandar, who grew up in Detroit, is a veteran of broadcast and print media. She began her career as an intern for the Oakland Press, Kansas City Star-Times and Fort Worth Star -Telegram newspapers. A graduate of the University of Michigan, she also is a former assignment editor and producer for WWJ Newsradio in Detroit. Before joining The News, Oralandar was an assignment editor and producer for WDIV-TV in Detroit.

Aaron Foley

Aaron Foley is a full-time freelance journalist based in Detroit covering local news and the automotive industry. His work has appeared in Reuters, Jalopnik, BLAC, Bridge and several other places. Previously, Aaron has worked at Ward's Automotive Group, MLive and the Lansing State Journal.

Vince Bond

Vince Bond Jr. is a reporter/community editor at Automotive News, an industry-leading trade publication in Detroit. On the reporting side, he covers marketing and technology in addition to general assignment work where needed. His social media-related stories include a look at automakers who use social enterprise networks to enhance employee communication; the industry's reaction to the Jeep brand's Twitter account being hacked; and an analysis of auto executives who've embraced the "Tweetsphere." Bond, 27, is also the founder of the Automotive News Facebook fan page, Vine and Instagram accounts. Using a visual-heavy approach to social media, Automotive News' Twitter following has jumped from 23,000 to more than 85,000 since he was hired in May 2012. The Facebook page, which was started from scratch and is now an effective tool for attracting new subscriptions, has crossed 13,000 followers.

COVERING THE AUTO BEAT

Mike Woolfolk

Mike Woolfolk, an award winning broadcast journalist with more than 25 years of experience, is a news reporter and anchor for WXYZ-TV in Detroit, Michigan. Joining the 7 Action News in June 2014, Mike covers general assignments and breaking news across the metropolitan Detroit area and southeast Michigan.

Mike is a native Detroiter who graduated from Detroit Catholic Central High School and went to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcasting from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mike's professional television career began while he was still in school at Southern. He began working

for WBRZ-TV in Baton Rouge as weekend news producer and assignment editor in 1987. He later added responsibilities as sports reporter and anchor followed by news reporter and substitute anchor before leaving the station in 1989.

From Baton Rouge, Mike moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where he worked as weekend sports anchor and reporter for KVBC-TV. From 1989 to 1991, he covered a variety of sports stories including the NCAA Basketball Championships, UNLV basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian's troubles with the NCAA, and major boxing matches involving Mike Tyson, Buster Douglas, Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard, Pernell Whitaker, Roberto Duran and others.

In 1991, Mike moved to Jackson, Mississippi where he began working as a weekday sports anchor for *Mississippi News Tonight*, but later returned to the news department as an anchor and reporter. Upon the cancellation of *Mississippi News Tonight*, Mike remained in Jackson to work for WAPT-TV where he anchored the morning news and later the 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM newscasts. In 1994, Mike received the Mississippi Associated Press Broadcasters Association award for best public affairs program for a special he produced on addressing problems in secondary education.

Mike moved to Columbia, South Carolina in January 1996 where he helped launch *WACH FOX News at Ten*. He spent 14 years as a member of the WACH FOX news team and left the station in March 2010 as the longest tenured evening news anchor in Columbia. During his time with WACH-TV, Mike helped build the ratings to the point where *WACH FOX News at Ten*, was among the highest rated prime-time newscasts in the country. *WACH FOX News at Ten* also earned recognition as Columbia's best newscast for 2007-2008 by the South Carolina Associated Press Broadcasters Association. In May 2013, Mike returned to his native Michigan where he now resides in the suburban Detroit area.

Jeff Gilbert

Jeff Gilbert is the Automotive Reporter for WWJ, cbsdetroit.com and the CBS Radio Network. He's the only broadcast reporter assigned to cover the auto industry full-time. He's also one of the people who judges the North American Car and Truck of the Year.

Jeff's been in broadcasting for 40 years, and has covered just about every kind of story from entertainment events to the September 11th attacks. He's focused exclusively on the auto industry for the last decade.

Jeff's a native of Pittsburgh, but--after living here 29 years--he's a "naturalized Detroiter." That means he roots for the Tigers, Lions, Pistons and Red Wings over the Pirates, Steelers and Penguins--but it's not easy.

Jeff and his wife Cheri have put down roots in Michigan, with homes in Northville and Lansing, and their son Christopher going to college at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, in the western part of the state.

That, of course, gives Jeff even more time to test drive all of those cool cars.

Leslie Allen

Leslie J. Allen is managing editor, executive producer and a principal scriptwriter for Automotive News TV.

In addition to numerous special video projects, Automotive News TV produces two award-winning daily newscasts, "AutoNews Now" and "First Shift." Both shows run on the website of *Automotive News*, a Crain Communications publication.

Leslie has been a business and automotive journalist for most of her career.

She's a former auto editor for the *Detroit Free Press*. Prior to that, she oversaw automotive coverage as assistant business editor for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, later becoming the newspaper's chief technology reporter.

Prior to the launch of Automotive News TV in 2008, Leslie covered special projects, telematics and in-vehicle technology for *Automotive News*.

She's also held reporting and editing positions at *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* and *Bell Labs News*, an internal publication for the former Lucent Technologies' (now Alcatel-Lucent's) Bell Laboratories.

Leslie has a Bachelor of Science in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

She lives in metro Detroit.

Frank Washington

Frank Washington's career in journalism and communications spans five decades. He is currently the editor of www.AboutThatCar.com. He is also working on a book about blacks in the auto industry.

AboutThatCar.com has been live since 2004. Frank recently had the Web site redesigned and moved to a new platform to accommodate and incorporate social media and video. It has also undergone mobile optimization.

Frank has written for numerous publications including *Advertising Age*, *Fortune magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Newsweek Japan*, *The New York Times*, and *Time magazine*.

Since 1988, Frank has covered the automotive industry, contributing to *African Americans On Wheels*, *Auto Executive*, *Automotive News*, *Automotive News Marketer*, *Savoy*, *Ward's Auto World*, *Ward's Automotive Reports*, *Ward's Dealer Business*, the *Detroit News Online* and the *Detroit News*, *Ebony magazine* and www.ebonyjet.com.

In 1996, Frank was honored by the Detroit Press Foundation for his article, "The Underground Work Force," which was published in *Ward's Auto World*. In 1995, he received the International Wheel Award from the Detroit Press Club Foundation for his story, "The Big Three Strike Back," which was published

in *Newsweek Japan*. That award was received in the wake of his 1993 Golden Wheel Award for "The Hardest Sell," which was published in *Newsweek*.

Frank became *Newsweek* magazine's Detroit bureau chief in August 1989, after serving as the Detroit correspondent for one year. In addition to automotive journalism, Frank reported on the 1992 Democratic presidential primary. He was also sent to South Central Los Angeles to report on the civil disturbance there for *Newsweek's* cover story, "Fire and Fury," (May 11, 1992) as well as *Newsweek's* follow up story, "Rethinking Race and Crime in America." The story was one of the entries for which *Newsweek* won the National Magazine Award in 1992. The series was also honored with a First Place award from the National Association of Black Journalists for outstanding coverage of the black condition.

While leading *Newsweek's* coverage of the auto industry, Frank wrote several articles on the then Big 3's ongoing competition with Japanese automakers, including an interview with Lee Iacocca for the *Newsweek's* cover story, "What Japan Thinks of Us."

Presently Frank writes an automotive column, About That Car.com, which is syndicated nationally in African American Newspapers weekly.

Frank has produced segments for ABC's *Good Morning America* and the Mutual Broadcasting (Radio) Network. And he has appeared as a commentator on NBC's *The Today Show*, the MBC Network, and *Newsweek on Air* as well as numerous radio news talk shows.

His responsibilities have included that of editor-in-chief, editor-at-large, managing editor, advertising and marketing editor, bureau chief, correspondent, staff writer, reporter, producer and contributing editor.

COVERING CHAOS IN THE COMMUNITY...LESSONS LEARNED FROM FERGUSON AND OTHER CONFLICTS

Kathy Chaney

Kathy Chaney -- an award-winning Chicago-based journalist who often wrote about crime, criminal justice, the courts, missing persons cases and politics -- is a producer/reporter at WBEZ 91.5 FM (Chicago Public Radio).

Prior to joining WBEZ, she was a senior executive producer at 1690AM WVON and managing editor at the Chicago Defender.

She has made more than 75 appearances on Headline News' Nancy Grace Show and various CNN news shows reporting on the Nialah Franklin, Stacy Peterson and Jada Justice missing persons cases; on the Lane Bryant store homicides; Jennifer Hudson Family Tragedy and Roland Burris Senate appointment, among other stories.

Her work has appeared in the Chicago Defender, Hyde Park Herald, Lakefront Outlook and Chicago Tribune newspapers, and has also been featured on Reuters news wire and the French news wire service Agence France-Presse.

Kathy is also a member of the National Association of Black Journalists (currently serving as the president of the local chapter), the Society of Professional Journalists and Investigative Reporters and Editors.

She received a George Polk Award for local reporting, a Cook County Crime Stoppers Media Award, A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award and the Portrait of Achievers Award from the Probation Challenge organization.

Kathy also teaches journalism to middle school students in the city for the True Star Foundation, and is a News Literacy Project fellow.

Charlie LeDuff

Writer, reporter, documentarian, stuntman. LeDuff has crossed the Mojave Desert with migrant Mexicans, slaughtered hogs in North Carolina, rode the boxcars across the West, motorcycled with Governor Schwarzenegger, slept in the uptown crack houses of New York City...all in pursuit of the story.

LeDuff is presently national correspondent for Fox TVs "The Americans with Charlie LeDuff" – an outrageous, often slap-stick excavation of this American life. From weed in Colorado to greed on Wall Street – nothing and no one are sacrosanct here.

Formerly an investigative reporter and editorialist for Detroit's Fox affiliate WJBK Ch. 2, LeDuff's mix of humor, outrage and post-modern editing helped put the station at the top of the Detroit market. His stories illuminate the pain, humor and absurdity of living in Detroit -- America's largest Dead City.

Weam Namou

Weam Namou was born in Baghdad, Iraq as a minority Christian and came to the United States at age ten. She received her BA from Wayne State University, studied poetry in Prague and screenwriting at the Motion Picture Institute of Michigan. As a journalist for over 8 years, she worked for several local newspapers, including the Gazette van Detroit and The Chaldean News. Her poetry, essays, and articles have been published by national and international journals.

In 2012, Namou received a lifetime accomplishment award from E'rootha, a local art organization. Several agencies from around the world have contacted her regarding issues that deal with the Iraqi-American experiences, such as French filmmakers who came to the United States in 2013. They interviewed her for their documentary, My Beloved Enemy: Iraqi American Stories, which was screened at the film festival in Paris. Currently, Namou is working on a memoir.

Marlon Walker

Marlon A. Walker covers Wayne County government and transportation for the Detroit Free Press. Prior to returning to Detroit in April 2013, he was a general assignment reporter covering Illinois and St. Louis communities for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A native Detroiter, Walker is a 1999 graduate of Renaissance High School and former recipient of the Ford Motor Company/Detroit Free Press scholarship.

Over a 10-year professional career, he's written about everything from mayoral races and public scandals to Bobby Brown and Waka Flocka drug arrests. He started in the industry as a copy editor in Florida.

NEWSMAKER LUNCHEON

Detroit Police Chief James Craig

Chief of Police James E. Craig began his career in law enforcement with the Detroit Police Department in 1977. Forced to relocate due to department layoffs, Chief Craig began working for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in January 1981. After a 28 year career with LAPD, Chief Craig was appointed to the position of Chief of Police for the Portland (Maine) Police Department on May 4, 2009. During his tenure as Chief of Police, he commanded a department of 215 sworn and civilian employees. Chief Craig was credited with reducing violent crime by 10% by utilizing a comprehensive CompStat process which focused on command accountability and problem solving.

On August 4, 2011, Chief Craig was selected as the 13th Chief of Police for the Cincinnati (Ohio) Police Department and the first African-American and person outside of Cincinnati to hold this position. He was responsible for leading a department of 1,500 sworn and civilian personnel. Under Chief Craig's leadership, the morale of the rank and file was greatly improved, which equated to an increase in the officers' overall productivity and performance.

On July 1, 2013, Chief Craig was appointed as the 42nd Chief of Police for the Detroit Police Department, bringing Chief Craig's law enforcement career full circle. Chief Craig is responsible for leading a department of 2,800 sworn and civilian personnel. Chief Craig's top priorities are to abate and reduce violent crime and to increase the morale of the rank and file. Since his inception in July 2013, Chief Craig has made significant changes and improvements to the department's organizational structure and processes; redefined community partnership and achieved a reduction in crime.

BLURRED LINES: WRITING ACROSS PLATFORMS

Zahra Huber

Zahra Huber is a reporter, editor, and producer at WWJ. She has her own feature that runs Monday through Friday on WWJ titled "Trending With Zahra." Catch it at 4:22 p.m. You can read more about the top trending stories of the day on her page CBSDetroit.com/Trending.

Growing up in New York City, Zahra first became interested in journalism when an article she wrote in high school was published in Newsday, a daily New York newspaper. That's when she decided she wanted a career in journalism. Zahra studied English with a minor in Print Journalism for a year at a college in New York, but then in 2002 her family moved to Michigan. Zahra transferred to the University of Michigan-Dearborn where she continued with the same major and minor. At the University, she was President of the Society of Journalists and Secretary of Student Government. Zahra graduated in 2005, and was hired into WWJ in August of 2008."

Greg Dunmore

Greg Dunmore is an award-winning multi-media journalist as well as the executive producer/partner (with Emmy Award winning videographer Joel Boykin) of Pulsebeat.tv and Jazzjewels.tv (an online broadcast quality entertainment media outlet/special markets promotional agency.) This web/radio/television based media outlet has worked in partnership with such companies as Toyota Motor's Scion Division and Comcast Cable. Dunmore has interviewed a stellar list of celebrities that

includes such mega stars as: Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson, Tony Bennett, Pavarotti, Nancy Wilson and Whitney Houston. He is a founding member of the Arts & Entertainment Task Force for the National Association of Black Journalists.

Ivy League educated and multi-talented, Dunmore graduated from Cornell University (Bachelors of Science in Industrial and labor relations/Human Resource Management & Organizational Behavior) and the National Autonomous University of México (Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language Studies and Mexican Culture and History.) He is certified in teaching English as a second language from Wayne State University (Detroit, Michigan.)

Dunmore is the former Detroit News' On Detroit *Hot Happenings* columnist and producer/writer of the Emmy Award nominated "*Detroit Jazz Jewels*" television special starring pianist and singer Ms. Jo Thompson and vocalist Harvey Thompson (seen nationwide on the Comcast network!)

He is the former vice-chair of the Detroit Cable Commission and a former correspondent for BET (Black Entertainment Television.) Dunmore co-hosted (with acclaimed photographer Monica Morgan) "*Back to Back*" on Detroit's WQBH radio. He edited and published (with Kim Moore) both Hue and Venhue Magazines. And, he is remembered by many Detroiters as being the "*About Town*" columnist (also with Monica Morgan) for the Michigan Chronicle.

Currently, Greg Dunmore's popular and insightful entertainment reports produced by Pulsebeat.tv are heard on Radio One Detroit's WCHB (1200am/99.9fm) "*The Mildred Gaddis Show*" and his show: Pulsebeat.tv "*Greg Dunmore's Hot Happenings!!!*" is televised Sunday mornings 10:00AM to 10:30AM on ABC's newest Detroit affiliate WMYD TV20 Detroit. Also, Greg Dunmore's Hot Happenings produced by Pulsebeat.tv can be heard daily on Comcast Detroit Channels 10, 22, 902 & 915.

Mark S. Lee

Business executive, local entrepreneur, educator, small business expert and Detroit-native, Mark S. Lee is President & CEO, The LEE Group (TLG), MI LLC, an independent integrated marketing consulting firm focused on providing marketing, branding and communication solutions to clients. With extensive, senior-level business experience with major organizations, nationally and regionally, Lee shares his knowledge by writing "Small Talk with Mark S. Lee" blog for Crain's Detroit Business and hosts a weekly "Small Talk with Mark S. Lee" radio show, which is broadcast on CBS Detroit's WXYT 1270 and streamed via cbsdetroit.com. "Small Talk" provides tips and identifies resources for aspiring entrepreneurs and businesses focused on growth.

Tamekia Ashford

Tamekia N. Ashford is a public relations consultant with more than 16 years across the private, agency, and government sector. She has a successful track record in strategic planning, community affairs and executive positioning. From managing a press conference for Freddie Mac & the NID Housing Counseling Agency to creating community partnerships for McDonald's and developing events for former Detroit City Council Member Alberta Tinsley-Talabi; she has skillfully enhanced brand identity within the marketplace.

Some of Tamekia's career highlights include: providing media relations for the Knight Foundation's BME (Black Male Engagement) Award Recipients; media consultation for Sprint; serving as communications director for Maurice G. Morton's Campaign for Congress, media relations for The Children's Center; marketing seminar at Wayne County Community College District; creating a winning business plan/video presentation to build metro Detroit's first "Green" McDonald's; media relations for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Detroit visit, managing the National Urban League Conference interviews with White House staff for President George W. Bush; publicity for Chrysler Jeep Superstores, executive positioning for Molina Healthcare, and event management for Betty Crocker Recipes for the Soul Contest.

Tamekia is serving her second term as president of the National Black Public Relations Society, Detroit Chapter, vice chair of communications for The New Leaders Council, member of the National Association of Black Journalists, and an active participant in Public Relations Society of America.

In addition, she's a contributing writer for DBusiness, Hour, Ambassador, B.L.A.C. Magazine, Who's Who in Black Detroit and Who's Who in Black Cincinnati. She is also a 2013 recipient of the Michigan Chronicle's 40 Under 40 Award.

Most recently, she tapped into the television world and is a co-host for a local cable show, Brenda Perryman's "Table Talk."

FROM JOURNALIST TO ENTREPRENEUR

Bankole Thompson

Bankole Thompson spends his professional time dissecting issues of the day as well as pricking the conscience of the powerful through his bold articles and strong voice on the airwaves. A respected journalist and an accomplished author who has written two books on President Obama, BlackAmericaWeb.Com in a 2010 national Black History profile described him as an "innovative editor," for among other things his series of exclusive interviews with Obama. Thompson, is the editor of the Michigan Chronicle a position he has held for the last nine years. He is a senior political analyst at WDET-101.9FM (Detroit Public Radio).

For the last six years he has been a political commentator and member of the weekly "Obama Watch," Sunday evening hour and a half round table program on WLIB-1190AM-New York, and simulcast in New Jersey and Connecticut. After Obama's historic election in 2008, Thompson, was one of three journalists selected to form the Sunday program in New York to dissect each week the historic presidency of Obama on New York's legendary Black radio station. He is also an analyst for the global newswire Inter Press Service (IPS) North America Bureau at the United Nations in New York, where his articles on geopolitical issues have been translated into 14 international languages.

Darci McConnell

After a stellar 14-year career as an investigative reporter at newspapers across Michigan as well as in Washington D.C., Darci E. McConnell founded McConnell Communications, Inc. in 2004. The Detroit-based firm has assisted more than 100 clients locally and nationally with public relations, crisis management, media training, marketing, advertising and relationship needs, and her clients have

ranged from Northwest Airlines to former Michigan Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm. A member of the Public Relations Society of America, she is a past president of the Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists and earlier this year was named a 'Woman of Excellence' by the Michigan Chronicle. She was in the first class to graduate from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Detroit program and has also participated in executive education programs at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, Harvard's Program on Negotiation and the New Organizing Institute. Her personal passion is making a difference in the lives of young people, through mentoring programs and opportunities.

Lisa Wilmore

Lisa M. Wilmore is the president and CEO of The Wilmore Agency, LLC, a boutique public relations firm. Since June 2002, Wilmore has been a publicist and PR professional leveraging her media expertise and contacts to provide a wide range of public relations, consulting and publicity related services.

Wilmore's partial client roster includes professional athletes Mickey Bey, Jr. and Cortez Bey, business and nonprofit organizations including Boys Hope Girls Hope, Minerva Education and Development Foundation and First Independence Bank. She's worked with sports entities and film companies such as the Motor City Touchdown, a Super Bowl sanctioned event, and serving as the unit publicist for films such as Blackjack featuring SAG actor Clifton Powell and Detroit G Code. Her works also extend to renowned celebrities and organizations in the music, entertainment and publishing industries, notably SAG actor Clifton Powell, Real Times Media, which produced the once-in-a-lifetime Michigan Chronicle's 75th anniversary celebration, and Grammy Award-winning producer, songwriter extraordinaire Don Davis for his 70th Composition black-tie gala.

Greg Bowens

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Greg received his B.A. in English from Wayne State University. An internship during college led to work on the business desk of the *Detroit Free Press* and then the Detroit bureau of *Business Week* magazine. His next move was to Washington, D.C. and another national publication -- *the Congressional Quarterly Magazine*, where he covered defense and foreign policy issues on Capitol Hill. In Washington, Greg was a frequent guest on *C-SPAN* discussing congressional politics. He also covered education for *The Detroit News*.

Greg served as deputy press secretary and then press secretary to former Detroit Mayor Dennis W. Archer. He was responsible for successfully implementing media strategies for a city that had 17,000 employees and \$20 billion in new economic development activity. He has developed stories in *USA Today*, *The Economist*, *the New York Times*, as well as facilitated client interviews on national networks from NBC to C-SPAN. During Greg's career he has also appeared locally as a morning drive co-host for Radio One's popular "*Inside Detroit*" show. He often appears as a panelist discussing politics on Fox 2 *Let It Rip* with Huel Perkins, WDIV/NBC's "*Flashpoint*," and WXYZ/ABC's "*Spotlight on the News*."

MAKING IT TO MANAGEMENT

Luther Keith

Luther Keith is a former award winning newspaper editor with more than 30 years of professional journalism experience. Keith's management tenure with The Detroit News included serving as assistant managing editor, public editor, senior editor and columnist. He was the founding director of Wayne State University's Journalism Institute for Minorities, now known as the Journalism Institute for Media

Diversity. Keith is an inductee to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame. Keith is currently executive director of ARISE Detroit!, a nonprofit coalition of community organizations promoting volunteerism and community activism to create a better Detroit.

Rob Davidek

Rob Davidek has worked with WWJ Newsradio 950 for 20 years. Currently I'm the Program and News Director. I've been News Director since 2007. Other jobs at WWJ have included Assistant News Director, Morning Drive Producer, Assignment Editor and part time producer. I oversee a staff of about 35 anchors, reporters, producers and editors who work extremely hard to bring our listeners the top news, along with some talk-about, stories of the day. Our newsroom has been awarded with General Excellence from Associated Press for 12 out of the past 13 years. WWJ was named 2013 large market radio Station of the Year by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. We were also honored with a Crystal Award for community service from the National Association of Broadcasters in 2013.

Before coming to WWJ, I worked at WKZO in Kalamazoo and WMSH in Sturgis. I graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in Broadcast and Cinematic Arts.

Walter Middlebrook

Walter Middlebrook was named an assistant managing editor at The Detroit News in February 2009. He took over leadership of the organization's investigations and project team in February 2014 after five years of overseeing the metro, state and Washington bureaus. He came to The News in February 2007 as director of recruiting and community affairs.

Middlebrook, who was an associate editor at Newsday, spent 15 years at Newsday and its New York Newsday affiliate and was part of a 1992 Pulitzer Prize-winning team for the newspaper's spot news coverage of a subway crash in Manhattan. He also spent two years at The New York Times as editor of Styles of the Times and an assistant features editor.

In April 2012, he was cited among the top U.S. journalists of the past century in a list created by Washington, D.C.-based UNITY: Journalists of Color.

Mary Kramer

Mary Kramer joined Crain's Detroit Business as editor in 1989 after a series of reporting and editing roles at six daily newspapers. Today, she is a group publisher supervising Crain's Detroit and Crain's Cleveland Business. Active in many nonprofit and civic organizations in Detroit, she was the first woman elected president of the historic Detroit Athletic Club. She is a resident of the city of Detroit, her adopted hometown.

FROM COLLEGE TO CAREER: LANDING THAT FIRST GIG

Rochelle Riley

ROCHELLE RILEY'S columns have appeared in the Detroit Free Press and at www.freep.com since 2000. She also blogs at www.rochelleriley.com and makes frequent television and radio appearances, especially on NPR and MSNBC. Rochelle writes passionately about responsible government, community

responsibility, public education, pop culture, race, film and Michigan's reading crisis. She has worked at The Dallas Morning News, The Washington Post and The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky., where her 1996 debut column, which called for a museum honoring Louisville native Muhammad Ali, helped spur an \$80 million campaign to build the Muhammad Ali Center, which opened in 2005. Her columns on the Kwame Kilpatrick corruption scandal were part of the entry that won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting. Rochelle has won the 2013 National Headliner Award for best column writing, the inaugural Will Rogers Humanitarian Award for community service from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists (2011) and first-place column-writing honors from the National Association of Black Journalists (2014) and the Michigan Associated Press. The Michigan Press Association has named her Michigan's best local columnist three times. Hour magazine readers just named her Detroit's best female columnist for the fifth year in a row (2014). She was a 2007-2008 Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan, where she studied writing, online communities and film. She has mentored hundreds of high school and college students through the journalism workshops she founded in Dallas and Louisville and as part of convention journalism projects for NABJ, APME and ASNE. She is a sought-after public speaker and has raised more than \$1 million for local literacy causes, including nearly \$100,000 through the Every December Fundraiser for Literacy, which will be held again on December 12, 2014. She writes novels, plays and essays. She lives with her dog, Desi (who has his own Facebook page) and loves tennis and NCAA men's basketball.

Nima Shaffe

Nima Shaffe joined the WXYZ-TV news team in March 2013. While Metro Detroit is a far cry from his Kansas City home, he's excited to be a part of the WXYZ family and call Detroit home!

Prior to 7 Action News, Nima worked at KCTV5 in Kansas City where he was the morning reporter.

Before Kansas City he made stops at KMTV in Omaha, KKTU in Colorado Springs and KQTV in St. Joseph, Missouri. His work has been featured on CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley, ABC's World News Tonight, CNN's Headline News, Fox News Channel's Justice with Judge Jeanine, and CBS This Morning.

Nima graduated from Park University a small liberal arts school in Parkville, Mo.

While in school he interned at WXYZ's sister station, KSHB, KQTV and KMBC-TV before getting his first on-air job as a weather anchor at the ABC affiliate in St. Joseph, Mo. He also served as the first university's mascot in more than 15 years and was the voice of the Park University Athletic department.

One of Nima's most memorable assignments was covering the tornadoes that hit both Alabama and Joplin. It was his first month in KC when he got the call to head south to Alabama.

"The stories of the folks there and their resilience will always stay with me. That's something you never forget." Less than a month after flying home from Alabama, Nima would end up in the thick of the aftermath of the deadliest tornado in the country... the EF5 tornado that devastated Joplin, Mo.

As a first generation Iranian-American he likes to think of his parents. "Both of my parents were born and raised in Iran and later immigrated and gained U.S. citizenship," Nima said. "America became their second home and every time I step in front of that camera, I tell myself it's a tribute to my parents."

In his spare time, Nima volunteers and is looking forward to becoming involved with the community in metro Detroit.

Maia Belay

Maia Belay is a multimedia journalist from WTOL-TV in Toledo with two and a half years of reporting experience. She was recently nominated for a 2014 Touchstone Award by the Toledo Press Club. Maia has worked pretty much every job in the newsroom including working the desk, editing shows and was even a certified live truck operator. But the role Maia takes the most pride in is telling stories that help change in her community.

Maia joined the WTOL news crew in August 2011, and made the switch from behind the scenes to on air less than a year later. You can catch her on WTOL Your Morning and Fox Toledo Daybreak.

Maia is no stranger to WTOL. She was an intern in 2010 and loved it so much she wanted to come back! Maia was hired as the weekend assignment editor and web producer. Nine months later she became a photographer, editor and live truck operator.

Maia graduated cum laude from Bowling Green State University in May 2011, with a BA in Journalism. While in school she reported for WBGU-TV in Bowling Green and interned at WDIV-TV in her hometown of Detroit.

Jerome Vaughn

Jerome Vaughn, News Director for WDET-FM runs the news department's internship program and has served as a mentor for NPR's Next Generation Radio Project.

Born and raised in Detroit, Vaughn considers dispelling myths about his hometown a crucial part of his job. That goal is accomplished through stories on local government, community revitalization, business investment and analysis of the local print and broadcast media.

Vaughn's interest in news reporting began when he was five years old, when his mom bought him a yellow Panasonic ball and chain radio. He listened to news on it all the time and took inspiration from Walter Cronkite, Charles Collingwood and Eric Sevareid. Vaughn is working to ignite that passion in the next generation of journalists. He runs the news department's internship program and has served as a mentor for NPR's Next Generation Radio Project.

Vaughn received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Creative Writing from the University of Michigan in 1987. After traveling Route 66 with a friend to California, he spent three years living in San Francisco, fundraising and performing media relations work for the San Francisco Education Fund. Vaughn returned to Detroit in 1991 and joined WDET in January 1992, while working on his graduate degree. Vaughn received his Master of Arts degree from Wayne State University in Radio, TV, Film in 1999. During his time at WDET, he's worked as an intern, producer, reporter, Assistant News Director, Executive Producer, News/Program Director and News Director. He's also worked in Ann Arbor as Michigan Radio's News Director.

Vaughn has received numerous honors including the Helen Thomas Spirit of Diversity Award, as well as first place awards for individual reporting, spot news, hard news, feature reporting, newscasts, sports features, and investigative/enterprise reporting from the Michigan Associated Press, Michigan Association of Broadcasters and Society of Professional Journalists – Detroit Chapter. Vaughn was also selected for NPR’s Diversity Initiative and Mid-Career Fellowships. He currently serves as the Vice President, Broadcasting on the National Association of Black Journalists – Detroit Chapter and on the board of the Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

In his spare time, Vaughn enjoys spending time with his wife and eight children, coaching his kids' soccer teams, reading history, and gardening.

Alicia Nails

Alicia Nails is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and a freelance writer. Her writing projects include articles in national and niche publications, executive speeches and communications, proposals, web content, and non-fiction ghostwriting and book editing. Her writing has also appeared in the Detroit Free Press, The Detroit News, the Michigan Chronicle, and BLAC magazine, where she serves on the advisory board. As a member of the National Communications Committee of The Links, Incorporated, she edited national publications included the magazine LINKED, and shaped the internal, external and executive messages of the national organization.

Nails is the director of Wayne State University’s Journalism Institute for Media Diversity and a member of the WSU journalism faculty. Her broadcast journalism background includes writing/producing television programming at WXIA (NBC) Atlanta; WTVS (PBS) Detroit; WCBS (CBS) and Essence Communications, both in New York City; and at Detroit’s FOX 2. She has also reported breaking news and features as a writer/producer at Detroit’s WWJ Newsradio 950 (CBS).

She is a sought-after voice in the community, appearing on both radio and TV as a thought leader, emceeding major events, and providing voice-over narration for video productions.

The media professional has also executed city-wide PR campaigns for the city’s largest ethnic festival, the African World Festival; and for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Detroit Alumnae Chapter including the Detroit Delta Preparatory Academy for Social Justice. She has served as Delta’s Michigan state journalist (2011-2014) and is on the PR team of the Oakland County (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

An events producer, Nails has executed major city-wide fundraisers, including WSU’s “The Salute to Emery King,” and “The Salute to 25 Year Journalists.” For the UNCF she has produced several Mayors’ Balls, presentations of the Ebony Fashion Fair, and of the UNCF’s Parade of Stars Telethons.

Nails is on the boards of the Detroit Chapter, National Association of Black Journalists; the Rosa Parks Scholarship Foundation; and the Minerva Education and Development Foundation.

She earned a B.A. in broadcast journalism (telecommunications) from Michigan State University in 1978, and a juris doctor from the Wayne State University Law School, in 1995.