

JENNIFER C. THOMAS

JENNIFER C. THOMAS is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media, Journalism and Film at her esteemed alma mater, Howard University. A dedicated educator, she was named the 2019 Scripps Howard Foundation/ AEJMC Teacher of the Year. She earned a Master of Arts degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She has more than 25 years of news industry experience, most recently as an Executive Producer with CNN, where she was honored with recognition from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for her contribution as the 9 a.m. newscast producer who helped lead CNN's coverage of the September 11 Terror Attacks. She also received Peabody Award recognition for her contribution to coverage of Hurricane Katrina, and earned national awards from the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). Throughout her career, she pioneered coverage of major events such as the Oklahoma City Bombing anniversary, Summer Olympic Games, and presidential elections and inaugurations. She is also founder of MediaReady Consulting LLC, a media training, event management, and communications consulting service which works with individual and corporate clients with coaching, consulting, and media relations.

A published scholar, Jennifer has been named a 2020 Fulbright honoree. She plans to lecture and conduct research as part of the Fulbright Specialist Program at Rhodes University in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. Her research interests include the dissection of current practices and pedagogies in journalism, the transition from professional to professor, and the complex facets of women, media and images. She has presented research in Namibia, and South Africa, and has served as a keynote speaker and special guest of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and U.S. Department of State and embassies and consulates in Lagos, Nigeria, where she was the country's speaker for World Press Freedom Day, and throughout South Africa as the special guest on the topic of Media Freedom.

Her published study on the pageantry and politics of the women selected as "Miss Howard University" during the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements, is the subject of a forthcoming documentary inspired by her own experience being crowned "Miss Howard." Her other creative works include producing live presidential election specials for PBS affiliate WHUT-TV, and supervising broadcast coverage of the 2016 Democratic National Convention. She also reported and produced an in-depth account of a day with the U.S. Border Patrol in El Paso, Texas, which captured migrants crossing the U.S. Mexico border. She is executive producer of the capstone student newscast, *NewsVision*, which broadcasts to 2.5 million viewers in the Washington DC metropolitan area.

She is the journalism concentration coordinator in the Department of Media, Journalism and Film, advisor for the Howard University Association of Black Journalists, member of the interdisciplinary Howard Initiative on Public Opinion, and past president of the Howard University Communications Alumni Association. She is a former board member of Gandhi Brigade Youth Media, Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, founding member of Cascade United Toastmasters and Triangle Association of Black Journalists (NABJ Raleigh/Durham), member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the Society of Professional Journalists, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and The Links, Incorporated. An avid singer, she performed at the Atlanta Jazz Festival under her middle name, Camille.