

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Wayne Dawkins

PERSON

Dawkins, Wayne

Alternative Names: Wayne Dawkins;

Life Dates: September 19, 1955-

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Residence: Suffolk, Virginia

Work: Baltimore, Maryland

Occupations: Newspaper Editor; Author

Biographical Note

Author and newspaper editor Wayne Dawkins was born on September 19, 1955, in New York, New York to Iris and Edward H. Dawkins. Both his mother and father were of Jamaican and Panamanian descent. Dawkins became interested in journalism at an early age when his mother sent him to the neighborhood candy store to buy the daily newspaper. His parents also encouraged his reading habit, buying for him and his siblings a set of encyclopedias when he was still very young. As a child, Dawkins attended Benjamin Banneker Elementary in Brooklyn, New York and P.S. 176. He graduated from New Utrecht High School in 1973, located in the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York.

In 1977, Dawkins graduated from Long Island University with his B.A. degree in journalism where he was a member of the junior varsity basketball team. After receiving advice from a mentor, he decided to further his education and enroll at Columbia University's School of Journalism where he received a substantial scholarship. Dawkins graduated with his M.S. degree in journalism in 1980 and was hired by the Daily Argus as a reporter where he met his first wife, Joyce Ingram. Afterwards, he moved to New Jersey where he worked for the Courier Post. In 1981, Dawkins attended his first National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) conference, and several years later he was appointed as regional director. While serving in that position, he witnessed the organization's growth and was instrumental in the establishment of several of its chapters. After graduating from the School of Journalism, he founded the alumni newsletter Black Alumni Network where he first wrote about the history of the NABJ in 1990. Sparking his interest, the book Black Journalists: The NABJ Story soon followed and was published under Dawkins's own

press company, August Press.

Dawkins has worked as an editor for several newspapers, including the Daily Press in Hampton, Virginia. Deciding to share his skills as a reporter and editor, Dawkins began teaching journalism at Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton University, in Hampton, Virginia. He has received many awards and honors, including the distinguished Alumni Association Award from Columbia School of Journalism. In 2004, Dawkins was awarded the prestigious Columbia University Alumni Federation Medal, which is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an alumnus of Columbia University.

Wayne Dawkins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 4, 2005.

Related Entries

New Utrecht High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Benjamin Banneker Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 176 The Ovington School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Long Island University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Columbia University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

Trans-Urban News Service [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197801 to 197907]

Reporter/Researcher

Hampton University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 200501 to 200505]

Assistant Professor

Courier-Post [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198402 to 199607]

Reporter, Columnist

Daily Press [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199802 to 200305]

Editor

Daily Argus [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198005 to 198402]

Reporter

Post Tribune [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 199607 to 199802]

Assistant Metro Editor

BlackAmericaWeb.com [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 200309 to 200501]

Managing Editor

August Press, LLC [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 199210 to ?]

President and Founder

Black Alumni Network. Columbia University. School of Journalism. [MEMBEROf]
[from 1980 to ?]

Founding Editor

Columbia University School of Journalism [MEMBEROf]
[from 1982 to ?]

Executive Committee

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]
[from 1984 to 1989]

Regional Director

Garden State Association of Black Journalists [MEMBEROf]
[from 1988 to 1992]

Founding President

United Unitarian Fellowship of Pennsylvania [MEMBEROf]
[from 1999 to 2002]

Vice President