



**PRESS RELEASE**

August 24, 2016

For Immediate Release

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**DAWKINS RECEIVES AJHA NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

The American Journalism Historians Association selected Wayne Dawkins, professor of journalism and communication at Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton University, as the 2016 recipient of the AJHA National Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The National Award for Excellence in Teaching acknowledges professors who excel at teaching in the areas of journalism and mass communication history, make a positive impact on student learning and offer an outstanding example for other educators. Dawkins will receive the award at the AJHA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Oct. 6-8 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Dawkins credits a former journalism history professor as being an inspiration for his success in the classroom.

“History has informed my newspaper and now academic career,” Dawkins said. “Joseph Dorinson, my favorite professor at Long Island University, brought American history to life with visual props, audio and theatrics. Four decades later with digital technology, I apply Professor Joe’s lessons in reaching my Hampton University students.”

A scholar of African-American media history and a former reporter, Dawkins teaches a variety of media history courses at Hampton University. He views journalism and media history courses as a part of making his students “civically engaged.” In his American media history class, Dawkins requires students to engage with history and place modern day journalism within historical context in order to “truly understand and appreciate the contemporary journalists before them.” Dawkins’ enthusiasm for journalism history has made a lasting impression on his students. In addition to his obvious passion of

media history, one former student said it was Dawkins' "care for students" that made him "a phenomenal professor of American journalism history."

Prior to coming to Hampton University in 2005, Dawkins worked as a reporter and editor. He is the author of several articles and books, including a seminal book *Black Journalists: The NABJ Story*.

Dawkins received his B.A. in journalism and minor in history from Long Island University and his M.S. from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society. For more information on AJHA, visit [ajhaonline.org](http://ajhaonline.org).

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