

## Exclusive Interview with the Emmy Winning Anchor/Reporter: Sherrie Johnson

Written by Patricia Turnier  
Tuesday, 02 July 2013 19:53

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Ms. Johnson was raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her father's military career took her around the world at an early age, exposing her to multiple cultures and experiences. Ms. Sherrie Johnson is an Emmy Award winning [Reporter](#) /Anchor based in Baltimore, Maryland with over 19 years of experience. She obtained her BA in [Journalism](#)

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and Mass Communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994. She also has a minor in German.

Since 2003, she has served as the Morning Reporter and fill-in Anchor at WMAR-TV ABC2News in Baltimore, Maryland. Moreover, Sherrie Johnson also covers the Education beat for ABC2News with her "Making a Difference" reports. As a Reporter/Anchor, Johnson has worked in five television markets (including local and national TV affiliates), hosted shows and served as Mistress of Ceremony for multiple events. More precisely, Sherrie Johnson started her television career in Washington, North Carolina, and has worked at stations in Asheville, North Carolina, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Hence, her experience took her from her home state of North Carolina, where she began her career in little Washington, and brought her to Asheville before going to Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. She did freelancing work in Washington, D.C. at WTTG Fox 5 and Fox News Channel. Then, she continued in Baltimore. She has been featured in *Ebony* and *Heart & Soul* magazines. Her contribution was sanctioned with an Emmy Award in 2004 for Best Feature for Lauren's Story.

As a Motivational Speaker, Johnson is often seen as interactive, engaging, deep, generous with her knowledge, and inspiring words. Thus, on the Speaking Circuit, Sherrie Johnson spoke at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School's Think Big Speaker Series (Baltimore High School for inner city youth), Black Girls Ignite Africa (Motivational Speaker for young women), Mercy High School (all-girl high school motivational speech), It Takes A Village Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala and the 2nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration for Wilkes University in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

Overall, Ms. Johnson wears several hats: Host/Motivational Speaker/Consultant/Reporter/Anchor. Moreover, she is the President and CEO of her own company, SAJ Media LLC. She is a member of the National Association of Black [Journalists](http://www.nabj.org) ([www.nabj.org](http://www.nabj.org)), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and the Great Black Speakers' Bureau ([www.greatblackspeakers.com](http://www.greatblackspeakers.com)). She has held a seat as a member of the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter for two years. Johnson served on the board of the University of North Carolina Journalism Alumni and Friends Association. In addition, she volunteers for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Literacy Projects. She has also served on panels including Women in Film, educating audiences on TV News.

Ms. Johnson began her Broadcasting career at WIDU Radio in Fayetteville, North Carolina where she was News Director on the Morning Show. She also worked at WITN-TV in Washington, North Carolina, as a General Assignment Reporter and Weekend Anchor. Her

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broadcast career took her to WLOS in Asheville, North Carolina where she was a General Assignment Reporter. She also worked at WBRE in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania as a Morning Anchor/Reporter. As mentioned, she is currently at WMAR-TV ABC2News where she serves as a Reporter and fill-in Anchor. Throughout her career, she covered numerous stories, including: Presidential Elections, Inaugurations, Student Stem Programs, Childhood Obesity, etc. She interviewed top news makers including: Mr. President Barack Obama, Baltimore Ravens Ray Rice, Monique, Oprah, and former Editress-in-Chief of *Essence* magazine Susan Taylor.

*In the following interview, Ms. Johnson talks chiefly about her professional path in journalism. We spoke to her last winter. It is her first Canadian interview conducted by the Editress-in-Chief Patricia Turnier, LL.M (Master's degree in Law).*



**P.T. When did you know that journalism was the professional path to follow? When you were younger, who inspired you to become a journalist and why?**

**S.J.** When I was in college, I always thought that I wanted to be a lawyer. At that time, I was at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I studied political science as a major. I started on the pre-law track, but I was not that interested in the classes.

I think that I was more in love with the idea of being a lawyer [laughs] than anything else. I saw my guidance counsellor, who asked me questions about my interests. I let him know that I enjoy writing and talking to people. He asked me if I had ever thought about journalism. I replied that I had thought about it in high school, since I have always liked writing.

**P.T. Were you part of a student newspaper?**

**S.J.** I wasn't part of the School Newspaper in high school. I didn't get involved in journalism at that point. However, my counselor's suggestion gave me something to consider. In this regard, I decided to take an internship at a public television station in Raleigh, North Carolina. I enjoyed writing and being in a television setting. I decided to change my major to journalism with a concentration on Broadcasting and my grades improved! It became clearer to me that this was the professional path to embrace. Once I graduated, I got my first job at WITN-TV in Washington, North Carolina. It was a great way for me to begin my career because I could learn about the Television Reporting. This experience represented an amazing training ground for me.

Carol Simpson, a correspondent for ABC News, was influential to me when I was younger. I saw her on the weekends as an anchor and I wanted to do the same. She represented an important inspiration to me to become a broadcasting journalist.

**P.T. Did you have the chance to meet her later?**

**S.J.** I didn't, but I am hoping that I will meet her very soon. I am working on that.

**P.T.** Good luck on that!

**P.T.** Your father's military career took you around the world at an early age, exposing you to diverse cultures and experiences. How did this experience prepare and shape you in your journalistic journey?

**S.J.** My father served in the U.S. Air Force for 26 years. He was a First Sergeant. We travelled the world. We lived in Germany for eight years. I also visited France, England, Belgium, Switzerland and Austria. It was wonderful, I would not change my childhood for anything. I strongly believe that growing up in different countries, speaking different languages, and learning other customs definitely broadened my horizons and helped me later on with my career in journalism. I have no problem in approaching strangers and communicating with them. As the daughter of a military service member who moved so often, I had to learn adaptation skills and that definitely was useful for my career. My past experiences inspired my love of travelling. I enjoy discovering what else is going on around the world.

**P.T.** In the future, would you be interested in becoming a foreign correspondent?

**S.J.** When I was younger, I used to think that I would be interested in doing this, but now I see things differently. I enjoy being in my home, sleeping in my bed with my puppy, being close to my family. I don't mind travelling a little bit, but not on a long-term basis.

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<https://twitter.com/SherrieNews> [www.sajmedia.net](http://www.sajmedia.net)