



# The official student newspaper of Alabama State University The Hornet Tribune

"WE NEED A FREE PRESS. WE MUST HAVE IT. IT'S VITAL."

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The New York Times of Alabama State University

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After the formal crowning of Miss Alabama State University Yasmine Whitehurst in the John Garrick Hardy Center Ballroom on Oct. 24, the entire court poses for its official photograph. The 2020-21 court consists of (L-R) Miss Freshman Justice Murphy, Miss Senior Tiffany Bailey, Miss Alabama State University Yasmine Whitehurst, Miss Junior Dy'On Chariton, and Miss Sophomore Daniya Mitchell.

## Whitehurst crowned Miss Alabama State University

BY GEM RICHARDSON  
Staff Reporter/Writer  
grichardson455@myasa.asu.edu

To officially crown Yasmine Whitehurst, the 81st Miss Alabama State University, the university hosted its annual coronation for the senior interdisciplinary studies major. The coronation was held in the John Garrick Hardy Center Ballroom and was invitation only. However, it was filmed on Facebook Live as more than 200 people tuned in to witness the momentous occasion.

To ensure the proper protocols were taken to maintain a healthy and safe campus, all attendees were tested before entering the ballroom.

The coronation opened with a poem referencing the "forgotten kingdom," with African-inspired music and a group of dancers.

Whitehurst wore a one-shoulder white gown adorned in white beading, as President Quanon T. Ross, Jr., Ed.D. took Whitehurst's hand in the official presidential waltz and then offered her the Oath of Affirmation.

She was crowned by the 2019-20 Miss Alabama State University Jhames Cooper, who was given a round of ap-



Miss Alabama State University Yasmine Whitehurst waves to the crowd after she is formally crowned. She campaigned on the theme "Elevate the C.U.L.T.U.R.E." She is dedicating her reign to the "restoration of love, pride and passion" to the university.

plause and offered a message of advice to her successor. "Don't let anyone dim your light," Cooper said.

Whitehurst dedicated her time to multiple organizations on campus such as the Mighty Marching Hornets,

Beta Phi Alpha, Radiant Souls, Delta Theta, and the Beta Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta.

She thanked her family, friends, advisors, team, and fellow student leaders for the help and support provided.

"God does not call the qualified, God qualifies the qualified," Whitehurst said. "It is by no mistake that I stand in front of you with the crown and the official title of the 81st Miss Alabama State University. My journey to and

through ASU has been the most life-changing and unforgettable experience. Many would think of my situation as a setback, serving in the midst of a pandemic, having many traditions taken away. But, I look at it as a blessing.

I am blessed to still have the opportunity to serve my student body and my university ... I am walking proof that with God, all things are possible ... My goal has always been elevation ... I stand strongly on the platform of "Elevate the Culture," where I aim to restore the love, pride, and passion for our illustrious institution."

Student Government Association President David Hammond and alumna Zara Hall co-hosted the two-hour event. They gave a farewell message and offered some important advice to Whitehurst.

Charles Pruitt recited a poem to describe the beauty of the queen. "Her smile is like none other that I've seen thus far, she's our Nubian queen," Pruitt said. "Her beauty is rare, her beauty is raw, her beauty is natural. She is our Nubian queen."

Prior to the introduction of Whitehurst, the student organization queens and the 2020-21 royal court were escorted onto the stage. The ladies of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music

See CROWNED on page 4

## Rice implements a new process for selecting senators

BY NEFSAHYATT BROWN  
Editor-in-Chief  
nefshyattbrown21@gmail.com

Despite the drastic change in student life due to COVID-19, 2020-21 Student Government Association Vice President Tyler Rice is working with the legislative branch to ensure that the student senate experiences a productive year.

Unlike previous years, Rice explained that this year the selection process for senators is much more extensive as he wanted to ensure that the senate was "really representative of who is on campus."

"We had three rounds,"

Rice said. "In the first round, we gathered information on people who were interested in becoming senators." He continued as he explained the other processes.

"During the second round we reviewed their [the interests] resumes and their statements on why they wanted to be senators, and during the final round we interviewed each of them one by one."

Along with the extensive selection process, Rice also stated that the senate would be undergoing a new form of training. Instead of senators and other SGA members completing training before running for office, the university decided to go in a



SGA Vice President Tyler Rice takes a minute to discuss the process of selecting SGA senators for the 2020-21 academic year. "There are currently a lot of

people in positions who are not trained in government. There are only four of us now, David, Dax, Tre, and myself, who received government training."

Explaining how important it is for him to give some of his knowledge to the senators, Rice said the training will begin in October and span over the semester.

"The senate will be trained on writing legislative bills and Robert's Rules of Order by the Legislative Advisor and Director of Research and Sponsored Programs Pennell Jenkins. Reflecting on his training last year, Rice said that he wants to continue the mandatory

SGA Constitution test.

"I know that we cannot break down the constitution in one day, but I want us to have a day where we discuss the constitution thoroughly before the test," he said. "I want to ease my way into it, though, because I understand that everyone does not grasp information and knowledge at the same rate."

Because there were only four senators who campaigned for office in the spring 2020 SGA elections, the senate spent its first two meetings confirming the senators. Completing their confirmations there are now

See IMPLEMENTS on page 4

# Editorial Operations Division

## The Hornet Tribune

# ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

REVISED JANUARY 2021

## Job Summaries for Managing Editor for Editorial Operations, General Assignment Editor, Beat Manager, Staff Researcher and Archivist, COVID-19 Editor, Content Editor, Assistant Content Editor, Investigative Reporter/Writer Senior Staff Reporter/Writer, Staff Reporter/Writer, Staff Columnist, Cartoonist, and Freelance Reporter/Writer

**Managing Editor for Editorial Operations** is the middle ground between content editors and the editor-in-chief. All content editors, general assignment editors, staff researchers and archivist report to the managing editor for Editorial Operations. He or she is responsible for all editorial content that is placed in each issue of The Hornet Tribune and ensuring that the content is submitted a timely manner. The managing editor for Editorial Operations is responsible for a range of management duties, such as supervising personnel, and oversee day-to-day editing tasks from a broader level than content editors do.

**General Assignment Editor** is responsible for identifying at least 30 issues, events, activities and programs each week that can be presented to the staff for repertorial coverage as well as follow-up on stories that were presented the week before. The general assignment editor is the nerve center of the newsroom. This is where newsroom staff members discuss sources for breaking news, including police and fire scanners.

**Beat Manager** is responsible for meeting with key people across the entire campus to learn what events, activities and programs that their areas will be producing within the next two weeks. These events should be submitted to the general assignment editor each week.

**Staff Researcher and Archivist** is responsible for researching topics as assigned by the managing editor for Editorial Operations. References should originate from older copies of The Hornet Tribune, the library and the internet.

**COVID-19 Editor** is responsible for covering all stories connected to COVID-19 that occur on the campus.

**Content Editor** will work with a team of writers to develop and curate compelling and engaging content for The Hornet Tribune audience. The primary duties of the content editor will include content strategy, proof-reading and editing, analyzing readership data, and developing the content strategy.

**Assistant Content Editor** is responsible for assisting the content editor to secure enough stories for the section each week, by reporting, writing and editing stories for that particular section.

**Investigative Reporter/Writer** will find the in-depth stories the readers want to know. They will evaluate the priorities of our target demographic before finding newsworthy statistics and occurrences to report. They must understand their subject matter from the inside out. They need to be accurate in the facts reported, but they also need to have the writing skills to keep people engaged in the pieces all the way to the end.

**Senior Staff Reporter/Writer** is responsible for researching and developing news content for The Hornet Tribune. The general nature of this position involves receiving the more complex stories since a great deal of news gathering, reporting, and editing is involved.

**Staff Reporter/Writer** is responsible for delivering updates and analysis on current happening with the main goal to keep public updated. They create stories and breaking news through different channels such as on-line news sites, and printed newspapers.

**Staff Columnist** is responsible for Staying updated with the local, national and international affairs on day to day basis The ideal candidate for this role would be a wordsmith. You should be an extraordinary storyteller who can showcase our products' value in a compelling and engaging way. You should possess amazing writing skills and should be fluent with grammar and punctuation.

**Cartoonist** is responsible for creating cartoons each week regarding news and editorial topics involving campus administrators, SGA officials or sports figures.

## Selection Process for Students who desire to work in Editorial Operations Division

### THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

With the exception of the managing editor for Editorial Operations, the selection committee is composed of the editor-in-chief, managing editor for editorial operations, and the general manager. The process is divided into stages unless the number of applications received is very low. Selection of finalists for any of the positions as stated above is based upon the following criteria:

### THE SELECTION PROCESS

To be selected to work in the Editorial Operations Division of *The Hornet Tribune* is a monumental achievement and is relatively one of the higher honors that a student can receive while attending Alabama State University. Any student who is selected to the positions of general assignment editor, beat manager, staff researcher and archivist, COVID-19 editor, content editor, assistant content editor, senior staff reporter/writer, investigative reporter/writer, staff reporter/writer, and freelance reporter/writer must submit the following information before he or she can be considered for the above mentioned positions: completed staff application, high school or college transcript, resume, and essay.

### STAFF APPLICATION

Each student must submit a completed staff application to the selection committee. The staff application is interactive, so it must be neatly typed and submitted before the stated deadline. It must also be signed.

### STUDENT'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The transcript allows the selection committee to review the academic performance of the applicant. It also allowed the selection committee to look at the courses the applicant has taken and the grades earned in both high school or college. In addition, the selection committee would like to review any news clips authored by the candidate and published at Alabama State University, high school or any other publication.

### RESUME

The resume' will be carefully analyzed to determine how much time and effort has been given to its preparation. Remember, first impressions are lasting and in a situation where several people are competing for a position, your resume' may be the deciding factor. Therefore, ensure that your resume is clean, modernized and without errors. Resume's submitted with errors will be trashed. Any employment experiences that relate to news writing, news reporting, news editing should also be included on the resume with

detailed information regarding references and time periods for holding the respective jobs. We wish you much success.

### THE ESSAY

The essay of each finalist is read, graded and averaged by the Selection Committee members. It usually receives special attention in the final evaluation. The purpose of the essay is three-fold: (1) to get an idea of how the applicant writes and develops a story; (2) to take a look at the applicant's critical thinking and analysis skills and (3) to measure the uniqueness of his or her responses. After all criteria are considered, the Selection Committee determines which finalists to interview by telephone or in person. That decision is made by re-evaluating all parts of each finalist's application and includes telephone calls to references on the application form. Two references are required.

### THE INTERVIEW

The interview is probably the most important part of the process. This is where the candidate receives an opportunity to meet with the selection committee and demonstrate why he or she is the best person for the position. Here are some of the interview questions that have been asked in the past of candidates who applied for some of the positions: Why do you want to be in the position? What do you believe you can bring to the position in terms of skills, attitude and goals? What have you done in the past that demonstrates you would be an asset to this publication, and if selected, and what will you do to move it forward? Each applicant should prepare well as your responses will weigh heavily on the decision made for the position being sought.

### THE CALL

After the selection committee has deliberated and selected and ranked the candidates, the general manager will call the candidates according to ranking and offer he or she the position. If the candidate accepts, he or she will meet with the general manager and the public affairs and communication chief for an orientation.

### JOURNALISM TRAINING

Each student who is selected to a position must go through basic journalism training. The training is essential as it allows the candidate to ensure a level of competency before taking on the position. The training takes four to six weeks and is modified to complement the position for which he or she is training. All students must go through the training unless they are journalism majors who are classified as seniors.

# The Hornet Tribune

## Editorial Operations Division STAFF APPLICATION

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Interview	1.	_____
Grades	2.	_____
Essay	3.	_____
Experience/Writing Samples	4.	_____
Resume'	5.	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>		_____

Position Applying for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female Classification \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. citizen? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No SID# \_\_\_\_\_

### Home/Permanent Address

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Web Address \_\_\_\_\_

### University Mailing Address

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Information

The Hornet Tribune makes a special effort to attract applicants from all racial or ethnic minority groups.

Please check one category: \_\_\_\_\_ Caucasian \_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ Asian/Pacific Islander  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Indian/Alaskan Native \_\_\_\_\_ African American

### Academic Information

List your undergraduate major \_\_\_\_\_

If you listed journalism/communication, indicate your emphasis or concentration

\_\_\_\_\_ Advertising \_\_\_\_\_ Public Relations \_\_\_\_\_ Visual \_\_\_\_\_ Design  
\_\_\_\_\_ Broadcasting \_\_\_\_\_ Online \_\_\_\_\_ Multimedia \_\_\_\_\_ Print

Which of the following courses have you taken or will have completed by the end of the Spring semester?

\_\_\_\_\_ Beg. Newswriting \_\_\_\_\_ Inter. Newswriting \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Newswriting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Feature Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Opinion Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Sports Writing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Copy Editing \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper Design \_\_\_\_\_ Online Editing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yearbook Design \_\_\_\_\_ Magazine Design \_\_\_\_\_ Video Editing

### Practical Journalistic Experience

Have you ever worked for a high school, college or professional (newspaper, yearbook or literary magazine)? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Name of Publication \_\_\_\_\_

Check duties performed \_\_\_\_\_ Copy Editing \_\_\_\_\_ Reporting \_\_\_\_\_ Design  
\_\_\_\_\_ HTML Coding \_\_\_\_\_ Photography \_\_\_\_\_ Proofreader

Check all of the positions that you have held on a staff

\_\_\_\_\_ Executive Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Managing Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Copy Desk Chief \_\_\_\_\_ Archivist  
\_\_\_\_\_ Content Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Design Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Reporter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Feature Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Art Critic \_\_\_\_\_ Columnist \_\_\_\_\_ Copy Editor

How many hours a week do you plan to devote to this endeavor if you are selected to lead the staff?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1-5 hours \_\_\_\_\_ 6-10 hours \_\_\_\_\_ 11-15 hours \_\_\_\_\_ 16-20 hours \_\_\_\_\_ 21-25 hours  
\_\_\_\_\_ 25-30 hours \_\_\_\_\_ 31-35 hours

Are you serving as a stringer or freelancer for a professional newspaper, magazine or online publication?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Name of Publication \_\_\_\_\_

If so, how many stories, on the average are published during a month? \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate which of the following areas you have better than average skills:

\_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in hypertext markup language (HTML) \_\_\_\_\_ Proficient with graphics and page design  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in page layout, graphics and design \_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in computer generated charts  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in reporting, writing and editing \_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in photos and photo editing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in marketing or telemarketing \_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in sales and advertising  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in video and video editing \_\_\_\_\_ Proficient in public affairs and promotion

Indicate why you believe you would be the best person to fill this position \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Academic Information (Continued)**

Junior High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Senior High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_

University Attended \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Information**

Have you ever been convicted of a crime (other than a traffic violation) or been imprisoned during the last seven years? A conviction will not necessarily bar you from employment. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of friends or relatives that are employed by The Hornet Tribune \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment History (Begin with most recent employer)**

1. Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Employed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning Salary \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Salary \_\_\_\_\_ Position held \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_

2. Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Employed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning Salary \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Salary \_\_\_\_\_ Position held \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_

3. Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Employed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning Salary \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Salary \_\_\_\_\_ Position held \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_

**Military Service**

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Duties/Special Training \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information**

Do you have any disabilities that may require special accommodations on the part of The Hornet Tribune staff in order for you to function efficiently? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If yes, please elaborate \_\_\_\_\_

**References**

List the name, title, address, email address, office and home telephone numbers of two people (professors, former high school teachers (no relatives) who are familiar with the abilities that are needed for the job in which you are applying. Be sure to include area codes for telephone numbers and zip codes for addresses. Student Media Board members will call them during the selection process so please be sure they are aware that you have listed them as references. Do not list peers as references.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Statement (Signature Required)**

I have read all of the information pertaining to The Hornet Tribune and if selected by the Student Media Board, I agree to honor my commitment to complete my year as an senior staff writer or investigative reporter/writer unless I become medically disabled. All of the information I have given in this application is true.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# CHECKLIST

The following materials must be submitted in order for you to be considered for a position within the Editorial Operations:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Editorial Operations Staff Application
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A typed resume'
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A high school or college transcript
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A 500-word Essay. This two-page essay must be typed and double spaced.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Prior Experience (Writing Samples)

Please make duplicants of all hard copies that you submit

## Your Essay . . . An Important Part of the Student Media Board's Decision

Your 500-word essay must be typed in an easy-to-read typewriter or computer print font. It is permissible to make minor editing marks, should you spot errors while proofreading.

Often, panelists read and re-read an essay when deciding which students will advance to the finalist' stage. Therefore, it is important to write a well-organized, straightforward piece.

**TOPIC:** Write an essay regarding how we can improve the statistic that says that there is nearly a 70% chance that an African American man without a high school diploma will be imprisoned before he is 40.

**BE SURE TO TYPE YOUR FULL NAME AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE OF YOUR ESSAY.**

Please staple the essay to this page

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