

INDUCTEE

Yolanda Harris

Graduated1988
MarriedTodd Smith
ResidesWesterville, Ohio

Yolanda has always been a person who immerses herself in her surroundings. She's one who gets involved. She entered the Gahanna school system as an eighth grader at Gahanna Middle School East. As a high school student, she worked on the school newspaper "The Lion's Roar." She was a cheerleader for both basketball and football during her four years at Gahanna Lincoln. In track season, she helped out as a tract stat. As a freshman, Yolanda represented her class as Homecoming Attendant and was part of the Homecoming Court in her senior year.

Graduating from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Science in Broadcast Journalism, Yolanda returned to Columbus to a position with WTTE-Fox 28 as on-air host for the "Fox 28 Kids Club." She was also a reporter for WTTE's "This Week" News Magazine. In the next four years she continued to work for WTTE transitioning over to news as an entertainment and general assignment reporter. In 1996 when Fox 28 acquired the ABC affiliate, she began working for both stations as a reporter and weekend anchor. In 2002, after four years on the late night newscasts, Ms. Harris was promoted to her present position. She co-anchors for News Center on ABC-6 at 5pm, 5:30pm, 6pm and 11pm and on FOX-28 at 10pm.

Yolanda also has a background in print journalism. She used those skills working as a reporter for the *Columbus Call & Post* newspaper, a weekly publication focusing on the African American community in Central Ohio.

As a central Ohio native, Yolanda is attached to the community and gives back in a number of ways. She has served as emcee for the Better Business Bureau's annual Integrity Awards Luncheon for several years. She also visits local schools during "Right To Read Week" and on Career Days. She has mentored several high school and college students who have shown interest in the broadcast field. She co-hosts local portions of the "Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon" for Muscular Dystrophy and the "United Negro College Fund" annual telethon.

Ms. Harris won an Emmy for Best Entertainment Program in 2005 for "Gimme The Mike Columbus!" a local singing competition which she hosts on ABC-6.

Yolanda Harris has been giving back to Gahanna Lincoln for a number of years. She often returns to GLHS to talk to the students in TV classes about going into a career in broadcasting, giving them tips and pointers that can only come from someone actively in the business. A creator of instructional videos herself, she has assisted Gahanna television students in their creation of videos, most recently one on Gahanna teachers' use of educational grants. She also served the Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation as emcee during the annual Silent Auction and Celebration.

Yolanda resides in the Columbus area with her husband and their ornery Jack Russell Terrier. She spends her free time riding her Harley and spoiling her niece and nephew.