

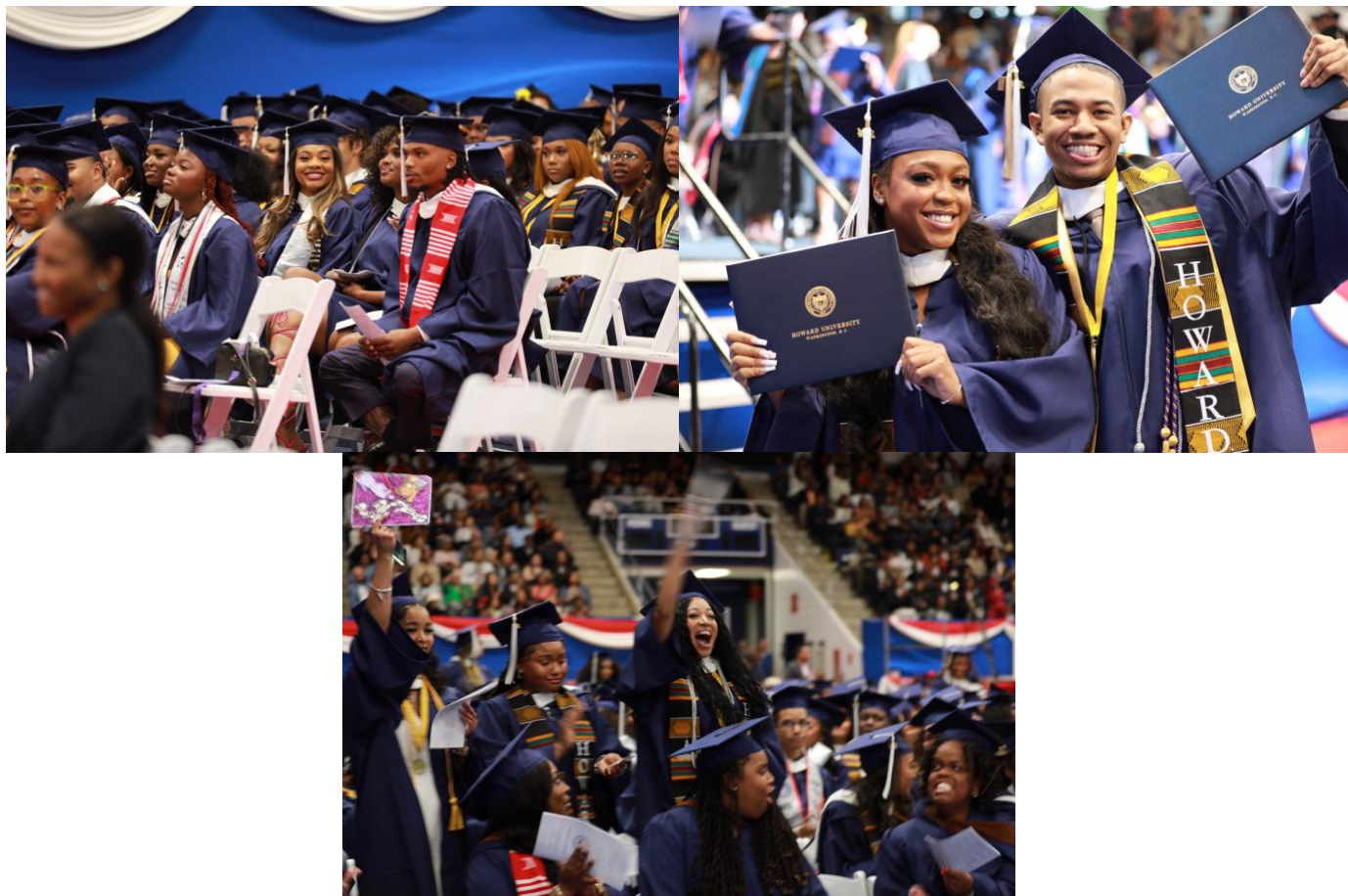


Cathy Hughes School of Communications *eblasts*

****Good news on the recent accomplishments of our CHSOC faculty, staff, students, and alumni ****

May 2024

Graduation 2024 – We celebrated our Class of 2024 graduates with each department hosting individual award ceremonies on May 9th. The CHSOC annual Graduation Recognition Ceremony was held May 10th in Burr Gym. President Ben Vinson and Provost Anthony Wutoh attended the ceremony and gave remarks to the graduates. Jeff Friday, founder and CEO of Nice Crowd, was our guest speaker. The university held commencement May 11th at Capital One Arena. The Class of 2024 was the university’s largest graduating class.



White House Correspondents’ Association Scholarships – Students from the Media, Journalism and Film department were recipients of prestigious White House Correspondents' Association scholarships at their April dinner. **Trinity Webster-Bass, Kyle Fisher, and JD Jean-Jacques** were recognized for their exemplary achievements as student journalists.



Sports Award - Congratulations to alumnus **D. Orlando Ledbetter**, sports reporter for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, who covers the Atlanta Falcons, on May 30th received the Bill Nunn Memorial Award from the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The Professional Football Writers of America gives the award annually to a reporter that covers pro football. The award, which started in 1969, is named after Bill Nunn Jr., a reporter for 22 years at the *Pittsburgh Courier*. See [article](#).

Newsroom Innovation – The Center for Journalism & Democracy plans to award some \$200,000 to 10 newsrooms through its inaugural Newsroom Innovation Challenge. The newsrooms will receive award packages, ranging from \$4,000 up to \$29,000, aimed at improving newsroom technology, business operations, audience engagement, and reporting at campus newsrooms. “This grant program seeks to even the playing field by upgrading student newsrooms and paying stipends for student journalists,” said Professor **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, who serves as Knight Chair in Race and Journalism at the Cathy Hughes School of Communications. “Investments in the talent and ambitions of aspiring journalists will fundamentally transform these newsrooms.” The Hilltop and HU News Service were both recipients of the grant.



Hearst Investigative Competition – Media, Journalism and Film student **Amber Smith** placed in the Top 20 (#11) for the final Hearst competition of the year, The Investigative (individual or teams) Competition.

Generative A.I. Panel – Dean **Gracie Lawson-Borders**, moderated the May 15th A.I. in Communications panel at the World Resources Institute (WRI) in DC. WRI's Christian Madera organized the panelists, who included Soledad Planes, communications strategist at the Inter-American Development Bank; Loretta Prencepe, marketing and communication at Prencepe Communications; and Nicole Schuman, managing editor at PR News.



The Dow Jones News Fund – Congratulations to **Makenna Underwood** for being selected as an intern by The Dow Jones News Fund. The Dow Jones News Fund will train 86 college students to work this summer in paid internships in 62 newsrooms around the country. The Class of 2024, in keeping with the News Fund’s goal of producing well-trained journalists who better reflect the demographics of the communities they cover, is 64% students of color and 72% women.

Meet Filmmaker – We welcomed filmmaker and innovator Topper Carew (co-creator of “Martin”) as the speaker at the 1st annual Margaret D. Turner Speaker Series in April.

**MEET
FILMMAKER/
INNOVATOR
TOPPER
CAREW**

**CREATOR
OF 'MARTIN'**

MARTIN

**DIRECTOR
OF 'DC CAB'**

DC CAB

Blackburn Digital Auditorium
5-7:30 PM | APRIL 22 | 2024
1st Annual Margaret D. Turner Speaker Series

PLEASE NOTE: THE CHSOC NEWSLETTER WILL BE ON HIATUS UNTIL SEPTEMBER WHEN THE FALL 2024 SEMESTER BEGINS.

NOTE: If you have news and would like to submit it to our CHSOC e-newsletter, please click on the link for the [Submission Form](#). Complete the form or send an email to socdean@howard.edu.