



Brooke Thomas, '09
News Anchor, Fox Soul's Black Report

A 2009 University of Oklahoma graduate, Brooke Thomas started her career in Los Angeles as an Access Hollywood intern. After working in morning news programming in several markets, she returned to LA and now works full time for Fox Soul, a new streaming network focused on Black viewers. Thomas can be seen as the news anchor for Fox Soul's Black Report every weekday at 6 p.m. CT, and she also freelances for Fox 11. Thomas recently shared more about how her time at Gaylord College helped prepare her for a broadcasting career.

What is your favorite memory from your time at Gaylord College?

My favorite memory at Gaylord was getting an end of the year award from our newsroom teachers – I think it was called “most talented anchor” or something like that. I hadn't realized that they thought I was good at it, and it gave me a ton of confidence moving forward professionally.

through this business as a Black woman. I am so thankful and have learned so much.

How did Gaylord College prepare you for your future career?

Gaylord College prepared me by having us participate in a live statewide newscast. I meet so many college students who don't have reels. They don't even know where to begin. How do you apply for jobs, if you don't have samples? Gaylord made sure we had something to work with.

What advice would you give to current students aspiring to a career in mass communication?

My advice if you want to be on air – check a camera out if your school provides them, get with a friend and record some stand ups. Work on your reel at any chance, create a chance!

What do you do for fun outside of work?

Do you have a favorite faculty/staff member at Gaylord?

Bob Dickey and former assistant dean
John Hockett

What do you consider to be the most significant moments of your career so far?

One of the most significant moments of my career so far was working alongside a woman named Mearl Purvis in Memphis. I can't explain enough how helpful and amazing it was to learn from a Black woman, a GIANT in this industry, someone who knows the ropes and knows what it's like to move

For fun outside of work – I sleep! Full honesty though, I shop a lot and spend time with friends. Can't wait to get back to that after the pandemic.

Are there any other organizations or projects you're involved with outside of your full-time job that you want to highlight?

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), and I'm always doing what I can to encourage and mentor other young Black women in this business as now I have to pay Mearl's work forward.



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