



Before joining the faculty at John Brown University, Dr. Marquita Smith, associate professor of communication, worked in various newsrooms for 16 years. Most recently she served as Virginia Beach bureau chief at The Virginian-Pilot. She joined The Pilot as a local government editor in 2001. In 2008, Smith went on leave from The Pilot to complete a Knight International Journalism Fellowship in Liberia. During her time in West Africa, she created a judicial and justice reporting network and continues to help journalists develop skills to cover the post-war nation's poverty reduction efforts. Ghanaians elected a new president in 2008, and she created several training models to help reporters and editors prepare for covering the event. Before moving to Virginia, she worked as an assistant metro editor at the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser. She also has worked as a reporter at the Lexington-Herald Leader, the (Biloxi) Sun Herald and in Knight Ridder's Washington bureau. Smith was named to the list [journalismdegree.org](http://journalismdegree.org) publication entitled Top 50 Journalism Professors in 2012. At JBU, Smith serves as the Communication Department Chair and Coordinator of Diversity Relations. Her research interests focus on media development, public health communications and topics on diversity and inclusion. Smith is a Fulbright Scholar for the 2016-2017 academic year at the University of Ghana, Legon.