

# Alumna honored by Huffington Post

## Rachel Hislop listed as 1 of 16 fashion editors to watch

By Winta Mebrahti  
staff writer

Perching herself on her towering heels, and distanced from the word comfort, Plattsburgh State alumna and style editor at GlobalGrind.com Rachel Hislop has typed her way into The Huffington Post's list of editors to watch during New York Fashion Week.

The Huffington Post listed 16 black fashion and beauty editors worth following during New York Fashion Week, Feb. 6, 2014. Amongst editors for famous publications such as The New York Times, Teen Vogue, Essence and Cosmopolitan, Hislop was former magazine journalism major at PSUC.

"It's weird because these are my professional peers, and they have been doing this a lot longer than I have. It's always a little intimidating to step in someone else's field," Hislop said, who found out about the list while reporting from a fashion show.

"Someone tweeted me saying 'congratulations.' I asked, 'What for?' and she sent me the link. I didn't cry, but I dropped a tear I was excited," Hislop said.

Throughout her time at PSUC, Hislop engaged in different activities outside of the classroom that were helpful in her educational and professional career. She was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honors Society and a member of Lambda Pi Eta Communications Honors Society. She was also Vice President of AKEBA Black Student Union and a staff writer at both Cardinal Points and All Points North online magazine.

And she didn't stop there. Although Hislop didn't have a minor, she made sure she took extra classes, such as women's studies and web design, to further enhance her skills and grow as a person.

"That helped me in my career. Because, ultimately,

that is what the employer will see, your contribution in the work place. Can you write a story, do a blog, code the page? And, of course, the more informed you are the better writer you will be," Hislop said.

Steven Howell, adjunct lecturer of journalism at PSUC, whom Hislop assisted during her time at PSUC, agrees with Hislop. Howell explains that being proactive about your education is crucial in journalism.

"Journalism is a competitive business. You can't just take a back seat. You will fall by the way side. But if you assert yourself, you will go places," Howell said.

Both Howell and Rene Burl, also an adjunct lecturer of journalism and technical advisor for Online Magazine Practicum at PSUC, praise Hislop as a student.

"She had a passion for storytelling, visual storytelling, and just like music and poetry, fashion can also be another way of telling stories," Burl said. "I think she has big things ahead of her, and it would be difficult for people to not notice her because she shines really bright. She's definitely on the right trajectory."

But the road to success was never easy for Hislop. At the time when Hislop was a student at PSUC, she said the magazine department lacked cohesive guidance. The person who was in charge of the department

was on a sabbatical only to come back and leave the department. This affected not only Hislop but also her fellow classmates.

"I think the students in the program at that time stumbled across not having one person helping and guiding them with their passions. So, it's really amazing that she had a strong passion for what she wanted to do and was able to find structure herself," Burl said.

Although she has a professed love for height al-



Photo provided by Getty Images

Plattsburgh State alumna Rachel Hislop speaks into a microphone with fashion designer Brian Lichtenberg. Hislop was recently featured with 15 other black fashion editors in Huffington Post Live.

tering footwear, becoming a fashion journalist was never the ultimate goal. Hislop has always had a fondness for words, and that was what drove her to study journalism.

"Although fashion was something I enjoyed, fashion journalism was something I fell into, and it was Ron Davis and Dennis Aprill who saw that in me and pushed me towards it," Hislop said.

Burl also recalls a different type of difficulty the avid shoe collector faced. At one point, Hislop's father put a limit on how much she could spend on shoes.

"That disturbed her a lot. She wasn't very happy," Burl said laughing.

But Hislop didn't get recognized as a journalist by only being active in college and collecting shoes. Presence and sacrifice were keys that opened the doors

for Hislop. She said she believes being active in social media is of importance in a time when the amount of followers writers have on sites, such as Twitter, determines whether or not they are fit for the job.

"Presence is important," Hislop said. "Employers will look you up online, and they are inclined towards hiring someone with a strong brand and a strong following over someone who is more anonymous. It's (the followings) like Monopoly money."

In contrast to the glamorous life of columnist and fashionista Carrie Bradshaw, a character on "Sex and the City," Hislop's job is everything but

glamorous. She works round the clock, sacrificing much of her sleep and social life.

"Even when I'm not at work, I'm thinking about work. I'm thinking about possible articles and making contacts. Every event, every contact is important. You have to live what you write about," Hislop said.

So what does the future hold for Hislop?

"I hope to grow to be a better person than I am today, get some sleep and drink more water," Hislop said as she laughed.

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— compiled by  
Betsy Visconti

## What is your favorite dating app?

Emilee Stockman  
Freshman  
Entrepreneurship



"Facebook."

Ariel Monserrate  
Sophomore  
Communication Disorders



"Facebook."

Carissa Root  
Sophomore  
Public Relations



"Tinder."

Matthew Bouyea  
Freshman  
Political Science



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## LIVE MUSIC LISTINGS

All shows are for all ages unless indicated otherwise. All times are the official show times. If you have a band that

would like to be listed, contact Fuse Editor Elizabeth Reff at [fuse@cardinalpointsonline.com](mailto:fuse@cardinalpointsonline.com).

Fri Feb. 28

Big Eyed Fish (Dave Matthews cover band) 10 p.m. at Olive Ridley's in Plattsburgh. 518-324-2200