



BLACK EXCELLENCE ALUMNI NETWORK

Samantha German '10



Samantha German is a proud 2010 graduate of Porter-Gaud School in Charleston, South Carolina. Her journey at Porter-Gaud was filled with rich experiences and a strong academic foundation that set her up for future success.

Growing up in Mount Pleasant, Samantha attended Porter-Gaud from first through 12th grade. As the only child in her family with no prior connections to the school, she thrived in the nurturing environment Porter-Gaud provided.

Samantha's time at Porter-Gaud was deeply influenced by the incredible teachers she encountered. She fondly remembers her first-grade teacher, Mrs. Renken, and her sixth-grade social studies teacher, Jabari Spruill '96, who was her first African American teacher.

Mr. Spruill's impact was profound, as he was the only Black teacher Samantha had until college. This connection highlighted the importance of representation and mentorship in education. Even as a graduate, Samantha still finds it difficult to call him by his first name and continues to respect and honor him as Mr. Spruill.

Samantha found joy in English, her favorite subject, thanks to a love of reading and writing. One of her teachers, Mrs. Reinhold, taught both English and journalism. An assignment in Mrs. Reinhold's class first sparked Samantha's interest in journalism.

Outside the classroom, Samantha was highly involved in extracurricular activities. She participated in cross country, basketball, and track and was a member of various clubs, including the WATCH Society, the Diversity Club (Global Union), the Agape Club, and the yearbook committee. Her involvement in these activities showcased her dedication and leadership skills.

Samantha's journey at Porter-Gaud prepared her well for her undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia. She felt confident and well-prepared as a freshman, thanks to the school's rigorous academic environment. At UGA, she pursued a degree in digital and broadcast journalism at the Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication, which had long been

her goal. Her time there further solidified her passion for journalism, and she took numerous African American studies and women's studies classes, which broadened her perspective.

After graduating in 2014, Samantha began a successful career in broadcast journalism. Her first on-air TV news job was in Syracuse, New York, where she worked as a multimedia journalist and weekend anchor. She then held roles as a reporter and fill-in anchor in Norfolk, Virginia. She became a full-time evening anchor when she moved to Columbia, South Carolina. Following two years as a morning anchor in Jackson, Mississippi, Samantha returned home to Charleston in 2025 to join Live 5 News as an evening anchor.

Throughout her career, Samantha has been guided by the support of her parents, who prioritized her education and made significant sacrifices for her success. Her passion for writing and storytelling continues to drive her. She still finds joy in creating positive and impactful stories, including Black history pieces.

Samantha's journey is a testament to the strong foundation provided by Porter-Gaud. The school's commitment to academic excellence, diverse extracurricular opportunities, and supportive teachers were crucial in shaping her into the accomplished journalist she is today.