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NEW VISION IN BUSINESS

**A GUIDE TO THE
SINGLE LIFE**

FINDING LIFE
OUTSIDE OF WORK

**WHEELING
& DEALING**

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THE ROAD FOR
MINORITY AUTO
DEALERS

ALSO INSIDE:
GREED & FEAR
TRADING THAT'S
FREE OF EMOTIONS

FOUR PROFESSIONALS
HAVE DISCOVERED
WHERE THEIR
TRUE PASSIONS LIE

*Dreamy
Jobs*

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Living their dreams:
from left, in front
- Sharon Carpenter
and Kitt Grant; back -
Roderick Hardamon
and Edese Doret.
Cover Image: NV; Sharon
Carpenter's hair: Traci
Washington; makeup:
Brenda Mitchell





FOUR PROFESSIONALS
HAVE FOUND WHERE
THEIR PASSIONS LIE

WORDS: BROOK STEPHENSON & LOUIS LANG | IMAGES: NV

Dreamy Jobs

Monday morning, for too many urban professionals and entrepreneurs, is the beginning of the end – end of the weekend, their joy, their passion, and their self-expression. They will have to wait until quitting time on Friday to truly come back to life again. It's sad but true, though it doesn't have to be. There is some truth to the saying, "if you do what you love, you never work a day in your life." For Sharon Carpenter, Kitt Grant, Roderick Hardamon, and Edése Doret this saying rings true. While these four individuals may not be totally aligned with the "never work" ideology they do find their professions personally rewarding. They do love what they do. >>

SHARON CARPENTER never considered television as a career option but now the BET News on-air correspondent, producer and contributor to the network's "Meet The Faith" talk show makes her living interviewing entertainers and crafting hard-hitting news stories that speak to their fans. "I actually went to school for business management and I initially wanted to work in the music business," says Carpenter, who graduated magna cum laude from New York's Pace University. "Then while I was in school, I interned for a record label and I realized that's not what I wanted to do..." Not knowing wasn't a bad thing for Carpenter who was approached by the producers of a public access Hip Hop video show, "Video Explosion," to be their new host. "I thought, you know, why not I'll give it a shot," you couldn't expect anything less from the twenty-something Brit (a transplant from Watford, England to be exact) who seems to be made for BET's black carpet and captured the exclusive interview with Lil' Kim immediately after her prison release beating out throngs of other reporters.

Despite her natural abilities, entering the television industry not only required developing a host of new skills from reading a teleprompter, to video editing, research, scriptwriting, interviewing, makeup, camera presence and shot selection, but the advent of a mentor as well. A producer at UPN 9-News (NY) mentored her in production, brought her on as an associate producer and eventually recruited her to BET Nightly News. Carpenter went on to elevate her game at CBS MarketWatch doing financial news, covering market trends and interviewing A-list celebrities like George Lucas, Johnny Depp and Usher before BET brought her back in her current role. That is the how of her career but the why is, "As a reporter ... I get to tell important stories and educate people and inform people -- and at the same time I get to be creative. It's exciting...and it's meaningful," reveals Carpenter. But it is not easy.

Her coverage of Hurricane Katrina for BET is a prime example of that. Traveling with Mississippi-native, rapper David Banner, she was able to deliver an insider's perspective of the devastation most media outlets couldn't provide. What followed immediately was a sleepless 48 hours logging five hours of foot-



age and writing a 60-minute script to be aired on BET's Saving Ourselves relief telethon that benefited the American Red Cross. "Exhausted, still wearing the same outfit I was wearing walking along the waterside in Biloxi by the Grand Casino I had no choice because we had a telethon that was airing the next day and the script had to be done..." And that was just one story, Carpenter returned to the Gulf-area to provide more coverage. This is no easy vocation but if you have Carpenter's well-developed willfulness it's possible.

"... if you really want to be successful at this, you have to be prepared for this to be your life, at least for a while. It's difficult enough to get the job done, but to get ahead it's very competitive.

You are going to have to work very, very hard and you have to be passionate about it otherwise you won't be able to stick with it," offers Carpenter. "Luckily I did. This is my dream job."

Luck seems to be a hot commodity these days because a chance meeting with a friend whose aunt worked at CBS ignited **KITT GRANT**'s career in television. She currently works as editorial producer of CNN's Anderson Cooper 360°, the hottest news show on the air. But her story began while attending graduate school at San Francisco State University studying communications, working on her thesis and maintaining an internship at a local television station when her friend's connection resulted in an assistant producer position at CBS on the show "Up to the Minute."

A black and white portrait of Kitt Grant, a woman with dark hair, smiling and wearing a dark, low-cut dress. She is wearing large hoop earrings and a bracelet on her left wrist. The name "kitt grant" is written in a stylized, lowercase font in the upper left corner of the image.

kitt grant

After that show, with a master's degree in hand, Grant continued learning what it took to be a newsbreaker. "I had the French background, so I went to the division called NewsPass (CNN's global news subscription service that provides constant streaming video to Internet users). I wasn't working on a show. I was working with raw footage coming in. My first job was to see this raw footage coming in and they'd be like, 'I need 30 seconds of that to go on TV.' You find the best part of that ... You learn quickly because it's breaking news."

Learn Grant did, her next stint was at "48 Hours" as a researcher. That was where she finally found her niche. "If a plane crash hap-

pened we would have to go out. I would have to talk to [witnesses and survivors] and convince them to do interviews with us..." Grant realized then, "My strength was really in developing relationships and finding these characters and people to put in these stories and finding stories."

She also realized that her personal background was different than most network news people. "Being a female, being African American -- your family can tell you stories that never would be national news," says Grant. "It was kind of like, I could introduce people. I felt a sense of responsibility... I don't know if they are going to say yes or no but let me introduce some stories I haven't

heard. You know how they are always saying, 'Let's get Al Sharpton.' I'm like no... I know some really smart people that maybe represent a more modern view. A whole different perspective that can be smart and really represent well on television." She brought that different perspective to Anderson Cooper 360's Jena 6 report by introducing all of America to Harvard Law School professor Charles Ogletree, who also serves as Vice Dean for the Clinical Programs and served as Legal Counsel to Professor Anita Hill during the Senate Confirmation hearings for Justice Clarence Thomas. It's Grant's job to locate and confirm live and in-studio guests for the show who will provide great sound bytes and great stories. Her typical day includes reading three to four hundred emails then scanning various periodicals and wire services for possible stories. Then there is the daily staff meeting to select stories for that day and get updates on larger pieces in the works. Here is where she could be sent packing to London to search for on-air talent, asked to do research on the Philadelphia crime wave or called on to source her political contacts for a White House-related topic.

As Grant said throughout the interview, "news happens all the time" which means as a journalist and producer she has to be there to cover it -- even when the traditional workday may be over. Grant definitely loves her job but admits her social life does suffer for it and many friends do not understand this. Even though the job is demanding, she appreciates the experience she has gained up to this point. "It really does show me who I am ... I feel much more empowered. I feel confident saying what I think and knowing I have an opinion and it really is a viable opinion. I'm not going to sit back and be quiet because I'm in an industry where people talk all day long. I have an opinion and it can be heard and something can come from that," she says proudly.

Through her behind-the-scenes efforts Grant influences the news we see and who is telling it, not just nationally but globally. That alone is a dream in itself.

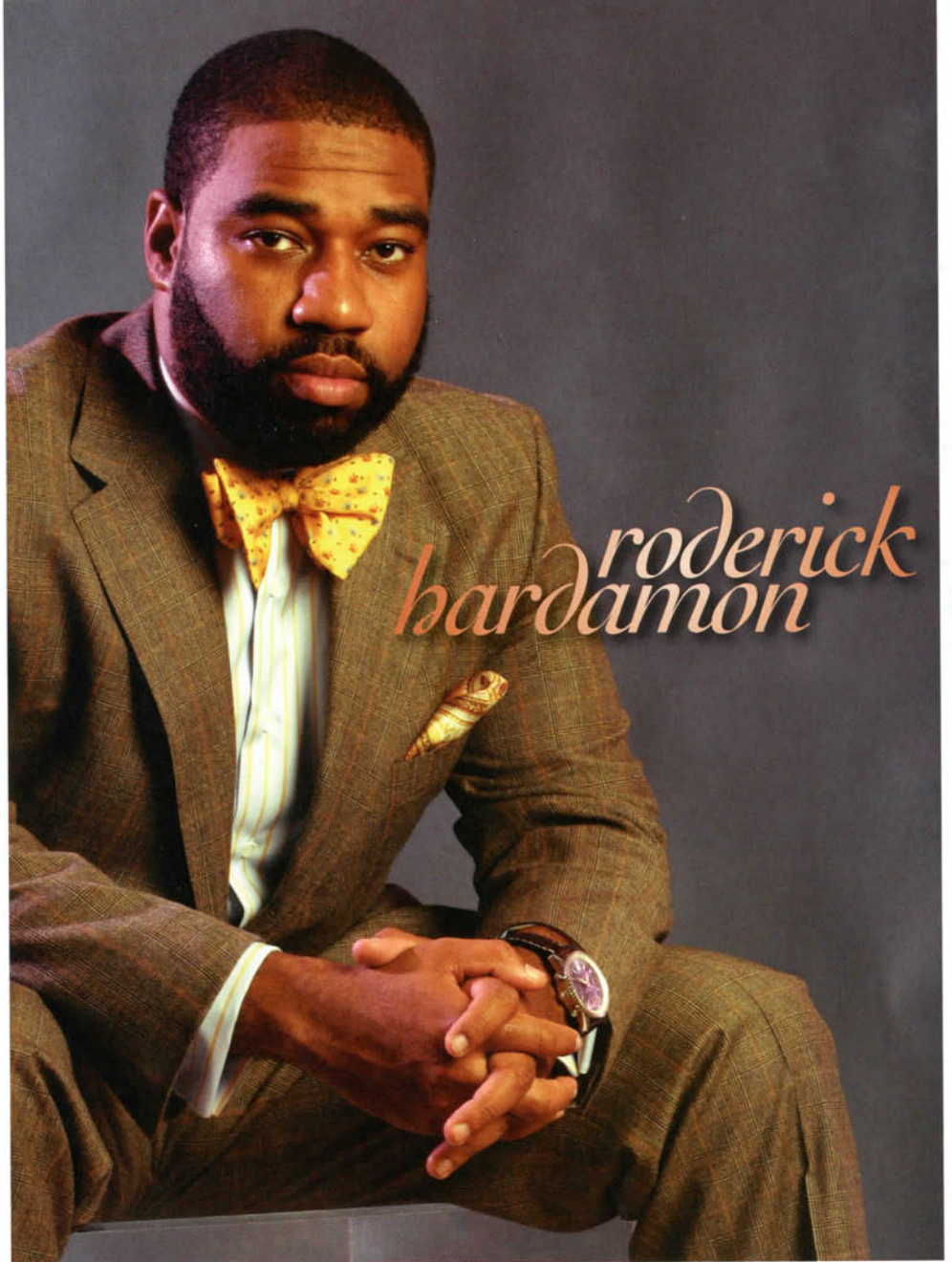
RODERICK HARDAMON is also having a global conversation, as Director and Co-Head of Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) for Citi Markets & Banking, one of the four business

lines of Citigroup. Hardamon is responsible for managing and executing the global strategic investment, acquisition and divestiture activity for the publicly reported \$27 billion global business unit focused on providing investment and corporate banking services to corporations, governments, institutions and investors in over 100 countries. Hardamon's interest in M&A was sparked when he read Reginald Lewis' "Why Should White Guys Have All the Fun?": How Reginald Lewis Created a Billion-Dollar Business Empire. A double major in philosophy and accounting allowed him to land an internship in M&A at Salomon Brothers (now CitiGroup Global Markets Inc.) in New York City. Once in, he knew M&A was it.

After securing a permanent position at Citi, one of his first deals entailed helping to advise AT&T on its formation of AT&T Latin America through key acquisitions in Brazil, Peru and Chile. Eager to continue his international focus, Hardamon delved head first into a position in Hong Kong in the firm's Asia Pacific M&A Group.

"Probably the most important skill that I have developed over the course of my career is the ability to take risks," says Hardamon. "When I moved to Hong Kong, I was unsure of how I would be received in the professional circles of different countries. Yet, making the decision to go with full knowledge of the risks ensured that I was prepared to survive. Not only was I able to survive, I was able to flourish..." He adds, "My time in Asia accelerated my professional development by several years."

What also aided his development, were mentors like Ingrid Saunders Jones, who is director of Corporate External Affairs and senior vice president of The Coca-Cola Company, and chairperson of The Coca-Cola Foundation. She introduced him to prominent executives like Warren Buffet or intra-office mentors like Lewis Warren, now Global Large Corporate Treasury Executive at Bank of America, both were then senior executives in Citi's Markets & Banking business. "Lewis was critical in helping me navigate the various challenges I confronted." Hardamon affirms, "More importantly however, Lewis served as a key sponsor for me throughout. On more than one occasion Lewis was able to influence the direction of my career



-- by either recommending me for a stretch opportunity or supporting me during times of promotion and advancement."

Having recognized how having mentors has benefited his career, Hardamon founded the Diversity Leadership Program for Citi's Global Transaction Services Business (GTS) to provide high potential up-and-coming executives the network and platform to ascend within the company. In addition, he has remained focused on the next generation of leaders by serving his alma mater as a founding member of the Dean's Advisory Council for Morehouse College's Division of Economics & Business.

While his business day varies from hour to

hour, which he likes, Hardamon still makes the time for his family. It doesn't all blend as perfectly as it would seem yet Hardamon's work ethic is simple. "I refuse to be outworked or outthrust. Like most, I am a very competitive individual and I believe the one area that I can control is the amount of effort and energy I put toward accomplishing my goals. You can not control who is the smartest person in the room, but you can control who works the hardest."

Working hard is something entrepreneur and industrial designer **EDÈSE DORET** of Doret Industrial Design Inc. knows well. If you are unfamiliar with industrial design it is the customization or humanization of objects for market. An industrial designer creates solu-



tions for engineering, marketing and brand development. That means if you want a chair, an industrial engineer creates one to your specifications. In Doret's case, he is best known for customizing the interiors of luxury jets. Even though it may take him a year to take a project from design to completion at a pricetag of \$1.5 million, Doret is doing more than okay. As the lead designer and owner of Doret Industrial Design he has become one of the most sought after designers today.

"When you enter my airplane it feels more like you are in a yacht or a boutique hotel or a high-end New York apartment, whether it has a classic style or a very modern style essentially," Doret says modestly. His Airbus A380 design for

a private VIP customer, suspected to be from the Middle East, has been dubbed by airline industry press as the "Flying Palace." It includes two dining halls, a 600-foot master bedroom suite, spiral staircases, game room, lounge with giant curtains that mimic tents found in the Arabian Desert, a fiber-optic mosaic that depicts a shifting desert scene and what's believed to be the first ever in-flight Jacuzzi.

This New York City-native's dream began in elementary school where he said he had a great art teacher. His passion led him to the High School of Art and Design where he majored in industrial design. He admits he didn't know then what industrial design was but he figured it out at the Pratt Institute's

School of Art & Design where he graduated with a degree in the field.

Doret's initial design jobs focused on industrial structures. His resume boasts work for Disney's Epcot Center, AT&T and Sony stores, but like many of us, he found himself shuffling from firm to firm. Even when he began his work on jets he wasn't the designer he is today. "When I got into it initially I did design work as to the ease to it was done in the old design firm -- follow the contour of the airplane," says Doret. "It looked very heavy, like English smoking room type of interiors. But then I came to the realization that it wasn't really my style."

Once Doret learned the value of his originality business began booming and it hasn't stopped. At the time of this interview he was working on a fleet of twenty boats for one client, a Boeing 778 jet, preparing for a 10-day business trip to Hong Kong and Macau, and rolling up his sleeves to create a casino in the air. He stays busy! Weekdays are spent on email, half the month he travels, while weekends are reserved for design. Doret is planning to double his staff of four, and knowing how small the industry is, he interns his employees first to see if they can keep pace. You want to be him? Follow his plan.

"You have to start off as a designer, a draft person, learn the industry, learn the ropes, go to some of the conventions, even though the company might not send you, pay your own way, and get to know some of the people. Ask questions and just start to work your way up," advises Doret.

Many may look at him as a success story but do not overlook the fact that success came when he discontinued following the status quo. When Doret freed himself as a designer all the business relationships came together.

The only thing that may separate you from Sharon Carpenter, Kitt Grant, Roderick Hardamon and Edese Doret is that you have yet to choose your path, not one absent of resistance and definitely requiring total commitment, but destined to leave you relishing a Monday morning as much as a Friday afternoon. *iv*