

Jill Darden



At age 36, Jill Darden is the *Publisher* of the *Fort Worth Black News*, a monthly newspaper highlighting activities and accomplishments in the local African-American community. Over the past 12 years, her media company has grown to offer book publishing services to independent authors, television production, and management of periodicals for municipalities and business organizations. Darden served as producer and host of the television show, *The Urban Voice*, broadcast on *Urban American Television Network* from January 2004 - July 2005. While producing the show, Darden interviewed many noteworthy African-Americans, including Oprah Winfrey, Earl Graves, Erykah Badu, Johnny Cochran, Smokey Robinson, Judge Greg Mathis, Julian Bond and Dennis Kimbro. Darden's television background includes creating, producing, and hosting a successful news program, which aired on Charter Cable Channel 31 for five years. During the show's run she received the *First Place Paul R. Ellis Media Award* for the television story, *Search Your Heart*. In addition she has worked as a reporter for *Irving Cable Television Network* and on the news desk for CBS-KTVT Channel 11. In the fall of 2000 Darden co-authored a book of poetry called *Back Talk, poetic confessions from the soul*. The entrepreneur graduated with a degree in *Broadcast Journalism* from the **University of Texas at Arlington** in 1996.

While in college, she was elected Miss UTA and became the first African-American to hold the title. Darden was honored by her alma mater, the University of Texas at Arlington, with the *Trailblazers Award* in February 2007 for this historic milestone.

Since the newspaper's inception in 1997, the publisher has become involved with numerous community groups and service organizations. She serves in the Women's Division of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce and is President of the UT Arlington Fort Worth Alumni Chapter Board of Directors. In addition she shares marketing advice free of charge with small business owners through the Fort Worth Business Assistance Center.

Located in South Fort Worth, The *Fort Worth Black News* presents annual scholarships to aspiring local journalists and has an internship program for college students. The company is currently in production of television specials featuring local leaders and trailblazers in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Darden is the proud mother of a two-year-old son, Jiles Clark.