

Lockie Hunter to supervise the Echo next year (by Mariah Parker)

When I heard that Lockie Hunter was going to supervise the Echo next year, I could have pissed myself in elation. Not only has Lockie been featured in [Opium](#) and *Draft Magazine*, she's a regular columnist for the Asheville Citizen-Times and WNC Parent, and recently had a piece about her son Graham published in the [Christian Science Monitor](#).

If anyone knows her way around the media world, it's this hip mama.

A native of the Carolina hills and self-proclaimed "mountain gal," Lockie also has also lived San Francisco and Boston, Massachusetts, where she received her MFA in Fiction from Emerson College.

"To know me is to know my geography," Lockie says. "You've gotta write about what you know, and to know a lot, you've gotta see a lot."

And hell, has Lockie seen a lot. Last Fall, she took her children to Honduras and Belize, where they did outreach with a local elementary school, and this summer, she plans to spend a week cliff diving in Negril, Jamaica.

Lockie's seen it all— except Tanzania, it seems. When I took Intro to Media Writing with Lockie last fall, she told the class the story of her failed attempt to visit the East African country. "I went to get my malaria shot and the doctor said, 'sorry, we can't administer this, you're pregnant.'"

That's how Lockie and her husband Zac found out they were going to have their first child, whom they nearly named Tanzania.

Much to Lockie's jealousy, a student in our class had actually studied abroad in Tanzania. Lockie raved all semester, imploring the girl to write about her adventures abroad.

Lockie's prone to that, though; in her writing classes, she's a shaken soda can of creativity and experience. When students to introduce their ideas to the group, she leaps from her sassy, hip-cocked stance to draw frenzied whiteboard diagrams as she enthuses about the possibilities for each idea.

What's more, Lockie stands by her students from initial polishing to final publishing. She's the kind of professor who might message you on Facebook to ensure that you got her latest edits. Her constant guidance and media world connections landed me an internship at [WNC Magazine](#) this summer, and I'm just one of many students who wouldn't be where they are without her.

Her travels make great stories, but I'm glad Lockie found her way back to the mountains; the Echo needs her. Hell, *I* need her.

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