



SPJ KANSAS PRO CHAPTER
JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR STUDENTS IN KANSAS

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Dear student,

Thank you for your interest in the scholarships offered by the Kansas Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. The chapter expects to offer scholarships totaling at least \$10,000 this year to deserving college juniors and seniors planning careers in journalism. Before you complete the attached application, please read the following information carefully to ensure you are eligible.

General eligibility requirements: Come Fall 2008, you must be a junior or senior (by hours) enrolled in at least 6 credit hours at an accredited college or university in Kansas. You must have and maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. You must be seriously considering a career in journalism.

Specific scholarships have their own eligibility requirements:

THE MICHAEL BATES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Award: \$1,500, plus an expenses-paid trip to the 2008 SPJ National Convention, Sept. 4-7 in Atlanta.

Eligibility: Must have 3.0 GPA or better. Must have demonstrated involvement in student and/or professional news media.

This scholarship honors the memory of former Associated Press journalist Mike Bates, who covered central and western Kansas and specialized in agricultural reporting. During his lengthy career, Bates covered the 1991 tornado that devastated Andover, the Karen Silkwood trial, and the six-week Wichita abortion protests in 1991. Bates was president of the Kansas Pro Chapter at the time of his death from lymphoma in 1996.

THE HEATON-PERRY SCHOLARSHIP

Award: \$1,000. **Eligibility:** None additional.

This scholarship honors the memory of former journalists Robert Heaton and Martin Perry. Heaton was a Wichita Eagle-Beacon reporter whose undercover investigation of the Ku Klux Klan earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination. He died in a 1981 car accident. Perry was managing editor and editorial page editor of the Wichita Beacon. He died of a heart attack in 1967.

THE JORDAN-BESSER SCHOLARSHIP

Award: \$1,000. **Eligibility:** Must be a Wichita State student.

This scholarship honors the memory of former journalists Bob Jordan and Milton Besser. Jordan, who covered the federal beat for The Wichita Eagle, died in a car accident near Topeka in 1971. Besser worked for the Associated Press for 34 years before joining the Wichita State University journalism faculty in 1971. He died of a heart attack in 1976.

THE KANSAS SUNSHINE COALITION SCHOLARSHIP

Award: \$1,000. **Eligibility:** Must be a committed print or broadcast journalism major, or have a demonstrated special interest in open government issues.

This scholarship is funded by the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government, which works with news organizations, public officials and the public to foster openness in government.

THE MARTIN UMANSKY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Award: \$1,000. **Eligibility:** Must plan a career in TV, radio or alternative media.

This scholarship honors the memory of Martin Umansky, the pioneering general manager of KAKE-TV in Wichita in the 1950s and '60s, and founder of the Wichita Sun alternative weekly newspaper. He was a former Kansas Pro Chapter president and a coordinator of Wichita's first Gridiron show in 1968. He died in 2000 at the age of 83, following a long illness.

THE SPJ MINORITY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Award: \$1,000. **Eligibility:** Must be member of a racial or ethnic minority group.

THE BIG FISH IN A SMALL POND SCHOLARSHIP

Award: \$1,000. **Eligibility:** Must *not* be a current KU, KSU or WSU student, although you may transfer there for Fall 2007.

ADDITIONAL GENERAL-ELIGIBILITY SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE

GRANTED, in amounts to be determined by the scholarship committee based on funds available and the pool of applicants.

General information: Winners will be determined by the chapter's scholarship committee, which will rely primarily upon the applications and supporting materials to determine the applicant's merit, need and eligibility.

Every scholarship is awarded in two equal installments, normally in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. (If you are graduating in December 2008, we can issue a check for Summer 2008 provided you enroll in six or more summer hours. Otherwise, you will forfeit the Spring amount.) A check will be mailed directly to you after classes start each semester upon our receipt of (1) a grade report showing that you have the required cumulative GPA through the previous semester and (2) a copy of your schedule for the new semester showing that you have enrolled in the minimum number of credit hours.

These scholarships are funded by the chapter's annual Gridiron benefit, a musical revue satirizing the news and newsmakers. Scholarship winners are the chapter's honored guests at the show, which this year takes place in Wichita on April 24, 25 and 26. Winners' presence at the show is requested, but not required.

Please note: The scholarship committee does not discriminate on the basis of sex, creed, race or religious beliefs. The committee reserves the right to withhold all or part of any award should recipients conduct themselves in a manner that chapter officers deem professionally irresponsible. The selection of a recipient does not imply any endorsement by the committee or chapter. The committee has the right to forgo awarding any or all scholarships if no applicants are deemed to qualify.

Questions? Please don't hesitate to ask them. You may contact Denise Neil, scholarship chair, at 316-268-6327 or dneil@wichitaeagle.com.



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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION, 2008-09 ACADEMIC YEAR

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please read carefully the information sheet provided before you complete this application. All blanks must be filled in.

Please print neatly. Alternatively, you may visit www.spj.org/kansas to download the Adobe Acrobat version of this form, which can be filled out on screen and printed out.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Student I.D. No.: _____ Social Security No.: _____

Home address: _____

School address (if different): _____

Mobile telephone: () _____ Other telephone: () _____

E-mail address during academic year: _____

E-mail address during holidays and summer (if different): _____

EDUCATION

Current college or university: _____ Major/minor: _____

University in Fall 2008 (if different): _____ Major/minor: _____

Student classification in Fall 2008: junior senior Expected graduation date: _____

Cumulative GPA in all subjects: _____ GPA in journalism courses: _____

SCHOLARSHIPS YOU ARE APPLYING FOR

Please see the accompanying information for detailed eligibility requirements. Mark only scholarships for which you are eligible. **You'll automatically be considered for the Heaton-Perry Scholarship and any other general-eligibility scholarships.**

The Mike Bates Memorial Scholarship
(must maintain 3.0 GPA, must take 12+ hours, must be active in student or professional media)

The Martin Umansky Memorial Scholarship
(must be planning a career in radio, TV or alternative media)

Kansas Sunshine Coalition Scholarship
(must be a print or broadcast journalism major, or have a demonstrated interest in open government issues)

The Jordan-Besser Scholarship
(must be a Wichita State University student in Fall 2008)

SPJ Minority Student Scholarship
(must be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group)

SPJ Big Fish in a Small Pond Scholarship
(must *not* be a current student at KU, KSU or WSU, although you may transfer to those schools by Fall 2008)

... APPLICATION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

On a separate typed sheet or sheets, please list:

- College journalism courses you have taken and your grades.
- Campus-related journalism jobs. Describe your duties and list the dates.
- Professional journalism jobs. Describe your duties and list the dates.
- Journalism internships. Describe your duties and list the dates.
- Honors and awards you have received for academic or journalistic work, including merit-based scholarships.

REFERENCES

Please give the names, occupations and phone numbers of three people who can attest to your academic abilities and to your talent in journalism. Letters of reference may be enclosed with your application, but they are not required.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

- Include a cover letter telling us about yourself, how you came to be interested in journalism, your professional goals, and, if appropriate, your financial need for this scholarship (need is only one criterion considered).
- Enclose a copy of your professional resume.
- Enclose clear copies of four to six examples of your best work: clips of stories; photographs with captions; headlines and page designs; VHS tapes, CDs or DVDs of broadcasts; printouts of Web pages. You may wish to include a note with each example that explains the challenges you overcame in the piece and the reaction to it. Please do not send originals; they cannot be returned.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all the information in this application is true and correct, that all samples submitted are my original work, and that I meet the minimum eligibility requirements outlined on the information page.

X

Signature

Date

SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

- Enclose this application and all the required supporting materials in an envelope and mail to:
SPJ Scholarship Committee
c/o Denise Neil
The Wichita Eagle
825 E. Douglas Ave.
P.O. Box 820
Wichita, KS 67201-0820

- **Ensure this application is postmarked NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008.**