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### Writers' League Thank You!

Special thanks to the Writers' League of Texas for co-hosting our web pages and for their all-round support. [Visit League Website](#)

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## BWS Scholarship Fund News

Welcome to the third digital edition of the Bess Whitehead Scott Scholarship Fund annual newsletter.

This is a summary of events in 2014.

### 2014 Scholarship Winners

What have the 2014 scholarship winners been up to?

#### Jordan Gass-Pooré, Texas State University

Jordan Gass-Pooré, 25, received the \$1,500 Bess W. Scott Journalism Scholarship. She also was selected to be a Chips Quinn Scholar and spent the summer as a general assignments reporter with the Los Angeles News Group.

She is serving as Web content manager for KTSW 89.9 FM at Texas State University and manager of *Persona*, Texas State's literary and arts magazine. Gass-Pooré also has been a news intern at KUT, the Austin National Public Radio affiliate, and has performed various jobs for two Austin-based independent films and for the Austin Film Festival.



Jordan Gass-Pooré  
2014 Journalism winner

"I am extremely grateful and appreciate the opportunities I have been able to have because of the BWS Scholarship. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the scholarship committee members," says Gass-Pooré, who plans to graduate in May 2015.

#### Barry Maxwell, Austin Community College

When Barry Maxwell, 54, won the Scott Scribes Scholarship for Ages 40 and Older (\$1,500) in March 2014, he already had earned a GED and been attending Austin Community College (ACC) since 2011, pursuing an associate's degree in creative writing. His work had been published in the ACC literary journal *The Rio Review* and in the online journal *Pithead Chapel*. Maxwell was attending college in his 50s after a long career playing in Austin bands and working as a handyman.



Barry Maxwell  
2014 Scott Scribes winner

Maxwell said then that the scholarship was both a financial boost and validation of hard work: "The gift of this award encourages me to continue to write, to pursue my studies, and it affirms my conviction that goals aren't merely dreams, but may actually be achieved, even with a late start."

He continues to set goals. In the fall of 2014, Maxwell enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin where he is majoring in English with a minor in creative writing. He has been accepted in the Creative Writing Certificate program, which gives him access to upper-level writing courses.

"It's been quite the experience to move from my comfort zone at ACC and into this huge arena, but it's exciting," Maxwell says. "I'm hoping the work I'm doing today will lead to the Michener Center for Writers (a master's program) later on."

### 2013 Wrapping Fundraiser Nets \$3,210



Joanna Athey  
BWS wrapper at work

#### Wonderful Wrappers!

[Sign Up Now for This Year's Gift-wrapping Shifts](#)

"WE INSPIRE ME! It's awesome how much we all raised," said **Joanna Athey** when she learned that she was one of two top 2013 BWS gift wrappers and had helped raise an amazing \$3,210.17. She and **Camille Nerada** (photo below) wrapped 14

hours each.

Rounding out our top five wrappers were **Sue Bilich, David Boyd and Angero Holt**. Coordinated by **Sally Baker**, 56 volunteers worked 55 shifts for a total of 240 hours spent wrapping at five Austin bookstores: BookPeople and the Barnes & Noble stores at Sunset Valley, the Arboretum, Bee Cave and Round Rock.



Camille Nerada  
BWS wrapper at work

For the second year, the busiest wrappers were rewarded with a book by well-known local authors. Thanks to **Jo Virgil** for organizing this much-lauded addition to our annual fundraiser, and **special thanks to the five authors who donated autographed copies of their books.**

- **The Gap Year** by Sarah Bird
- **Everyone Says That at the End of the World** by Owen Egerton
- **Confessions of a Smart-Ass** by John Kelso
- **Dallas 1963** by Bill Minutaglio
- **Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood and the Prison of Belief** by Lawrence Wright

This wrapping fundraiser has become an enthusiastically anticipated event for many volunteers, who look forward to a shift with a friend or to spending part of Christmas Eve at a bookstore wrapping books. Counting the five above, over 40 per cent of the 2013 volunteers worked two shifts or more: **Sally Baker, Emily Carter, Kathy Rose Center, Elaine Davenport, Janet Elliott, Beverly Horne, Kate Lauder, Peggy Murphy, Jorjanna Price, Ricki Ratliff, Beth Sample, Terri Schexnayder, Mary Ann Stafford, Anne Stoll, Karen Trikilis, Jennifer Uthoff, Susan Violante, Brad Whittington and Blaine Williams.**

We could not award BWS scholarships without our faithful volunteers, and every hour spent wrapping brings in needed funds. Thanks to **Fred Afflerbach, Stephanie Barko, Lana Castle, Dyanne & Javier Cortez, Kathy Fitzgibbon, Diane Hernandez, Rachael Jacobs, Claylene Jones, Jacqueline Kelly, Nancy & Fred Meredith, Becca Oliver, Barbara Owens, Gina Panza, Rob Peoples, Margaret Price, Kay Priest, Mindy Reed, Betty Rogers, Jennifer Ross, Tammy Ross, Angela Russell, Gardner Selby, Terry Sherrell, Taylor Skaar, Shirley Smith, Donna Snider, Mary Gordon Spence, Carlotta Stankiewicz, Natalie Sylvester and Jo Virgil.**

Wrapping at area bookstores began in 1994 to help fund our two annual writing/journalism scholarships at Texas colleges and universities, one for an undergraduate communications major and the other for a student writer who is at least 40 years old. The awards' namesake, [Bess Whitehead Scott](#), was one of the state's pioneering women journalists and lived to age 107.

Each award currently stands at \$1,500. Gift-wrapping has long been the major source of funds, along with [private donations](#), which are gratefully accepted.

#### [FULL BWS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION](#)

**ONCE AGAIN, YOUR HELPING HANDS HAVE MADE OUR SCHOLARSHIPS SUCCESSFUL. THANK YOU!**

### Donor Thanks & Request for Donations

In addition to holiday giftwrapping, our only other source of income is private donations.

Thanks to our private donors:

- Roy Bohrer
- Ray Bronk
- Betty Sue Beebe
- Mary Black
- Sally & Wayne Baker
- Dudley & Mari Houghton
- Darrell & Diana Hancock
- Bruce Whitehead & K. Myers (memory of Elbert Whitehead)
- Elaine Davenport & Blaine T. Williams

#### [CHARGE A DONATION](#)

OR

Write a check to **BWS Scholarship Fund** and mail to:

**BWS Scholarship Fund  
Austin Community Foundation  
4315 Guadalupe, Suite 300  
Austin TX 78751**

**We've been awarding scholarships to journalists and writers for 24 years. We thank our BWS extended family for another year of making writers' dreams come true, and send kind wishes during this holiday season to one and all.**

Sincerely,

**Bess W. Scott Scholarship Fund Committee**