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BWS Scholarship Fund News

Greetings!

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

This is a summary of events in 2015.

2015 Scholarship Winners

What have the 2015 scholarship winners been up to?

Kristen Watson, University of North Texas

Kristen Watson, 21, received one of two \$1,500 Bess W. Scott Journalism Scholarships. She is majoring in journalism with a concentration in photography.

"This past semester has been a whirlwind for me," she writes. "With the funds from the Bess W. Scott scholarship I was able to upgrade some of my camera equipment I use for classes and my internship at the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. It sounds small, but it has allowed me to improve my photography greatly and allowed me to experiment with new techniques."

The Denton newspaper asked her to continue her internship through the end of December.



Kristen Watson
2015 Journalism winner

She currently is visuals editor at her school newspaper, *The North Texas Daily*. "Together with a team of about eight other editors, we have revamped the newspaper and given it a whole new feel and purpose," she says.

"I am eternally grateful for this scholarship. The funds allowed me to concentrate on going for big opportunities instead of focusing on how I was going to cover tuition costs," said Watson. She plans to graduate in December 2016 and seek a job with a newspaper or photo agency. She is from Waxahachie, Texas.

Maleesa Johnson, Baylor University

Maleesa Johnson, 21, received one of two \$1,500 Bess W. Scott Journalism Scholarships. She is a journalism major with an interest in world affairs.



Maleesa Johnson
2015 Journalism winner

During the summer, she interned for Alaska Dispatch News in Anchorage, Alaska: "I worked mainly in Special Sections and produced the 'Back to School' issue. I also photographed for their magazine, 61° North. When I was not working on these projects, I produced the *Community Extra* paper, a weekly free issue, and designed a few ads."

She is back at Baylor for her senior year, working as editor-in-chief for Focus Magazine, the student magazine. She will graduate in May 2016 and hopes to work as a reporter or editor. She is from Round Rock, Texas.

Sonia Nataalka, Austin Community College

Sonia Nataalka, 42, received the \$1,500 Scott Scribes Scholarship for Older Adults. She is studying Creative Writing at Austin Community College.

The scholarship funded a 10-credit course load for the fall 2015 semester which included Introduction to Flash Fiction and Academic Coop, in which a student team assumes the role of editor for ACC's literary magazine, the Rio Review. She worked on the magazine's creative non-fiction team and was interviewed on Austin KOOP Radio's 'The Writer's Hour.'



Sonia Nataalka
2015 Scott Scribes winner

The Flash Fiction course provided fresh material for her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) application portfolio, and she was accepted to the low-residency MFA program at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, which begins in January 2016. "Thank you very much for the support," she says. "I hope to make you proud."

2014 Wrapping Fundraiser Nets \$3,327



Camille Nerada, top 2014 BWS wrapper at work

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

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

"I enjoy collecting money for the scholarships in such a joyous activity as wrapping presents," said Camille Nerada, our top 2014 wrapper with 16 hours. "Once I am at the bookstore, I might as well wrap for 10 hours straight."

Rounding out our top five wrappers were **Kathy Rose Center (11 hours)**, **Annie Brudno (9 hours)**, **Sue Bilich (8 hours)** and **Kate Lauder (7 hours)**. Coordinated by **Sally Baker**, 46 volunteers worked a total of 213 hours at five Austin bookstores: BookPeople and the Barnes & Noble stores at Sunset Valley, the Arboretum, Bee Cave and Round Rock.

For the third 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.**

- **Above the East China Sea** by Sarah Bird
- **The Patterer** by Larry Brill
- **Monday, Monday** by Elizabeth Crook
- **Famous Writers I Have Known** by James Magnuson
- **House of Purple Cedar** by Tim Tingle

Eager volunteers have made this wrapping fundraiser their regular gift to the scholarship fund. Counting the five above, almost half worked two shifts or more: **Joanna Athey, Sally Baker, Emily Carter, Elaine Davenport, Janet Elliott, Beverly Horne, Mark Mitchell, Peggy Murphy, Becca Oliver, Jorjanna Price, Ricki Ratliff, Beth Sample, Karen Trikilis, Susan Violante, Jo Virgil and Blaine Williams.**

We could not award BWS scholarships without our faithful elves, whose every hour spent wrapping gifts directly benefits the student journalists and writers who receive the BWS scholarships. Thanks to **Fred Afflerbach, Stephanie Barko, Dorothy Barnett, Lana Castle, Ann Galloway, Barbara Hawkins, Angero Holt, Rachael Jacobs, Claylene Jones, Jacqueline Kelly, Janet Kilgore, Nancy & Fred Meredith, Evelyn Palfrey, Rob Peoples, Kay Priest, Larry Ratliff, Mindy Reed, Gardner Selby, Kaye Shultz, Mary Ann Stafford, Carlotta Stankiewicz, Paula Starche, Natalia Sylvester, Brad Whittington and Manning Wolfe.**

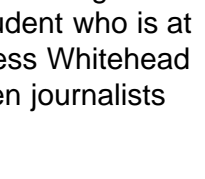
A LITTLE HISTORY: Wrapping at area bookstores began in 1994 to help fund two annual writing/journalism scholarships at Texas colleges and universities, one for an undergraduate communications major and the other for a student who is at least 40 years old. The awards' namesake Bess Whitehead Scott was 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. If you would like to make a private donation, [click here.](#)

FULL BWS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

We Amplified Austin!

We dipped our toe in the water of a community-wide day of giving, and earned enough to award a third 2015 scholarship. We connected with some first-time donors and added our name to the 500+ Austin area nonprofits that participated.



Thanks to all of you for making this happen during Amplify Austin Day, the 24-hour online giving drive held March 5-6, 2015. Your donations, your social media posts and your patience with our many emails allowed us to meet our goal together.

Hannah Bess Whitehead, Bess's great-grandniece, made a donation and wrote to us: "Thank you so much for your stewardship of the BWS Fund. It means the world to me that you're keeping her name and her passion alive. If I weren't a musician, I'd definitely be a writer like Bess." We extend Hannah's gratitude to all of you!

Among those we thank are:

Fred Afflerbach (honor of Betty Lee Afflerbach)	Fred Meredith
Sally Baker	Martha Miller
Wayne Baker	Peggy Murphy & David Smith
Jacqueline Baylon	Becca Oliver
Sue Bilich	Jorjanna Price
Bill Childs	Patti Psencik
Elaine Davenport & Blaine Williams	David Rauf
Diane	Beth Sample
Molly Dougherty (honor of Sally Baker)	M Sims
Janet Elliott	Angela Smith
Mari & Dudley Houghton	Suzy Spencer
Katherine Kerr (honor of Janet Elliott & Jorjanna Price)	Stephanie Barko Literary Publicist
Ann McCutchan	(honor of Sally Baker)
	Sara Stone
	John & Donna Villacis
	Hannah Whitehead

Some donors requested anonymity. One wanted to honor Felton West and another to honor Beth Sample. We also thank Michele Mason, our webmaster, and David Schulte, who shot and edited a video of some of our past winners, which you can see on [YouTube](#).

Donor Thanks & Request for Donations

In addition to holiday giftwrapping and Amplify Austin, we also receive private donations.

Thanks to this year's donors:

- Roy Bohrer
- David & Patti Boyd
- Dyanne & Javier Cortez
- Sally & Wayne Baker
- Betty Sue Beebe
- Dudley & Mari Houghton
- Terry & Mark Sherrell
- Peggy Murphy & David Smith
- Bruce Whitehead & Kathy Myers (in memory of Elbert Whitehead)
- Writers' League of Texas

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 25 years. We thank our BWS extended family for another year of making writers' dreams come true, and send you our merry wishes for a peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Bess W. Scott Scholarship Fund Committee