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## Scholarships Application Deadline

Feb. 15, 2017

## GUIDELINES and APPLICATIONS for the 2017 BWS Scholarships are available HERE.

Applications are now completely ONLINE.

## Thank You Writers' League

Special thanks to the Writers' League of Texas for co-hosting our web pages and for your all-round support, including an annual donation!  
[Visit League Website](#)

## BWS Committee

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 Jeanne Trevarrow  
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## Join Our Mailing List!

## BWS Scholarship Fund News

## Greetings!

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

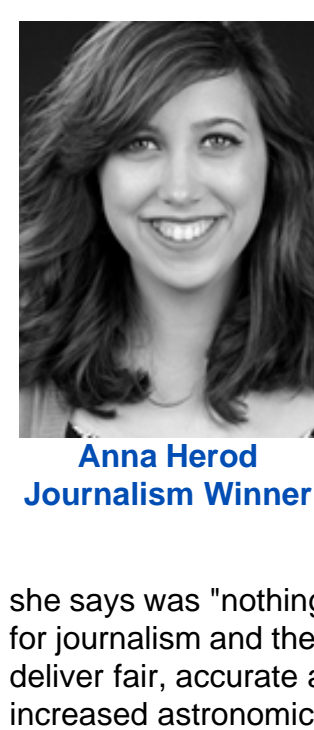
This is a summary of events in 2016.

## 2016 Scholarship Winners

## How Our Busy Scholarship Winners

## Used Their \$1,500 Awards

## Anna Herod, Texas State University



**Anna Herod**  
**Journalism Winner**

Anna Herod, 20, a senior journalism major at Texas State University in San Marcos, finished the year with a "life changing" reporting internship at the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Herod, with a minor in political science, has worked as a reporter and editor at the *University Star* campus newspaper, at the *Hays Free Press* in Kyle, Texas, and at her hometown newspaper *The Burselson Star*.

Then this fall, she landed an internship at the *Statesman* which she says was "nothing short of life changing. My passion for journalism and the confidence I have in my ability to deliver fair, accurate and hard-hitting reporting have increased astronomically. I am so thankful to have worked alongside so many talented reporters and editors."

Roberto Villalpondo, mobile/breaking news editor at the *Statesman*, said that Herod brought "tenacity and energy to her reporting internship that has set her apart from most. Her genuine curiosity and sincere appreciation for marginalized voices helped shape her reporting about community issues in Central Texas."

Herod not only covered breaking news but also wrote stories she pursued on her own. One concerned access to voting for eligible inmates in the Travis County Jail and the jail's compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). That story about the jail and its treatment of transgender inmates was picked up by the Associated Press and published nationwide.

She has applied for 2017 summer internships, and is on track to graduate in December 2017. "Words can't express my gratitude for your support," she writes. "I will make sure it will be a decision you won't regret."

## Rae Jefferson, Baylor University

Rae Jefferson, 22, a senior journalism student at Baylor University with a minor in film and digital media, is graduating this month. She spent fall semester as News Editor at the campus paper, *The Lariat*, and volunteered as a teaching assistant for a Baylor public relations professor.

During the summer of 2016, she stuck close to campus. She was a communications intern at City Center Waco, a nonprofit which encourages downtown economic development, and a public relations and marketing adviser for Creative Waco, another nonprofit, which supports the arts.

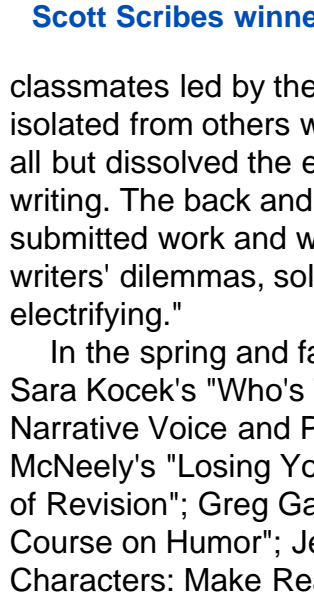
"Winning this scholarship is confirmation that I'm doing work in journalism that I can be proud of, and it means I'll be able to finish my education and pursue a career in what I'm passionate about," she says.

She has applied for public relations jobs in Houston and Waco. She is from Houston.



**Rae Jefferson**  
**Journalism Winner**

## Jan Tomas, Writers' League of Texas classes



**Jan Tomas**  
**Scott Scribes winner**

Jan Tomas, 77, a former high school journalism teacher who now writes fiction and nonfiction from her home in Wimberley, southwest of Austin, used her award to attend eight classes and workshops offered by the [Writers' League of Texas](#) (WLT).

"The real plum," says Tomas, "was the ability to participate in the WLT retreat at Alpine in July. There, I met and interacted with fiction writing classmates led by the very able Michael Noll. I had been isolated from others who also loved to write, and that had all but dissolved the enthusiasm I needed to continue writing. The back and forth of the critique for my submitted work and what I learned as others brought up writers' dilemmas, solutions and pleasures was electrifying."

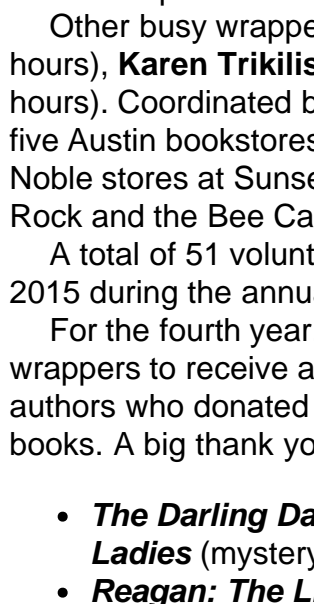
In the spring and fall, she attended seven classes: Sara Kocek's "Who's Telling Your Story - and How? Narrative Voice and Point of View in Fiction"; Thomas McNeely's "Losing Yourself, Finding Your Voice: The Art of Revision"; Greg Garrett's "Writing Funny: A Short Course on Humor"; Jennifer Ziegler's "Developing Characters: Make Readers Root for Your Protagonist"; Antonio Ruiz-Camacho's "Twisting Facts into Stories: Reality in Fiction and Nonfiction"; Chaitail Sen's "The Architecture of a Scene: How to Craft a Vivid Scene from Beginning to End"; and Marian Szczepanski's "More Than Meets the Eye: Writing the Four Other Senses."

In 2015 Tomas underwent cancer surgery. Winning the Scott Scribes award, which goes to applicants age 40 or over, was therapeutic in itself, she says: "I began to restore health with exercise and yoga. Most of all, I began writing again, slowly at first, then with more confidence as I reviewed good writing habits and skills with workshop leaders and classmates."

"Some days the work is tenuous. As Ernest Hemingway pointed out, the hardest part of writing is applying the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair. Thanks to BWS, one of my greatest pleasures has been restored, and there are no words, even from a wordsmith, to thank you for the award."

In a career that began in the 1960s, Tomas has written for the *Hartford Courant* and the *San Angelo Standard Times* and worked as a copy editor at *The Monitor* in McAllen.

## 2015 Wrapping Fundraiser Nets \$2,939



**Kate Lauder (left) and Camille Nerada, top 2015 BWS wrappers**

THANK YOU!  
VOLUNTEER ANGELS,  
YOU ARE AMAZING!

"I used the ploy - if you let us wrap that, you won't have to sneak it into the house," says **KATE LAUDER**, one of our two

top wrappers in 2015, with 12 total hours. "It worked often with parents buying for the kids."

Kate and **CAMILLE NERADA**, who also spent 12 hours at the wrapping tables, were the BWS Top Wrappers for 2015. Camille has earned this title six times and began wrapping in 2002, making a total of 14 years of above-and-beyond service to the Bess W. Scott Scholarship Fund.

Other busy wrappers were **Kathy Rose Center** (10 hours), **Karen Trikilis** (10 hours), and **Ann Cabot** (8 hours). Coordinated by **Sally Baker**, volunteers worked at five Austin bookstores: BookPeople and the Barnes & Noble stores at Sunset Valley, the Arboretum, Round Rock and the Bee Cave Galleria.

A total of 51 volunteers raised \$2,938.78 in December 2015 during the annual BWS Scholarship fundraiser.

For the fourth year, **Jo Virgil** arranged for the busiest wrappers to receive a book by well-known local authors who donated autographed copies of their recent books. A big thank you to these five Austin-area writers!

- **The Darling Dahlias and the Eleven O'Clock Ladies** (mystery) by Susan Wittig Albert
- **Reagan: The Life** (biography) by H.W. Brands
- **The Outskirts of Hope** (memoir) by Jo Investor
- **The Thin Place** (fiction) by Bob Lively
- **Bum Steer** (mystery) by Ben Rehder

Eager volunteers have made this wrapping fundraiser their regular gift to the scholarship fund.

Counting the five top wrappers, almost half of the volunteers worked two shifts or more: **Sally Baker, Donna Birdwell, David Boyd, Annie Brudno, Elaine Davenport, Janet Elliott, Rachel Jacobs, Claylene Jones, Phyllis Lowe, Sarah Lowe, Peggy Murphy, Jorjanna Price, Nita Rao, Ricki Ratliff, Beth Sample, Terri Schexnayder, Taylor Skaar, Jo Virgil and Blaine Williams**.

We would not award BWS scholarships without our faithful elves, whose every hour spent wrapping gifts directly benefits the student journalists and writers who receive BWS scholarships.

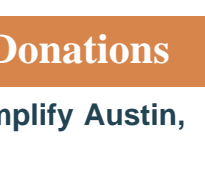
Thanks to **Joanna Athey, Sue Bilich, Raymond Bronk, Emily Carter, Lana Castle, Dyanne & Javier Cortez, Claudia Corum, Nancy Eskridge, Karen Casey Fitzjerrell, Diane Hernandez, Beverly Horne, Jacqueline Kelly, Janet Kilgore, Nancy & Fred Meredith, Jeff Morris, Noelle O'Donnell, Becca Oliver, Kay Priest, Mindy Reed, Betty Rogers, Gardner Selby, Kaye Shultz, Susan Violante, 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. Donate [here](#).

## FULL BWS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

## Amplify Austin No. 2

\$1,800 in Online Donations;  
New Friends, New Donors

For the second year, we participated in a community-wide day of giving called Amplify Austin.

**Louie Bond**, the editor of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, donated in response to a plea from new BWS Committee member **Joe O'Connell** and wrote: "Thanks, Joe, for making it so easy to do something good." We like hearing that, and thank ALL of you for doing something good.

We single out the work of committee members **Joe O'Connell** and **Sally Baker** who set up individual campaigns on our Amplify page. Joe raised 40 percent of our total, and Sally 25 percent. Both of you are awesome!

More than half of our donors were new to us. Thanks to all of you for making this happen during the 24-hour online giving drive March 8 & 9. Your donations, your social media posts, and your patience with our many emails all were much appreciated.

**Melody Allen**  
**Pamela Baggett-Wallis**  
**Sally Baker**  
**Wayne Baker**  
**Marjorie Baumgarten**  
**Brenda Bell**  
**Louie Bond**  
**Pennie Boyett**  
**Larry Brill**  
**Laurie Buchholz**  
**Jenny Butler (honor of Bess Whitehead Scott)**  
**Sigurd Christenson**  
**Elaine Davenport & Blaine Williams (honor of Bess Whitehead Scott)**  
**Tom Doyal**  
**Janet Elliott**  
**Patricia Fernos**  
**Andrew Geyer**  
**C H Goddin**  
**John Griswold**  
**Diane Hernandez**  
**W. Joe Hoppe (memory of Albert Huffstickler)**  
**Cliff Hudder**  
**Jodi G**  
**Roger Keim**  
**Katherine Kerr**

**Kate Lauder (honor of Beth Sample)**  
**David Lydic**  
**Martha Miller**  
**Mark Mitchell**  
**Lee Moore**  
**Marsha Moyer**  
**Peggy Murphy & David Smith**  
**Joe O'Connell**  
**Claire Osborn (memory of Celia Osborn)**  
**Lisa Perez**  
**Jorjanna Price (memory of Felton West)**  
**Rain Man**  
**Nita Rao (memory of Sybil Rao)**  
**Sofya Resnick**  
**Beth Sample**  
**Elizabeth Garton Scanlon**  
**Clay Smith**  
**Ned Stuckey-French**  
**Hank Stuever**  
**AM Thomas**  
**John & Donna Villacis**  
**Jo Virgil**  
**Hannah Whitehead**  
**David Marion Wilkinson**  
**Writers' League of Texas**

Nine donors requested anonymity; one of those wanted to honor **Felton West**, an emeritus member of the BWS Committee. We also thank **Michele Mason**, our webmaster, and **Diane Hernandez**, our Amplify coach.

## Donor Thanks &amp; Request for Donations

In addition to holiday gift-wrapping and Amplify Austin, we also receive private donations.

Thanks to this year's donors:

- Roy Bohrer
- Janet Elliott (in honor of Robert Meckel)
- Diana & Darrell Hancock
- Jeffee Palmer
- Terry & Mark Sherrell
- Sara Stone (in honor of Elaine Davenport)
- 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 26 years. We thank our BWS extended family for another year of supporting the state's future writers and journalists, and send you our merry wishes for a peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Bess W. Scott Scholarship Fund Committee