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2018 Scholarship Applications

Open Date: February 1, 2018
Deadline Date: March 25, 2018
 Online GUIDELINES and APPLICATIONS are available [here](#).

Thank You Writers' League

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BWS Scholarship Fund

News

Greetings!

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

This is a summary of events in 2017.

2017 Scholarship Winners

Texas State Sweeps 2017 Awards Three Winners Thrive with Help from \$1,500 BWS Scholarships

Denver Donchez, Texas State University BWS Journalism Scholarship



Denver Donchez
 Journalism Winner

Denver Donchez, 28, of San Marcos used her award to fund her final semester at Texas State University, where she majored in journalism and minored in women's studies, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

She worked full-time while putting herself through school, all the while maintaining a 4.0 grade average. Donchez spent her last semester abroad with Texas State's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She focused on the study of international communications and travel journalism during a week in London and a week in Rome.

"My entire college career I have worked and come away with as few loans as possible," she says. "I have spent a lot more time and effort on my undergrad degree than the average student."

Donchez says her goal is "to be an advocate for socially marginalized individuals who feel that they have no voice." She has taken the LSAT and is applying to law schools, aiming to specialize in Civil Rights Law.

"Thank you for this wonderful scholarship. It quite literally means the world to me."

Darcy Sprague, Texas State University BWS Journalism Scholarship

Darcy Sprague, 21, has known since high school she wanted a career as a writer. She graduated Summa Cum Laude in December, 2017, and would like to work for a nonprofit and cover humanitarian crises. She is from Elgin.

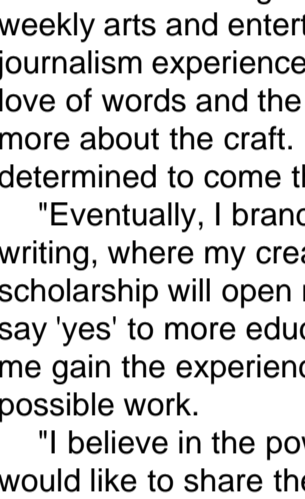
Sprague worked, freelanced and held journalism internships while also attending school full time. "This scholarship helped pay for the cost of attending college and allowed me to focus more on my journalism and less on working to make ends meet," she says. "Thank you."

In 2016 Sprague traveled to Nicaragua to cover poverty and health issues as part of a study abroad program. Her journalism internships have included *Austin Woman* magazine and Folio Media, a nonprofit affiliate of the H.E. Butt Family Foundation in San Antonio.

"I became a journalist because I have always believed that reading is the best way to experience the world and educate oneself," she writes. "I wanted to have a hand in curating the information that would affect our society through my ability to write and tell stories - especially about humanitarian issues."

"Now more than ever journalism is needed to tell the stories of the disadvantaged and marginalized, nationally and internationally, whether that means working with a nonprofit outlet, like *Mother Jones* magazine, or in a traditional news setting like the *Washington Post* or in the field covering international crises. I would love to be in any of those situations, as long as whatever I do helps me change and improve the lives of people through journalism."

Audrey Webb, Texas State University Scott Scribes Scholarship



Audrey Webb
 Scribes winner

Audrey Webb, 57, is a graduate student in dramatic writing at Texas State University. She is working toward a Master of Fine Arts degree and wants to "apply my artistic abilities to the creation of dramatic works that provide not only entertainment but a fresh look at social situations that affect us all." She has worked as a reporter, copy editor, marketing writer and editor.

Webb's first short play was chosen for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and in the summer of 2017 she was chosen for the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive, studying with emerging professionals from across the country. Later in the summer she spent a week at the Kenyon College Playwrights Conference in Ohio, receiving feedback on her full-length play "Imagine That." And in November one of her 10-minute plays was part of an evening of readings at Southwest Theatre in Houston.

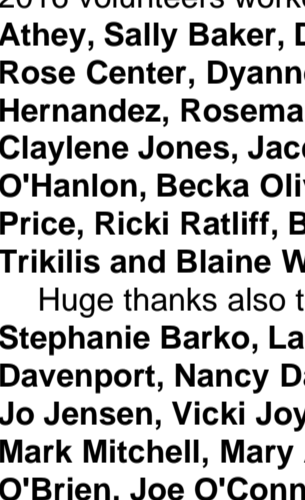
"I have had a fantastic year," she says, and is delighted with "the vote of confidence you have given me with this award. Like Ms. Scott, I talked my way into my first writing job. In my mid-30s, I convinced a very reluctant editor to give me a chance as a reporter for a weekly arts and entertainment magazine. I had no journalism experience and no clips to show him - only a love of words and the desire to work hard as I learned more about the craft. He took a chance on me, and I was determined to come through with the goods."

"Eventually, I branched off into fiction and dramatic writing, where my creative energies are now placed. This scholarship will open many doors for me, allowing me to say 'yes' to more educational opportunities that will help me gain the experience I need to produce my best possible work."

"I believe in the power of words to change lives, and I would like to share the power that writing has given me with those who seek to alter their own future."

"I aspire to a long life of writing like the one Ms. Scott enjoyed, and I am so honored to be part of her legacy."

2016 Wrapping Fundraiser Nets \$3,045



Kate Lauder
 Top 2016 Giftwrapper

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEER GIFTWRAPPERS

"I hesitated to sign up for so many shifts, but I absolutely love doing this," says **KATE LAUDER**, the BWS top wrapper in 2016, with 17 total hours. "You had last minute cancellations, and I wanted to help out." Kate is pictured with her now-famous poinsettia bows which she handcrafts on the spot. Kate has been volunteering since 1995.

CAMILLE NERADA, DONNA BIRDWELL and **SUSAN VIOLANTE** rounded out the list of top wrappers who, with 44 others, raised just over \$3,000 in November and December 2016 during the annual fundraiser for the BWS Scholarship Fund. Every hour spent giftwrapping directly benefits the writers (40 and older) and student journalists who have received \$1,500 BWS scholarships.

Coordinated by **Jo Virgil**, volunteers worked at five Austin bookstores: BookPeople, the Barnes & Noble stores at Sunset Valley, the Arboretum, Round Rock and the Bee Cave Galleria. Jo also arranged for the busiest wrappers to receive an autographed book by well-known local authors who donated their recent books. A big thank you to these three Austin-area writers!

- **Monday, Monday** (novel) by Elizabeth Crook
- **A Friend of Mr. Lincoln** (novel) by Stephen Harrigan
- **The Blind Astronomer's Daughter** (novel) by John Pipkin
- **Woodburner** (novel) by John Pipkin

SPECIAL THANKS TO VOLUNTEER WRAPPER KIM KRONZER O'BRIEN for her generous donation to the giftwrapping total. Kim did so in memory of her mother **Dorothy Barfield Kronzer** and Dorothy's roommate at Baylor University **Judy Brooks**, who in the 1930s was a journalism student of Bess Scott, our scholarship namesake. Bess was named a Baylor Distinguished Alumna in 1992, and Dorothy B. Kronzer was an honored Baylor regent and philanthropist.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Counting the four top wrappers, more than half of the 2016 volunteers worked two shifts or more: **Joanna Athey, Sally Baker, David Boyd, Janet Cabot, Kathy Rose Center, Dyanne Cortez, Ann Elliott, Diane Hernandez, Rosemary Hook, Rachael Jacobs, Claylene Jones, Jacqueline Kelly, Peggy Murjanna, Lou O'Hanlon, Becka Oliver, Barbara Owens, Jorjanna Price, Ricki Ratliff, Beth Sample, Taylor Skaar, Karen Trikilis and Blaine Williams.**

Huge thanks also to **Fred & Diane Afflerbach, Stephanie Barko, Lana Castle, Javier Cortez, Elaine Davenport, Nancy Day, Pam Douglas, Lee Haponski, Jo Jensen, Vicki Joyner, Nancy & Fred Meredith, Mark Mitchell, Mary Ann Murray, Kim Kronzer O'Brien, Joe O'Connell, Margaret Price, Kay Priest, Nita Rao, Mindy Reed, and Manning Wolfe.**

We also thank **Michele Mason**, our webmaster.

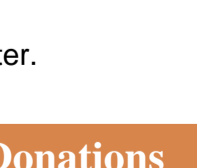
A LITTLE HISTORY: Wrapping at area bookstores began in 1994 to help fund two annual writing/journalism scholarships at Texas colleges and universities, one for an undergraduate communications major and the other for a student who is at least 40 years old. The awards' namesake Bess Whitehead Scott was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

Scholarship amounts will be raised to \$2,000, starting in 2018. Gift-wrapping has long been the major source of funds, along with private donations. Donate [here](#).

FULL BWS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Amplify Austin Fundraiser

**\$3,199 in Online Donations;
 Over 40% Were New Donors**



For the third year, we participated in a community-wide day of giving called Amplify Austin on March 2-3, 2017.

Our Amplify Theme

Current events are making everyone more aware of the value of professional, well-trained journalists. Help us help budding Texas journalists learn the skills needed to accurately report today's news.

Katy Clarke, 1998 BWS Journalism winner, wrote: "I am delighted to help support the mission of this wonderful organization. I am grateful for the opportunities your scholarship provided me, and glad to contribute to your group now."

Thanks to BWS Committee members **Sally Baker** and **Joe O'Connell** who set up Individual Fundraiser campaigns again this year, along with newbies **Kim Kronzer O'Brien, Sue Bilich** and **Jeff Morris**. Together, the five earned 55 percent of our total. Even though Facebook locked him out because he had tagged too many people, Joe was the biggest earner, with Sally and Kim not far behind.

Special thanks to BWS Committee members **Sally Baker** and **Elaine Davenport** who coordinated the Amplify campaign, with a huge assist from coach **Diane Hernandez**. Diane helmed the BWS Facebook page during Amplify, designed our colorful infographics (with quotes from BWS folks) and did a thousand other things.

Thanks, also, to **Judy Maggio**, a veteran Austin journalist and friend of Bess, who provided a quote for us to use: "This is a watershed time in journalism. True, balanced objective reporting is needed now more than ever."

Thanks to all of our donors - more than 40 percent were new to us - on behalf of our future scholarship winners. Your donations, your social media posts, and your patience with our many emails were much appreciated.

Paul Alexander
Melody Allen
Jolie Sucha Anderson
Sally Baker
Wayne Baker
Stephanie Barko, Literary Publicist (honor of Joel Kravitz)
Mary C. Baughman
Marjorie Baumgarten
Sue Bilich
Louie Bond
Tony Burnett
(The Ocotillo Review)
Smith
Jenny Butler
Katy Clarke (honor of Elaine Davenport)
Linda Cox
Diane Danner
Elaine Davenport & Blaine Williams (memory of Jean West)
Janet Elliott
Karen Casey Fitzjerrrell
Nancy Gore
Emily Jo Goulden (honor of Bruce Roche)
Elizabeth Harris
Diane Hernandez
Theresa Holmberg
Mari & Dudley Houghton
Laura King

Joel Kravitz (memory of Arleen Arone)
Sara Puig Laas
Kate Lyder
David Lydic
Barry Maxwell
Donald May
Melanie McCall
Phyllis Meckel (memory of husband Robert Meckel)
Martha Miller
Mark Mitchell & Julie Lake
Jeff Morris
Peggy Murphy & David
Smith
Jane Newchurch
Hannah O'Brien
Jackson O'Brien (honor of Kim O'Brien)
John O'Brien
Joe O'Connell
Jorjanna Price (memory of Robert Meckel & Jean West)
Anne Ramsey
David Rauf
Mary Ann Roser
Ima Gene & R.E. Roycroft
Beth Sample (memory of Sandra Bybee)
Phyllis Schenckan
Angela Smith
Clay Smith
John & Donna Villasis

Ten donors requested anonymity. One donated in memory of **Karen Stolz**. Another wanted her gift to benefit the Scott Scribes Scholarship (for age 40 or older).

We also thank **Michele Mason**, our webmaster.

Donor Thanks & Request for Donations

In addition to receiving funds from holiday giftwrapping and Amplify Austin, we also receive other private donations.

This year's donors:

- Betty Sue Beebe
- Roy Bohrer
- Patti & David Boyd
- Mari & Dudley Houghton
- David Petro (in honor of Jorjanna Price)
- Paula Starche
- Jan Tomas (2016 BWS Scott Scribes winner)
- Bruce Whitehead & Kathy Myers (in memory of Elbert & Marie 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 27 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