



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 \$8,000 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 2015, 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 2015 Excellence in Journalism Convention, Sept. 18-20 in Orlando.

**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 LES ANDERSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

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

**This scholarship** honors the memory of Les Anderson, a Wichita State University journalism professor, newspaper publisher, journalist and longtime friend of Gridiron. Anderson and his wife, Nancy, founded the Ark Valley News in Valley Center in 1975. Anderson worked for five newspapers, including The Wichita Eagle and the Wichita Sun. He joined the WSU faculty in 1977 and was a longtime member of the SPJ Kansas board of directors and scholarship committee. He was a fierce advocate for his students and respected as a great journalist and a great man. Anderson died of a heart attack in November 2011 at age 62.

**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 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 2015.

**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 2015 and Spring 2016. (If you are graduating in December 2015, we can issue a check for Summer 2016 provided you enroll in 6 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.



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**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION, 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR**

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 16, 17 and 18. 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. Again, thank you for your interest. Good luck!

**Questions?** Please don't hesitate to ask them. You may contact Daniel McCoy, scholarship chair, at [dhmccoy@bizjournals.com](mailto:dhmccoy@bizjournals.com).

**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 <http://www.wichitagridiron.com/scholarship.pdf> 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 2015 (if different): \_\_\_\_\_ Major/minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student classification in Fall 2015:    o junior                      o senior                      Expected graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA in all subjects: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA in journalism courses: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

... APPLICATION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

## 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 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 Les Anderson Memorial Scholarship**

(must be a Wichita State University student in Fall 2015)

☐ **The Martin Umansky Memorial Scholarship**

(must be planning a career in radio, television or alternative media)

☐ **Kansas Sunshine Coalition Scholarship**

(must be a news journalism major or have a demonstrated interest in open government issues)

☐ **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 2015)

## 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.

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## 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; CDs or DVDs of broadcasts, or links to video; 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 Daniel McCoy**  
**The Wichita Business Journal**  
**121 N. Mead**  
**Ste. 100**  
**Wichita, KS 67202**

- *This application must be received NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015.*