

Public Affairs Reporting Scholarships

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Several scholarship programs are earmarked for graduate students in the Public Affairs Reporting program. The annual awards are based on academic achievement, financial need and potential for a career in journalism. For more information, contact the director of the Public Affairs Reporting program.

- **Mark D. Allan PAR Scholarship:**
 - Established by Mr. Allan, a 1986 Public Affairs Reporting graduate and former director of marketing and public relations at Butler University.
- **James E. Armstrong Scholarship:**
 - Established in memory of the late publisher of the *Illinois State Register* and the *Illinois State Journal*, predecessors of *The State Journal-Register* in Springfield.
- **Mary and Jim Beaumont Public Affairs Reporting Scholarship**
 - Established by Mary and Jim Beaumont. Mary has a graduate degree in Communication from UIS and Jim has a graduate degree in Public Affairs from UIS.
- **Rich Bradley Memorial Scholarship Fund:**
 - Established by friends and colleagues of the longtime news director at WUIS, Springfield's public radio station. Mr. Bradley was a strong supporter of PAR and mentored many PAR interns.
- **Class of 1986 Scholarship Fund:**
 - Established by members of the PAR Class of 1985-86, the fund supports PAR students who have demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- **Mary Frances Fagan PAR Memorial Scholarship:**
 - Established by friends in memory of Ms. Fagan, a 1983 Public Affairs Reporting graduate. Fagan served as assistant press secretary for Govs. Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar. Her career included 23 years as a spokesman for American Airlines.
- **Steven B. Hahn Reporting Scholarship:**
 - Established by his parents in his memory. Hahn was a legislative correspondent for *The State Journal-Register* and United Press International.
- **Robert P. Howard Scholarship:**
 - Established by friends in memory of the late Capitol correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune* and author of *Illinois, A History of the Prairie State*.
- **Illinois Legislative Correspondents Association (ILCA) / Miller and Heinecke Scholarship:**
 - Established in honor of Burnell A. Heinecke, a former Chicago Sun-Times Statehouse correspondent and former ILCA president and Bill Miller, former director of the PAR program and founding member of the Illinois News Broadcasters Association.
- **International Student Scholarship Fund:**
 - This fund supports scholarships for international students enrolled in the PAR program.
- **Lee Milner Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund:**
 - Established in memory of the longtime photojournalist, legislative coordinator and communications professional who befriended and guided many PAR Students.
- **Vu Nguyen Scholarship:**
 - Established in memory of a 2008 PAR graduate who served as an education reporter for the *Daily Breeze* in Torrance, CA.
- **Douglas H. Pokorski Scholarship in Public Affairs Reporting:**
 - Established in memory of a veteran journalist for *The State Journal-Register* known for his coverage of education and history.
- **Public Affairs Reporting Memorial Scholarship Fund:**
 - This fund supports scholarships for students admitted into the Public Affairs Reporting program.
- **Thom M. Serafin Public Affairs Reporting Scholarship:**
 - Made possible through a gift from Thom Serafin, a 1974 PAR graduate whose distinguished career includes founding and serving as CEO of Serafin and Associates, Inc., serving as press secretary for several national-level political campaigns and serving on the Washington D.C. staff of U.S. Sen. Alan Dixon.
- **Valerie Wiener Award:**
 - Made possible through a gift from Valerie Wiener, a former member of the Nevada state senate and founder/CEO of her own consulting firm specializing in media relations, positioning strategies and power presentations.