

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Society of Professional Journalists

Sigma Delta Chi Foundation



A tradition of excellence since 1909

Society of Professional Journalists

The Society of Professional Journalists is dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press as the cornerstone of our nation and our liberty.

To ensure that the concept of self-government outlined by the U.S. Constitution remains a reality into future centuries, the American people must be well informed in order to make decisions regarding their lives, and their local and national communities.

It is the role of journalists to provide this information in an accurate, comprehensive, timely and understandable manner.

It is the mission of the Society of Professional Journalists:

- To promote this flow of information.
- To maintain constant vigilance in protection of the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press.
- To stimulate high standards and ethical behavior in the practice of journalism.
- To foster excellence among journalists.
- To inspire successive generations of talented individuals to become dedicated journalists.
- To encourage diversity in journalism.
- To be the preeminent, broad-based membership organization for journalists.
- To encourage a climate in which journalism can be practiced freely.



Since it was founded in 1961, the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation has been quietly ensuring that those who carry on the tradition of a free press are prepared for the challenge. The Sigma Delta Chi Foundation is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) public foundation. Our goal is to support the educational programs of the Society of Professional Journalists and to serve the professional needs of journalists and students pursuing careers in journalism.

It is the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation's mission:

- To stimulate the flow of news and information
- To encourage a climate in which journalism can be practiced freely and fully
- To promote high standards and ethical behavior in the practice of journalism
- To foster excellence and to encourage diversity among journalists
- To inspire successive generations of talented individuals to become journalists

Finally we must maintain constant vigilance to protect First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press.

Sigma Delta Chi Foundation



Annual Report

**Society of Professional Journalists
Sigma Delta Chi Foundation**

2005

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Supporting the Profession: **Help in troubled times**



Courtesy of Loyola University New Orleans

Maintaining an independent collegiate press

In 2005, SPJ maintained its intense focus on preserving press freedoms on college campuses. The organization established task forces to review specific situations and perceived threats to the collegiate press and expressed dismay at rulings upholding decisions that limited access and press rights. Such decisions renew the organization's commitment to supporting the rights of student journalists.

The Foundation provided funding for a textbook on campus First Amendment cases. The book, being prepared by faculty at Western Kentucky University, uses real situations investigated by SPJ to educate students about censorship, press rights and ethical and legal considerations.

*I*n the days after Hurricane Katrina hit last fall, the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation established an emergency grant program to help journalism students forced to relocate to another college or university due to the devastating hurricane.

Twenty-seven students received grants to purchase new books and supplies.

The students, from seven Louisiana schools, appreciated the help.

"I am writing to say thank you for the generous scholarship you awarded me after I was displaced by Hurricane Katrina," wrote Jason Lieser, a student at Tulane University. "... I am very appreciative of the gift and used it to purchase textbooks at Northwestern State University, where I will attend until I return to Tulane in January."

Amber Scott, a student at Dillard University wrote, "Currently, I attend Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Ga., and am doing very well. After I earn my bachelor's degree in mass communication, I plan to attend grad school."

The direct, personal impact of the Katrina relief program made it a funding priority for the organization.

"The catastrophe along the Gulf Coast was unprecedented, and SDX directors didn't hesitate to put the needs of journalism students at the top of our priority list, even if that meant juggling some finances," said Foundation President Todd Gillman. "When your neighbor's house is on fire you don't haggle over the price of the hose. We were just trying to do what needed to be done. It's hard enough these days being a journalist, or to break into the business. These students need all the help they can get."

Despite the unprecedented disruption caused by the hurricane, the Foundation underscored its encouragement for these students to continue to pursue journalism careers.

"People who came through these hurricanes have a lifetime of stories to tell," said Gillman. "Events that shape our lives and communities also forge better journalists. I hope the Foundation's assistance helped ease some suffering. I think the profession will be enriched by every Katrina survivor who picks up a reporter's notebook."

Photo by Steve Felker



Recognizing Excellence:

Awards celebrate journalism's best

The profession's best

The Sigma Delta Chi Awards honor the best each year in professional journalism, and the awards presented in 2005 were no exception.

The year's 46 honorees included breaking news coverage about a bus crash, the apprehension of a sniper suspect, and the death of a former president. In-depth pieces examined the U.N.'s battle for relevance; health care hope for the homeless; abuses at Abu Ghraib; and the security of U.S. airports.

An editorial series voiced a community's outrage about the safety of school bus stops and resulted in some 500 stops being moved to safer locations, helping to protect thousands of children.

Award recipients were honored at a dinner at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Irwin Gratz, SPJ president in 2004-05, said of the awards, "Improving journalism takes more than criticizing bad practice. It also means exalting fine work. That's what these Sigma Delta Chi Awards are all about: a celebration of quality journalism."

Making History

The Society's Historic Sites in Journalism program dates back to 1942 and honors the people and places that have played significant roles in American journalistic history.

Past honorees include: World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle; Benjamin Franklin; William Randolph Hearst; The Associated Press offices in Washington and New York City; Freedom's Journal, the first Black newspaper published in the United States; and Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black.

In 2005, KTLA in Los Angeles joined the elite group of historic sites. The Los Angeles station was the first commercially licensed television station in the Western United States, and the first station to broadcast on-the-spot news.

KTLA is the sixth California location to be named an Historic Site in Journalism.

Lifelong commitment

Alan Walden spent five decades in the broadcasting industry. He worked as a reporter, anchor, news director, senior correspondent and as a news executive.

Walden reported on the Middle East War in 1967. He covered major stories like the Arab-Israeli crisis, conflicts in El Salvador and Nicaragua, a Mexico City earthquake, the Falkland Islands War, the invasion of Grenada, and the Panama crisis.

Officially, Walden retired in 1998, but he couldn't leave journalism behind. He continues to actively contribute programming to WBAL in Baltimore and to produce commentaries, including his "Walden Ponderings."

In 2005, SPJ presented Walden with the Helen Thomas Award for Lifetime Achievement. Walden embodies the spirit of the award, which was created to honor an individual for a lifetime of contribution and service to the journalism profession.

SPJ and Foundation Awards Programs

- Circle of Excellence Awards
- David Eshelman
- Outstanding Campus Chapter Adviser
- Distinguished Teaching in Journalism
- Ethics in Journalism Awards
- Eugene C. Pulliam Fellowship for Editorial Writing
- Eugene S. Pulliam First Amendment Award
- Fellows of the Society
- First Amendment Awards
- Helen Thomas Lifetime Achievement Award
- Heroes of the 50 States: The State Government Hall of Fame
- Historic Sites in Journalism
- Howard Dubin Outstanding Pro Member
- Julie Galvan Outstanding Graduate in Journalism
- Mark of Excellence Awards
- New America Award
- Robert D.G. Lewis First Amendment Award
- Sigma Delta Chi Awards
- Sunshine Awards
- Wells Memorial Key

For more about the Society's awards program, visit www.spj.org.



Supporting the Profession:

A worldwide influence

Ongoing Professional Programs

Generation J is a national committee focused on young professionals from 21 to 35 years old. The committee intends to create programming to address this group's career needs and provides additional resources through a monthly column in SPJ's **Quill** magazine.

The Sigma Delta Chi Foundation established a three-year partnership with the University of Georgia to prepare the **Annual Surveys of Journalism & Mass Communications**. The survey includes salary data, employment rates of graduates, and job outlooks.

SPJ's **Freelance Journalists Committee** was created to promote, assist and build a communication network for all contract journalists, while heightening awareness of professional freelance journalism within the industry. It has most recently been involved with the proposed federal shield law legislation, parsing language to see that freelancers also are covered under such a statute.

Through its **Legal Defense Fund**, SPJ continues to provide journalists with legal and direct financial assistance. The fund supports First Amendment legal battles. In 2005, SPJ financially supported cases involving The Harvard Crimson newspaper and the Kentucky Press Association.

In November, six SPJ members participated in the Asia Journalists Forum in Seoul, South Korea. Journalists from two dozen countries, from South Africa to Sri Lanka, participated in the week-long conference.

It was clear these journalists were fearless in their dedication to journalism. Reporting the news wasn't just a job – it was a duty.

With no First Amendment rights, some of these journalists face frequent threats, fines, torture, censorship, imprisonment, government control, wrongful termination, physical harm or even death.

The Federation of Nepalese Journalists spoke about armed soldiers being stationed in newsrooms.

"Media, democracy and human rights have been taken hostage," the group said during its presentation.

The delegation from Bangladesh reported that from May 2004 to April 2005, six journalists were killed,



675 received death threats and 421 were tortured in their country.

Their stories demonstrated the importance of journalism associations, which are often at the forefront in fighting for the freedom of press and speech while defending the rights of journalists, whether it's a radio broadcaster at a small station or an editor of a major newspaper.

SPJ annually participates in this forum and an ongoing exchange program with the Journalists Association of Korea.

In 2005, SPJ members hosted home visits for members of a Korean delegation visiting the United States, and at an SPJ-sponsored forum in Washington, D.C., journalists from South Korea, Taiwan and the United States explored issues confronting journalism in all three countries and discussed ways they can learn from and support each other.

Through these visits, SPJ members learn about the state of journalism in Asia and the world, and we help Asian journalists learn about the highest and best practices of American journalists.



Editorial Writing: **The Conscience of the Community**



A Commitment to Editorial Writing

Photos courtesy of The Seattle Times

It started with the discovery of a skull; next came the controversy.

The skeleton – known as the Kennewick Man – found in Columbia, Wash., was determined to be more than 9,000 years old, making it one of the oldest human remains found in North America.

It's an exceptionally rare find, and scientists wanted to study it. It's also an ancient ancestor, and Native Americans wanted to rebury it. As the *Tri-City Herald* explained in 1996, the case set up “a showdown between the quest for scientific knowledge and respect for the religious beliefs of the Mid-Columbia's Indians.”

Editorial writing has its roots in the earliest days of journalism. Editorial writers alert, inform, guide, advocate and challenge. Perhaps, most importantly, they engage. They engage readers to become involved in their communities, their

Editorial writer Kate Riley believed the situation offered an opportunity to find common ground, to work collaboratively, and to learn from each other about the rich cultural heritage of America.

Riley's job as an editorial writer for *The Seattle Times* put her in a position to impact the public response to this often bitter, angry dispute.

The Sigma Delta Chi Foundation believed in Riley, and her work, and awarded her the Eugene C. Pulliam Editorial Writing Fellowship. The \$75,000 annual fellowship offers an editorial writer the ability to dig deeply into significant societal issues by providing financial resources for training, travel and time away from daily work.

government, their organizations and their world. For that, they hold an integral place in journalism.

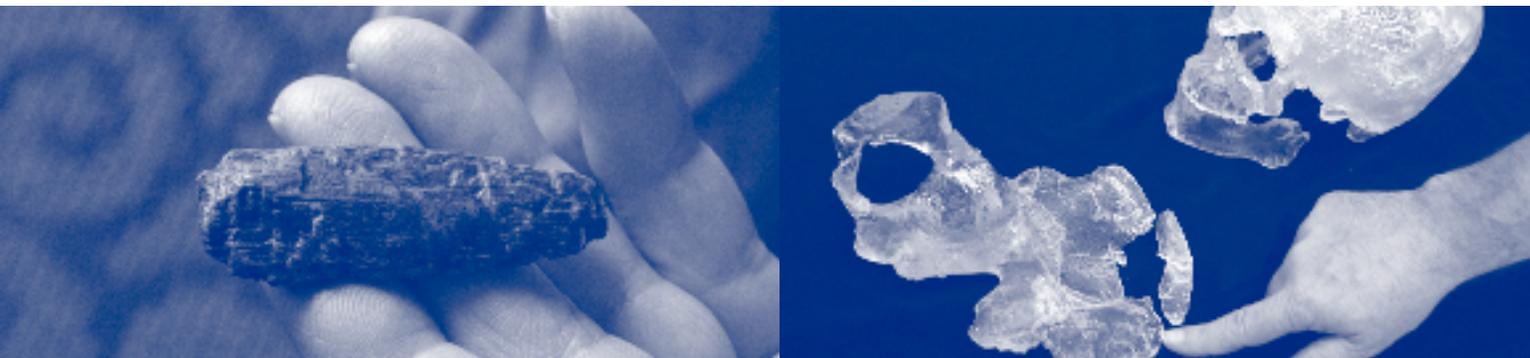
The Sigma Delta Chi Foundation helps ensure that editorial writing remains a force in today's journalism through several significant projects.

“This is a fascinating project, crossing many disciplines, including science, anthropology and history,” said Paul McMasters, who chaired the fellowship selection panel.

Riley will interview scientists and elders of the tribes who claim the remains. She will visit sites where similar disputes have raged as well as parts of Asia where anthropological evidence may be found. The award also enables her to expand her study of anthropology.

Riley is the 26th fellowship recipient. The program was established in 1979 and honors the memory of Eugene C. Pulliam, one of the original members of SPJ.

- In 2005, the Foundation increased the Eugene C. Pulliam Fellowship for Editorial Writing from \$40,000 to \$75,000. The fellowship provides the financial resources for a writer to fully research a topic of interest. A new component of the fellowship includes a plan to publish work done through the program.
- In late 2004, the Foundation made a five year, \$100,000 grant to the National Conference of Editorial Writers Foundation (NCEW) in support of its Minority Writers Seminar. The seminar addresses the recruitment and retention of minority writers and editors, to help the newspaper industry become more reflective of the communities it serves.



At Work in the Newsroom: **Program brings training to the front lines of daily journalism**

In Sterling, Colo., 10 reporters from northern Colorado and southern Wyoming sat together in an area that resembled a living room at the offices of The Journal-Advocate. The air conditioning wasn't working, and the doors were propped open so the breeze would blow through.

The reporters shared stories and Subway sandwiches, and talked with Bloomberg trainer Jerry Hart about accurate, precise writing... "show, don't tell" writing.

In an evaluation of the day's program, one participant wrote, "Lots of food for thought. I realize that I have become desensitized to sloppy reporting and haven't emphasized backing up assertions as much as I would like to. I owe it to these talented young people to lead more than just edit."

That's the kind of impact SPJ was looking for when it launched the Training on the Go program in 2004.

Together, SPJ and Bloomberg News developed a series of training topics with a goal to combine high ideals with hands-on application and to bring that programming directly into newsrooms.

In 2005, 20 training programs reached more than 500 journalists in newsrooms from New York to Portland, Ore.

"There's something about getting in a room with other journalists on a Saturday -- with no deadlines, no pagers, nothing else to do but concentrate on the craft," said Joe Hengemuehler, assistant news director at KNXV-TV in Phoenix, Ariz. "The SPJ/Bloomberg course really recharged a lot of batteries in our newsroom. Not only are we more careful how we write our stories, we're actually changing the way we talk about the stories, first thing in the morning."

"Our newsroom was buzzing for days afterwards, and we've taken steps to institutionalize some of the valuable lessons we learned," said Jack McElroy, editor of the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

Program topics include these six areas: Precision Writing; Knowing the Numbers; Improving Cross-Cultural Reporting in your Community; Newsroom Ethics and Values; Creating a Document-Driven Newsroom; Storytelling on the Web; Convergence 101; and Broadcast Writing.



For information about bringing a newsroom program to your area, write to spj@spj.org.

2005 Training Programs

American Bar Association Journal, Chicago, Ill.
 Central Ohio Chapter city-wide program, Columbus, Ohio
 Cox Newspapers, Dayton, Ohio
 Cox Newspapers, Greenville, N.C.
 Deseret Morning News, Salt Lake City
 East Valley Tribune, Mesa, Ariz.
 Greeley Tribune, Greeley, Colo.

Indianapolis Star
 Journal-Advocate, Sterling, Colo.
 Kansas Pro Chapter city-wide program, Kansas City, Kan.
 Knoxville News Sentinel
 KNXV-TV, Phoenix, Ariz.
 The Las Vegas Review-Journal
 Long Island Business News

The Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake, Ill.
 Oregon Pro Chapter city-wide program, Portland, Ore.
 SPJ Region 1 post-conference program, Stamford, Conn.
 The Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore.
 The Statesman Journal, Salem, Ore.
 Utah News Summit, Provo, Utah



The Main Event:

Annual conference is always a hit

When it comes to SPJ's national conferences, things are always changing. The locale. The participants. The presenters. Sometimes, even the conference name. One thing that will always be the same, though, is the program's mission: *to provide exceptional professional training and create a forum for journalists to interact and exchange ideas.*

The 2005 SPJ Convention & National Journalism Conference in Las Vegas lived up to that mission.

There was no Elvis impersonator, but journalists came by the hundreds – almost 900 of them, in fact – to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones; and to recognize the best of journalism.

The convention program included in-depth, half-day training designed to get below the surface of issues like building a document-driven beat; television performance training; and approaches to news values and coverage.

More than 50 hour-long training sessions introduced journalists to time-sensitive issues like covering a pandemic, immigration trends and misperceptions, and reporting on nonprofits.



In a showcase panel presentation, then New York Times reporter Judith Miller discussed her refusal to reveal a source, which landed her in jail for three months. Miller and others presented the case for a federal shield law to protect reporters and confidential sources.

The annual conference also included the Journalism Expo trade show; a bookstore and a career development center where students and professional journalists could seek resume and tape critiques and career advice.

SPJ's annual convention tradition began 94 years ago on April 26, 1912, with 18 delegates and alternates present. Most of that first gathering was spent figuring out how the organization would be governed.

Today, managing the business of the country's largest journalism organization is still a component of the annual gathering. But the main event remains the tradition of exceptional programming and lasting friendships.

Viva Las Vegas!

New and Ongoing Training Programs

The Sigma Delta Chi Foundation and SPJ annually provide \$12,000 for regional and local chapter programming. With hundreds of local chapters, check your area for SPJ training and networking events.

SPJ continues to operate JournalismTraining.org, a searchable database with more than 500 training opportunities waiting for you to explore. The project is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Find training that meets your needs.

SPJ and FACS partner to provide educational seminars designed to give journalists the background knowledge they need to better understand and analyze the issues that are so vital to our society. The mission of FACS is to improve the quality of information reaching the public through the news.

In 2005, the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation funded the development of six narrative writing workshops, to be led by Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Tom Hallman. The program is aimed at early career journalists who want to incorporate the art of the storytelling into their daily writing and reporting.



Leadership for the Future: **Building a strong foundation**



***“Management is about doing things right.
Leadership is about doing the right thing.”***

That quote, from leadership guru Peter Drucker sets the tone for SPJ’s annual Ted Scripps Leadership Institute.

Each summer, some of SPJ’s brightest new leaders gather for a retreat in Indianapolis. They prepare for leadership positions in their chapter and their newsrooms through a mix of programming focused on interpersonal and organizational leadership skills and sound chapter management practices.

Participants in this interactive program, learn:

- About their individual leadership style, its strengths, and how to better interact with others.
- The importance of building a sense of community among chapter members and how that can be accomplished.
- The role of the leader in recruiting, developing and rewarding talent.
- The dynamics of group decision-making and how leaders can help groups make better choices.
- New insights on how to engage and motivate peers.
- How to effectively manage responsibilities while remaining focused on important goals.

These skills easily transfer from chapter management to leadership in the newsroom and in the community.

In addition to leadership tools, the institute continues to develop a network of long-term support for the individuals and chapters that participate. An annual reunion during the SPJ Convention & National Journalism Conference continues to grow in popularity. In many cases, participants go on to positions of national leadership in the organization.

Last year, SPJ marked its ninth institute, with 43 participants.

The program began in 1996, and is named for E.W. “Ted” Scripps II, grandson and founder of the E.W. Scripps Company. Ted Scripps was president of SPJ in 1960-61. Funding is provided through the Scripps Howard Foundation by Ted Scripps’ sons, Edward A.W. Scripps Jr. and William H. Scripps.

“We want to make sure that the Society of Professional Journalists continues its important work for decades to come,” said Sue Porter, vice president of programs for the Scripps Howard Foundation. “By helping to keep SPJ leadership strong, we’re investing in the future.

Difficult Decisions:

Journalism and responsible reporting

Ethics Resources: Tools you can use

- As part of the in-newsroom training program, SPJ provides half-day workshops to develop ethical decision-making skills. The sessions use group discussion to explore real-world examples of common dilemmas facing newsrooms. Participants analyze newsroom codes of ethics and work on defining or refining their news organization's code.
- The Ethics Adviceline for Journalists is a free service for professional journalists seeking guidance on reaching ethical decisions while covering the news. It is operated by the Chicago Headline Club chapter of the SPJ and Loyola University Chicago. It is funded in part by the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation. If you have a dilemma, call 866-DILEMMA (866-345-3662).
- SPJ's national Ethics Committee monitors an ethics hotline for professional and student journalists. They don't promise a quick fix to any problem, but committee members will listen carefully and coach Hotline callers using principles outlined in SPJ's Code of Ethics. Call (317) 927-8000, ext. 208.
- For journalism instructors and others interested in presenting ethical dilemmas for debate and discussion, SPJ has a collection of case studies for use in workshops. The case studies are available at www.spj.org.
- SPJ Code of Ethics is voluntarily embraced by thousands of writers, editors and other news professionals. It is available online at www.spj.org. The code has been translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese, Slovene, Arabic and Russian.

L

ast year, SPJ celebrated the third annual Ethics in Journalism Week with national and local discussions about responsible reporting.

Journalists and journalism organizations face difficult decisions about news coverage every day, and there are rarely any easy answers. SPJ doesn't always have the answers either, but the organization does have a comprehensive Code of Ethics that offers guidance. The organization encourages journalists to balance the principles of seeking the truth and reporting it; acting independently; minimizing harm; and being accountable.

During Ethics in Journalism Week, the organization's local chapters used these principles to host discussions about responsible reporting and distributed thousands of copies of the Society's ethics code.

As part of the celebration, SPJ awarded 14 grants for local chapter programming. The grants were funded by the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation.

A few of the issues examined:

- The use and protection of anonymous sources
- How the media interacts with readers and viewers
- The use of Internet-based resources and database reporting
- Potential conflicts of interest for journalists, including accepting awards from non-journalism organizations and participating in First Amendment advocacy programs
- How television news management teams decide what makes the news at their stations
- How to balance the media's responsibility to seek truth and report with its responsibility to minimize harm
- The blogging phenomenon and the effects of weblogs on traditional journalistic practice.

Ethics in Journalism Week takes place each spring, usually the last week of April.



Ensuring a Free Press: **The fight continues**

*T*he Society and the Foundation are dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press as the cornerstone of our nation and our liberty. We believe that a free and well-equipped press is tied to the very heart of our country and our way of life.

As an advocate for journalists and journalism organizations, SPJ monitors government openness and speaks out when access to public information is denied. Through its Legal Defense Fund, the organization collects and distributes contributions for aiding journalists in defending the freedom of speech and press.

In 2005, the organization launched a national campaign to secure a federal shield law protecting journalists and the identities of confidential sources. The Society aims to raise \$30,000 to help support this effort. "A federal shield law has become essential now that prosecutors appear less

constrained about hauling journalists before courts and grand juries," said Immediate Past President Irwin Gratz. "Courts are proving little help either, setting aside the partial protections recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in its *Branzburg v. Hayes* ruling."

Last year, the Society issued a report on the difficult business of deciding who should be covered by a shield law. The report examined the different ways the law has defined who a journalist is and how that history may impact discussions about a shield law.

In addition to its advocacy work, SPJ trains journalists on the use of public information. Group programs explain how to create a document-driven newsroom, and an online course through News University teaches you how to use the Freedom of Information Act, Public Records Laws and Open Meetings Laws to uphold your right to know the government's actions.



Recognizing FOI Heroes

Last year, the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation recognized the exceptional work of Kate Martin and the Center for National Security Studies by presenting them with the Eugene S. Pulliam First Amendment Award.

The \$10,000 cash award honors a person or persons who have fought to protect and preserve one or more of the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Martin is a First Amendment lawyer, theorist, lobbyist, writer and speaker. Since Sept. 11, 2001, she had helped lead the challenge to the Bush administration's unprecedented secrecy to protect the public's right to know.

In addition to calling attention to secrecy in government, Martin and the Center have defended the First Amendment right of speech of former government officials who criticize the government and protected the public's need to know the information that such individuals can provide.



Encouraging collaboration:

Bridging the gap



Celebrating Diversity

The Society awarded its first Diversity Leadership Grants last year. Six journalists were invited to participate in a yearlong program to introduce journalists of color to educational and leadership opportunities within SPJ.

The program aims to strengthen leadership within the Society and to build its diversity efforts internally. Participants expand their leadership skills through a training session followed by a year-long mentoring relationship with former SPJ national presidents and other organization leaders. They receive travel expenses and fees in order to participate in the program, which takes place during the SPJ Convention & National Journalism Conference.

Each Fellow is encouraged to take an active role in the local chapter in his or her area and become part of a national committee or other Society program.

The Diversity Leadership Fellows program is funded by the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation.

At a time when almost one in five households in the United States speaks a language other than English at home and racial and ethnic minorities represent a growing percentage of the population, insightful and in-depth reporting on the issues facing immigrant and ethnic communities is more important than ever.

Journalists in both traditional, mainstream journalism organizations and the growing ethnic and immigrant media are striving to meet the demand for such reporting. Ethnic and immigrant journalists often have excellent access to their communities, but limited access to more general audiences. Mainstream journalists generally have access to wider audiences, including officialdom, but often lack understanding of or access to immigrant and ethnic communities.

To encourage and honor collaboration among ethnic and mainstream media, SPJ presented its first New America Award last year. The award honors such collaboration as media outlets work together to explore and expose an issue of importance to immigrant or ethnic communities in the United States.

The first place award went to *Residents' Journal* and *The Chicago Reporter* for a collection of investigative stories on Chicago public housing.

Alyssa Katz of *City Limits* and Abu Taher of *Bangla Patrika* received second place for their joint investigation into how Bangladeshi push cart food vendors in Central Park were exploited by a private company with a lucrative contract that paid millions of dollars to New York City while failing to protect its workers.

Third Place went to *The Orange County Register* and its Spanish-language weekly affiliate, *Excelsior del Condado de Orange*, for a series of investigative reports that exposed extensive lead contamination in popular candies imported from Mexico and widely consumed by children in immigrant communities.

"In all three cases, each news organization, ethnic and mainstream, brought important journalistic resources to the enterprise to produce stories that neither could have done as effectively working alone. That's exactly what we were hoping to encourage and reward when we created this new award," said Irwin Gratz, immediate past president of SPJ



Funding Excellence



Funding for your journalism programs

The Foundation board of directors meets twice yearly. Most grant requests are reviewed during the spring meeting.

Grant requests are due at least 60 days in advance of the meeting. All proposals are first reviewed by the board's Grants and Awards Committee, which makes recommendations to the board of directors.

If you have an idea for a journalism program, the first step is to contact the Foundation. Learn more about the Foundation and its work by visiting us today at:

www.spj.org/sdx

Annually, the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation invests about \$300,000 in programs to improve the journalism profession. Most grants go to SPJ and SPJ-related projects to further align with the work of the Society. Other journalism-related projects that help to fulfill the Foundation's mission, may receive support if funds are available.

Between Aug. 1, 2004, and July 31, 2005, the Foundation made the following grants. Some of these grants are disbursed over a period of several years.

SPJ Diversity Outreach Project	\$17,060
To introduce journalists of color to educational and leadership opportunities within SPJ.	
National Conference of Editorial Writers Foundation	\$100,000
To support NCEW's Minority Writers Seminar, created to address the recruitment and retention of minority writers and editors and to help the newspaper industry become more reflective of the communities it serves.	
National Freedom of Information Coalition	\$10,000
To support the 2005 NFOIC annual conference.	
Society of Professional Journalists	\$182,524
To support Ethics in Journalism Week, a study on access to prisons, the Society's annual conference, educational program staff, the Mark of Excellence student journalism awards program; 2006 regional conferences, a series of six narrative writing workshops, and the development and production of a DVD highlighting the work of the Sigma Delta Chi Award recipients.	
Western Kentucky University	\$3,000
To develop a textbook of contemporary First Amendment case studies.	
University of Georgia Foundation	\$9,000
To support the "Annual Surveys of Journalism and Mass Communication," which provide key data on enrollments in journalism and mass communication programs, professional salaries and attitudes of journalism graduates.	
Indiana Coalition for Open Government	\$3,500
To support the 2006 National Freedom of Information Coalition conference in Indianapolis.	
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press	\$15,000
To publish the fifth edition of "Tapping Officials' Secrets." The compendium was last updated in 2001, and the new version will reflect amendments to access laws.	



**The Sigma Delta Chi Foundation
sincerely thanks the individuals
and institutions who have
supported its work.**

Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation
Bloomberg
Chicago Tribune Foundation
Citiland Investment Corporation
Community Publishers, Inc.
Ethics and Excellence in Journalism
Foundation
The Fresno Bee
Gannett Foundation
Kahl Montgomery Temple
The Keller Citizen
LA Times Washington Post News Service
Lilly Endowment Inc.
Minnesota Newspaper Guild/Typographical
National Academy of TV Arts & Sciences
National Press Foundation, Inc.
News-Leader Pennypower
NorCal RTNDA
Peninsula Press Club
The Poynter Institute
Scripps Howard Foundation
SPJ Valley of the Sun Chapter
SPJ Washington D.C. Pro Chapter
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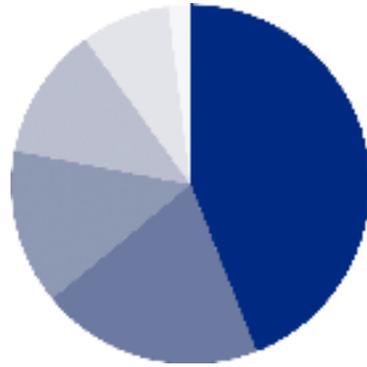
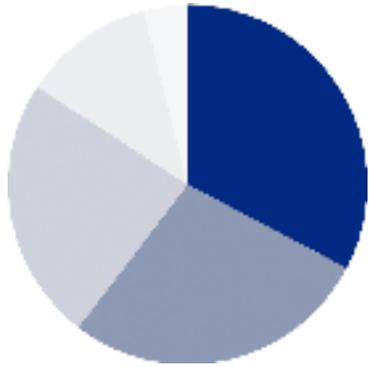
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For the Fiscal Year Ending 7/31/05

Society of Professional Journalists

Revenue – \$1,559,785

Expense – \$1,596,709



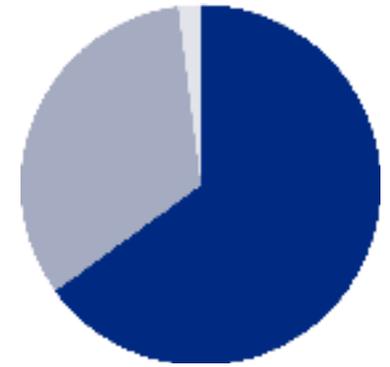
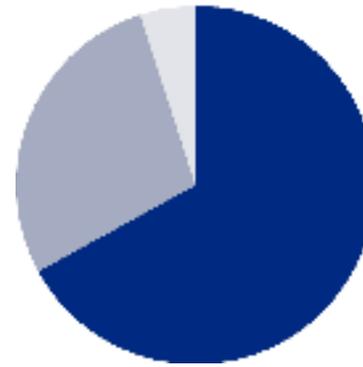
- Membership Dues – 32.5%**
\$509,566
- Contributions and Grants – 27.5%**
\$429,742
- Awards and Conference Fees – 24%**
\$369,604
- Advertising – 12%**
\$186,857
- Other – 4%**
\$64,016

- Educational Programming – 44%**
\$705,807
- Management and General – 20%**
\$320,830
- Publications – 14%**
\$221,217
- Membership – 12%**
\$191,897
- Awards – 8%**
\$131,174
- Legal Defense – 2%**
\$25,784

Sigma Delta Chi Foundation

Revenue – \$1,402,040

Expense – \$632,102



- Net Realized and Unrealized – 67%**
\$941,115
- Investment Income – 28%**
\$393,182
- Contributions – 5%**
\$67,743

- Grants – 65%**
\$409,480
- Management and General – 33%**
\$209,151
- Net Realized and Unrealized – 2%**
\$13,471



Realizing Excellence:

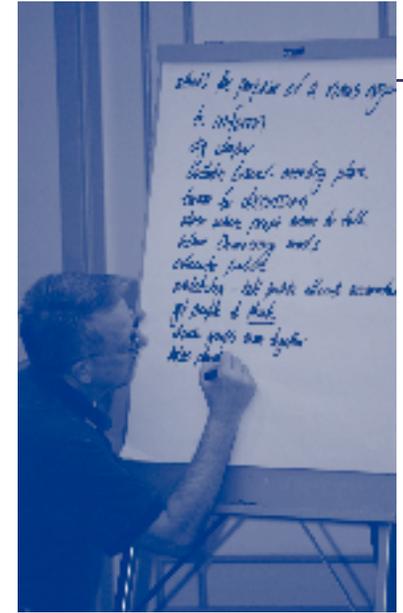
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Financial support is vital to the work of the Society and the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation. Membership dues account for approximately one-third of SPJ's annual budget. The remaining funds come from grants, event registrations and individual contributions.

Donor support provides both organizations with much needed financial stability. Together with our members and contributors, SPJ and the Foundation remain important touchstones in a rapidly changing profession.

Tax deductible gifts support programs in training, ethics, freedom of information diversity, journalism education and scholarships.

The Sigma Delta Chi Foundation returns tens of thousands of dollars to the journalism community each year for the purpose of advancing the profession. Join us as we continue to improve and protect journalism.



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(All gifts to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation are tax-deductible.)

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Contact sdx@spj.org or call (317) 927-8000 for more information on giving.

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Every gift to SPJ and the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation makes a difference in the lives of journalists and to the journalism profession.

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- A **\$10** gift pays for 10 copies of the FOI Tool Kit, a resource for journalists planning to conduct an audit of the accessibility of government records in their area.
- **\$50** covers the cost of five copies of SPJ's Open Doors booklet, a guide to using government records.
- **\$150** will provide 5,000 copies of the SPJ Code of Ethics for use in newsrooms around the country.
- **\$400** will pay for a professional development session during SPJ's Convention and National Journalism Conference; **\$2,400** covers the cost of an entire six-session track of programs
- **\$500** will help host a guest speaker during one of SPJ's 12 regional conferences each year.
- **\$1,000** allows a Diversity Fellow to participate in SPJ's annual convention and be part of a year-long leadership mentoring program.
- **\$6,750** brings a "Training on the Go" seminar into a newsroom for a two-day training event.
- **\$12,500** will produce the complete works of Sigma Delta Chi Award recipients in electronic format for journalists as an educational and newsroom tool.
- **\$20,000** will endow a \$1,000 per year scholarship program, providing assistance to a worthy student pursuing a career in journalism.

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