

SPJ Laurain Scholarship



Michael Martinez
University of Detroit Mercy
\$2,500

As a student at University of Detroit Mercy, Michael Martinez has worked his way up to be a top editor at *The Varsity News*, landed a freelance position as a blogger with *FoxSportsDetroit.com*, broken a news story picked up by the major Detroit media, won awards in collegiate press competitions, and served internships at area newspapers.

Growing up as a sports fan in Detroit, he decided early on a journalism career. He was imbued with basics of grammar and writing at St. Anthony's grade school and developed his skills at St. Francis de

Sales' high school paper, *The Lance*.

He is credited with building UDM's paper by restoring the sports section and invigorating the news section, serving as sports editor and co-managing editor. He writes a regular column, covers multiple sports teams, coordinates staff meetings, assigns stories, and lays out pages.

After graduation, he aspires to write for a major daily newspaper.

Martinez is actively involved with the Hispanic American Student Association and the campus ministry program and serves as a lector at Catholic masses.

Believing that the most important challenge facing journalists today is technology, Martinez says it is no longer enough to just write articles. In this digital age, journalists must become proficient in multiple media. He has acquired skills and experience in digital media, video and audio production, and documentary filmmaking.

"History shows us that while technological advances may alter the way news is delivered, they do not eliminate the need or desire for information," he says. "Citizens still need to be informed; journalists still have important work to do."

The Detroit Professional Chapter's Lawrence A. Laurain Scholarship is awarded each year to a student in a college in Southeast Michigan with a demonstrated interest in journalism.

The scholarship honors the memory of the late Larry Laurain, who served as president of the Detroit chapter in 1985, shortly before his death. His journalism career spanned 17 years, including work with *The Royal Oak Daily Tribune*, *The Macomb Daily*, United Press International, and as city editor of *The Oakland Press*. This year, we mourn the death last December of Larry's mother, Ann Laurain, a long-time booster of SPJ.

For 2011, the SPJ-Detroit Board of Directors is awarding additional scholarships of \$500 each to these outstanding students:



Rachel Jackson
Michigan State University

Working on Saline High School's newspaper, Rachel Jackson grew to love writing, reporting, and storytelling. Now a sophomore at Michigan State, she writes for the *Bath-DeWitt Connection*, an online news source run by the School of Journalism, contributes to *SpartanEdge.com*, an alternative news website, and authors two blogs.

Her after-graduation goals are travel and writing about politics and government, after a term with the Peace Corps. She believes journalism has powerful political leverage and journalists have a mighty power to keep leaders in check.



Lauren McKown
Michigan State University

Her journalism experience at the *State News* led to Lauren McKown's career decision. She has been writing about multiple aspects of the campus and serves as deputy managing editor. She believes "journalism is not dying; it's just reinventing itself."

A student of international relations, she aspires to work in a foreign country. She has served internships with a non-government agency in Dublin, Ireland, and in the Lansing office of Michigan's Senator Carl Levin.

Additional scholarships of \$250 each to two outstanding students:



Nichole Seguin
Oakland University

Passionate about journalism since grade school, Nichole Seguin joined the staff of the *Oakland Post* in her first semester at Oakland University. She has covered various stories and worked as features editor.

She intends to continue studies and earn a doctorate degree. She wants to work in the field and become a college journalism professor.



Taylor Trammell
Wayne State Univ.

A summer apprentice at the *Detroit Free Press* before entering Wayne State, Taylor Trammell has worked on *TIME* magazine's Detroit project. She now free-lances for *The Detroit News*, writes for the university's *South End* newspaper, and has done two segments on a WGPR radio talk show. A freshman, she aspires to work for *Essence* magazine.