



THE CARTER CENTER
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Rosalynn Carter Fellowships

for Mental Health Journalism

Application Information 2012–2013



The goal of the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism is to enhance public understanding of mental health issues and combat stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses. Working journalists tackle timely and unique topics in the field of mental health.

“Informed journalists can have a significant impact on public understanding of mental health issues, as they shape debate and trends with the words and pictures they convey.”

— Rosalynn Carter, Former First Lady of the United States



What the Fellowships Offer

- **Professional Development:** Fellows come to The Carter Center for training and then work on their projects from their own newsrooms or offices, maintaining complete independence. Fellows participate in advisory groups with mental health and media experts and other fellows that meet quarterly by conference call.
- **Stipends:** Six U.S. fellows are awarded stipends of \$10,000 each. International fellows receive a comparable stipend in their own currency.
- **Flexibility:** The fellowships do not require recipients to leave their places of employment; fellows control the schedule of their project work.
- **Unique Projects:** Fellows are encouraged to choose timely topics that may educate the public and/or raise awareness. Use of new and emerging media is welcomed, and fellowships are tailored to suit the needs, interests, and experiences of each fellow.

List of Accomplishments

As of 2011, accomplishments of the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships include the following:

- 126 fellowships awarded
- 5 books published
- 4 television documentaries produced
- Fellowships awarded to journalists on four continents
- Hundreds of minutes of radio and television pieces aired
- More than 100 media outlets represented
- Project awards received include an Emmy, Pulitzer Prize nominations, and a regional Edward R. Murrow award
- 350 mental health pieces archived online

2011–2012 Fellows

UNITED STATES

Billy Howard

Freelance Photojournalist
Atlanta, Ga.

Rebecca Ruiz

MSNBC.com
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Laura Starecheski

State of the Re:Union
Bronx, N.Y.

Meghan Sullivan

Freelance Journalist
Washington, D.C.

Gisela Telis

Arizona Public Media
Tucson, Ariz.

Jocelyn Weiner

Freelance Journalist
Los Altos, Calif.

ROMANIA

Alexandru-Cristian Lupşa

Decât o Revistă
Bucharest, Romania

Andrei Pungovschi

Agence France Presse
Bucharest, Romania

Important Dates

April 16, 2012

All applications must be submitted online

July 13, 2012

Fellowship recipients announced on the Carter Center website (www.cartercenter.org) at 9 a.m. EDT

September 2012 & 2013

All recipients attend a three-day fellowship meeting in Atlanta, Ga.

Waging peace. Fighting disease. Building hope.

Scan this code with your smartphone for more information



Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible to apply?

Applicants must have at least three years of professional journalism experience and submit a full fellowship application. Recipients must attend meetings at The Carter Center in September at the beginning and end of the fellowship year.

Should I reapply for a fellowship if I did not receive one in the past?

It is the choice of the applicant to reapply; however, being a former applicant does not carry weight in the application review process. There have been cases when an applicant is awarded a fellowship after several denied submissions.

Who is the best person to write my letters of support and/or recommendation?

The letter should be written by someone familiar with the applicant's professional work who can speak to his/her journalistic abilities. Because the feasibility of a project is weighted heavily, it is ideal to have letters contributed by individuals that have decision-making authority related to the project (such as collaborators, editors, publishers, financial supporters). Letters from friends or relatives are discouraged.

How will I know when my application has been received?

The applicant will receive a confirmation email from the fellowship program once a completed application has been submitted in addition to confirmation emails when each recommendation letter has been submitted.

Will I receive feedback on my application?

Due to the high volume of interest in the fellowship, program staff is unable to provide individual feedback on applications. Remember that the application should address the following: feasibility of completing the project, timeliness of the topic, and the topic's potential impact on reducing stigma.

Where can I find samples of previous fellowship projects?

The fellowship program has compiled an archive of completed projects at http://www.cartercenter.org/health/mental_health/archive/by_name.html.

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must:

- Have at least three years of professional experience in print or electronic journalism (writing, reporting, editing, producing, filmmaking) beyond academic training
- Submit a complete online application
- Attend orientation and presentation meetings in September at the beginning and end of the fellowship year
- Participate in quarterly conference calls

Online Application

The full application must be completed and submitted online. The application will be available at www.cartercenter.org/mhjapplication in mid-February 2012 and includes the following:

- **Personal Information:** Complete the section of the application on personal and professional information.
- **Resume:** Include a list of representative publications; membership in professional organizations; major journalism prizes and/or awards and year awarded.
- **Objectives for Fellowship and Project Description:** In an informal essay not to exceed 1,000 words, the following points must be addressed:
 - Describe reasons for applying and how this fellowship could benefit your body of work;
 - Clearly outline the proposed project and a plan for carrying it out;
 - Discuss the significance and timeliness of the topic, and explain the feasibility of completing the project;
 - Detail the potential impact the chosen topic, and overall fellowship project, may have on reducing the stigma of mental illnesses; and
 - Describe the expected audience reach.

- **Samples of Professional Work:**

Submit up to three examples of your work. At least one of the samples should be in the media form proposed (e.g., radio, video, print).

- **Letters of Recommendation:** Letters should be provided from two people familiar with your work, commenting on your abilities and potential as a journalist. Recommenders will be asked to submit their letters online.

- **Letter of Support:** One letter from your organization's publisher, editor, producer, manager, or director, supporting the application. If self-employed, the third letter must come from an individual familiar with your work. Supporter will be asked to submit his or her letter online.

Timeline

Applications and letters of recommendation and support for 2012–2013 fellowships must be submitted no later than Monday, April 16, 2012. Materials submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Due to the large number of applicants for the fellowship positions, individual feedback on applications will not be provided.

Online application can be accessed at the following site:

www.cartercenter.org/mhjapplication

Inquiries:

ccmhp@emory.edu
(404) 420-5165

We're on:



www.cartercenter.org