

George C. Douthit Endowed Scholarship and KLRE/KUAR Internship Program

Call for Applications

Dept of Rhetoric and Writing

Are you an excellent writer with interests in education, healthcare, energy, and justice? Can you supplement your writing with photography, video, or other media? If so, we urge you to apply for a scholarship/internship combination affiliated with KLRE/KUAR. If you're selected, you'll receive a scholarship to intern with the KUAR news department to write and research stories related to Arkansas education, healthcare, energy, and justice. You'll also receive 3 hours of either internship or independent study credit in your Professional and Technical Writing degree. Finally, you'll gain valuable experience in professional media, which will supplement your writing or professional portfolio with artifacts from the experience.

Details

The application deadline is April 20 (or until filled). See attached description of the KLRE/KUAR Internship for details about what to submit.

If selected, you will need to accept the scholarship and commit to register for your internship credit in either the following Fall semester or the Spring semester. You must be a student at UALR when you apply, and you must plan on being a student in the semester you intern with KLRE/KLRLU.

The number and amount of scholarships attached to this project will vary, but we generally expect the scholarship amount to be \$750-\$1500.

Eligible students include undergraduate and graduate majors in Professional and Technical Writing. The way the scholarship gift is worded, you must be a major, so those students pursuing minors or certificates are not eligible.

During your internship with the KUAR news department, you will submit periodic reports with your instructor. At the end of the semester, you will need to submit a portfolio to your instructor in order to get course credit.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chair of Rhetoric and Writing, Joyce Carter (jlcarter@ualr.edu).

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Position Summary

KLRE/KUAR is a noncommercial educational public radio station. KUAR-FM is the region's source for NPR news and information. KLRE-FM is the only regional classical music radio station. KLRE/KUAR is a public service department of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock College of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Education. KLRE/KUAR seeks a UA Little Rock graduate or undergraduate student intern who will produce news stories for radio and online media within the targeted public interest areas of education, health care, justice and energy. This position will be based at station KUAR-FM on the UA Little Rock campus and report KUAR news director. Along with practical journalism experience and clips, the scholarship intern will have the opportunity to make newscast pitches to NPR and gain experience working within a not-for-profit public media journalism organization. Travel may be necessary for this internship. This position is governed by state and federal laws and agency/institution policy.

Internship Duties and Responsibilities include

- Meeting regularly with the KUAR news director and fellow reporters to develop story ideas within the topic areas of education, health care, justice and energy in Arkansas
- Writing, producing and packaging stories for radio, web and other content under the direction of the news director or a designated staff member
- Editing audio, still images and video on digital editing software
- Conducting interviews with news subjects in the studio, on the phone or in person, which can be recorded for use in producing news stories or directly broadcast on the air and on the web. Interviews may also be broadcast live
- Posting news stories and other material to the KUAR web site, and linking the information through Facebook, Twitter and other social media accounts
- Providing editorial assistance to other news reporters
- Participate in community engagement projects under the direction of the KUAR development director
- Operate assigned equipment, including but not limited to audio recorders, digital cameras and computers
- Performs other duties as assigned

Preferable Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- A portfolio of text, video or photography that demonstrate above-average writing ability, news gathering or photojournalism skills
- Demonstrated experience in researching, writing and producing news or non-fiction stories or segments for multiple platforms, especially (though not limited to) the areas of education, health care, energy and justice.
- A demonstrated ability to research topical news stories or nonfiction content online, by phone and in person
- An understanding of the digital and technical needs of public media journalism

- Familiarity with or understanding of education, healthcare, justice and/or energy issues
- A demonstrated ability to work with a team and under the pressure of a deadline
- A demonstrated ability to use social media responsibly for reporting / engagement
- Video production experience will be strongly considered
- A working means of transportation

Required Education and/or Experience

- Must be a student at the time of application and internship in the UA Little Rock College of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Education in either the School of Mass Communication or Department of Rhetoric and Writing

Physical Demands

Essential Job Functions Light Work - Exerting up to 20 pounds: Frequently, Kneeling: Occasionally, Crawling: Occasionally, Climbing (Stairs, Ladders, etc.): Frequently, Lifting 10-25 lbs: Frequently, Carrying 10-25 lbs: Frequently, Pushing/pulling 10-25 lbs: Occasionally, Sitting for long periods of time: Daily, Speaking: Essential, Hearing: Essential, Vision: Ability to distinguish similar colors, depth perception, close vision: Essential, Walking - Moderate Distances; Frequently, Medium Work - Exerting 20-50 pounds: Frequently, Standing for long periods of time: Frequently

Work Conditions

Spends approximately 75% or more time indoors, Extreme cold - Temperatures below 32 degrees for periods of more than one hour, Extreme heat - Temperatures above 100 degrees for periods of more than one hour, Conditions that affect the respiratory system or the skin, such as fumes, odors, dusts, mists, gases or poor ventilation

Applicant Documents

Required Documents

- Cover Letter and/or resume
- Your three best samples of work, preferably representing more than one format (written, audio, etc.)
- Letter of reference from a faculty advisor

Optional Documents

- Portfolio
- Supplemental Materials

About George Douthit

In 1908, outside San Antonio, a future Arkansas state capital reporter named George C. Douthit was born. He'd never see the inside of a 10th grade classroom, but learn to report and write he did, for the *Light and Evening News* papers in the city before graduating to the *Associated Press* in Hot Springs and Fort Smith.

In 1954, with the *Arkansas Democrat* now and covering state politics, Douthit was stuck with the unenviable task of covering an upstart Democratic gubernatorial candidate out of the Ozark foothills. Most said he didn't have a chance against incumbent Francis Cherry (or sensationalist Faulkner County senator Guy "Mutt" Jones), but most were wrong about Orval Faubus, and Douthit's early coverage proved career-making. He was Faubus's favored reporter for most of the rest of his tenure.

In 1970 Douthit left the *Democrat* for other business opportunities, but by 1976 he'd returned to reporting, founding the State News Bureau. He was a one-man operation, and continued it through several years of cancer before his eventual death in 1985.

Afterward, a group of fellow reporters and family — John Robert Starr, Jon Kennedy, H.R. Herbie Byrd, Alyson LaGrossa (now Hoge) and Lana Bethune (his daughter) — founded the George C. Douthit Scholarship Trust. In September, 1986, the *Democrat* ran the announcement of the first \$1,000 award winner: Elizabeth "Lisa" Sharp (now Cogbill), 19, a University of Arkansas sophomore and journalism major.

Thirty years later, Lana Bethune, in her capacity as trustee, signed over the balance of the scholarship trust, more than \$75,000, to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where it was used to establish the George C. Douthit Endowed Scholarship for a UALR student to participate in an internship or a graduate fellowship.

