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Gift creates journalism fellowship at Daily News

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Brad and Judy Hughes

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A new journalism fellowship named after a former Daily News reporter and city editor will help aspiring journalists at Western Kentucky University chase their own dreams.

More than 40 years ago, Judy Wildman Hughes started her reporting career at the Daily News covering city government, WKU and breaking news. She later became the newspaper's city editor, a position in charge of supervising reporters.

Currently, Hughes is a communications and marketing specialist for the University of Louisville.

“Starting at the Daily News was a wonderful opportunity for Judy and it has been a foundation for her career,” said her husband Brad Hughes, a retired spokesman for the Kentucky School Boards Association, who created the fellowship in her name as a recent birthday gift.

The Daily News has pledged \$1,000 a year for the summer fellowship over the next five years. This paid fellowship will enable a WKU journalism student to cover local news over the course of 10 weeks.

“The Daily News is very proud to participate in this fellowship,” said Daily News Publisher Pipes Gaines, describing Hughes as a consequential reporter and editor.

Daily News Editor Steve Gaines shared that view.

Hughes was a huge resource for the Daily News during her tenure at the newspaper, Gaines said. He described her as a “well respected journalist who others in the newsroom gained immense knowledge from.”



Brad Hughes also previously worked as a reporter for WKCT, a radio station owned by Daily News Broadcasting Co.

Steve Gaines said the Daily News is honored to be part of the fellowship and the experience students will gain.

The fellowship is one of several offered through WKU's Office of Student Publications. It supports summer fellowships at the Courier Journal, the Lexington Herald-Leader and other news outlets throughout Kentucky, said Student Publications Director Chuck Clark.

With the help of Hughes' support, the office will be able to offer eight fellowships next summer.

"This gift will have a lasting impact, not only for Judy, but also for the students who benefit from this," Clark said. "I can't think of a better way to give a gift than something that's going to have permanent impact like this."

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