THE Rosalynn Carter Fellowships FOR MENTAL HEALTH JOURNALISM

2007–2008

THE CARTER CENTER
Mental Health Program

“There is tremendous potential for journalists to improve the public’s understanding of mental health issues and to play a critical role in reducing stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses.”

—Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter

Rosalynn Carter has been a visible, active leader in the mental health field for more than 30 years. During the Carter presidential administration, she served as honorary chair of the President’s Commission on Mental Health from 1977-1978. Upon returning to Georgia in 1981, Mrs. Carter collaborated with the Emory University Department of Psychiatry to pursue her ongoing interest in mental health. In 1985, they organized the Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy. Each year, this event brings together national leaders in the mental health community to examine an issue of common concern.

With the inception of the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism in 1996, Mrs. Carter launched one of the most successful national programs to address the stigma associated with mental illnesses. Mrs. Carter also has been the driving force behind the Carter Center Mental Health Task Force, which provides continuity between the annual symposia and guides the activities of the Mental Health Program staff.
Journalists in all forms of media play an increasingly important role in shaping public understanding and debate about health care issues. As part of a national effort to reduce stigma and discrimination, the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism provide stipends to journalists to study a selected topic regarding mental health or mental illnesses.

Mental illnesses constitute some of the most serious, unrecognized, under-reported health problems in the United States. Despite the current health care “revolution,” mental health issues often remain shrouded in myth or mystery, perpetuating stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses, their families, and the professionals who treat them. The overall aim of the program is to improve media portrayals of mental illnesses by emphasizing the importance of accurate depictions, including focusing on the whole person and not just the illness.

The fellowship program’s goals are to:

• Increase accurate reporting on mental health issues and decrease incorrect, stereotypical information;
• Help journalists produce high-quality work that reflects an understanding of mental health issues through exposure to well-established resources in the field; and
• Develop a cadre of better-informed print and electronic journalists who can report more accurate information through media outlets and influence their peers to do the same.

Fighting the Stigma of Mental Illnesses

“One area that I became more aware of was stigma and how language can keep perpetuating stigma. I became more aware of what words I was using in my scripts and tried to remain respectful and not to continue the stigmatization. There is an incredible impact of having enlightened reporters, enlightened about mental illnesses and mental health, going into all these different news organizations around the United States. It is pretty extraordinary.”

Professional Development
Each fellow is matched with a Fellowship Advisory Board member who will
serve as a mentor and provide technical assistance and information about
complex mental health or journalism issues as well as share professional
contacts within their fields of expertise. All fellows are required to contact
their mentor three times within the first three months of
the fellowship year. Fellows also must submit a mid-year
summary of their progress that will be distributed to Mrs.
Carter, the Fellowship Advisory Board, and program
staff. Fellows are strongly encouraged to consult with
their advisory board mentors throughout the fellowship
year. In addition, fellows interact with each other and
members of the Carter Center Mental Health Task Force.

When appropriate, the program requests that fellows
conduct one training session related to mental health
and journalism for their peers during the fellowship year.
Training can be held in a variety of formats, including
brown bag lunches, seminars, or panels.

Kevin McCormack, 2004–2005 fellow, and
Advisory Board Member Ellen Mickiewicz
Stipends
Every year, six U.S. fellows are awarded stipends of $10,000 each. International fellows will receive a comparable stipend in their own currency. Stipends cover an array of expenses during the fellowship project; expenses may include travel, materials, and other incidentals.

Flexibility
Fellows enjoy a great deal of flexibility in scheduling their project work throughout the year. Fellows make two expense-paid visits to The Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga. The first occurs in September at the beginning of the fellowship year when fellows meet with their advisers, Mrs. Carter, and other fellows to discuss their project plans. The second visit comes in September at the end of the fellowship year when fellows present their completed projects and discuss challenges and successes in mental health reporting. The fellowships do not require recipients to leave their places of employment.

Joshua Wolf Shenk
1998–1999 Fellow
Author of “Lincoln’s Melancholy,”
Named One of the Best Books of 2005 by The New York Times

“The Carter Center fellowship made a fantastic difference in my career. It gave me the financial resources, the confidence, and the community support … and kept me connected to a top group of other professionals. The staff of the Carter Center Mental Health Program—and, crucially, Mrs. Carter herself—believed in my work and aided me in small ways and large.”
Marion Scher  
2005–2006 Fellow  
Freelance  
Journalist  
Johannesburg, South Africa

“Having access to so many incredible sources through The Carter Center and this fellowship has opened a whole new world of writing for me, not just on mental health but on so many issues around this subject, all helping to break the stigma of these illnesses.”

Creativity
Fellows are encouraged to select topics that are unique and creative. Projects may educate the public, raise awareness, or inform other journalists in the field. Subjects may range from a report on the use of telemedicine in mental health or a documentary on suicide prevention to a series of reports on the impact of managed care on the delivery of mental health services. The Carter Center Mental Health Program provides resources through its network of scientific, health care, education, consumer, family, provider, and government organizations and agencies.

Variety
Fellowships are tailored to suit the needs, interests, and experiences of each fellow; no two fellows will have the same experience.
The Fellowship Advisory Board

Kathryn E. Cade
The Carter Center Mental Health Task Force Liaison

Paul Jay Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry, Temple University School of Medicine
Consultant, Youth Violence and Youth Murder
Past President, American Psychiatric Association

Larry Fricks
Director, Appalachian Consulting Group
Former Director, Office of Consumer Relations, Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Mental Health

John F. Head
Fellow 1999–2000
Freelance Journalist

Kay Redfield Jamison, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Lawrence A. Kutner, Ph.D.
Co-director, Harvard Medical School Center for Mental Health and Media

Bob Meyers
President, National Press Foundation

Ellen Mickiewicz, Ph.D.
James R. Shepley Professor of Public Studies, Duke University
Director, DeWitt Wallace Center for Communications and Journalism
Duke University

Otto Wahl, Ph.D.
Director, The Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology
University of Hartford

International Advisers

Ioana Avadani
Executive Director, Center for Independent Journalism
Bucharest, Romania

Anton Harber
Caxton Professor of Journalism and Media Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Julianne Hill
2005–2006 Fellow
Freelance Writer/Producer
Chicago, Ill.

“As a freelance reporter and producer, the fellowship helped me attain access to the people about whom I wanted to tell stories—people suffering from a mental illness. It also reminded me that the most important story about mental health is the personal story, the story that touches a person who is suffering with mental health issues and their families and communities.”
Andrea Ball
Reporter
Austin American-Statesman
Austin, Tex.
Write a feature-length article that chronicles the emotional and psychological burdens surrounding a family dealing with a premature birth.

Tracy Breton
Reporter
The Providence Journal
Cranston, R.I.
Examine the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly people with mental health issues in Rhode Island, particularly in how the state is meeting the needs of its elderly residents as compared to other states and countries.

Jimmie Briggs
Freelance Journalist
New York, N.Y.
Explore the psychosocial impact of gender-based violence on female survivors of war living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

David Dent
Freelance Journalist
New York, N.Y.
Write about the mental health challenges that many Hurricane Katrina survivors encountered while moving to and forging new lives in the western United States.

Tamar Kahn
Science & Health Editor/Correspondent
Business Day
Cape Town, South Africa
Explore the impact of trauma, shift work, and organizational changes on the mental health of South African police officers, and how their mental health problems affect their families, co-workers, and the citizens they are charged to protect.
Susan Kruglinski
Senior Associate Editor
Discover magazine
New York, N.Y.
Write four feature-length profile articles on each of the following topics: a person with a mental illness who has never received treatment, a person who has received long-term treatment but remains ill, a mental health worker, and a neuroscientist.

Vida Li Sik
Features Writer
Drum magazine
Johannesburg, South Africa
Write about households headed by children as a result of HIV/AIDS and the help available to them to cope with stress and depression.

Karen Russo
Field Producer
ABC News, “Nightline”
New York, N.Y.
Produce a television piece on the state of mental health care in Ethiopia and the novel approaches that doctors are taking to care for patients with mental illnesses.

Stephanie Smith
Medical News Producer
CNN
New York, N.Y.
Through a four-part documentary, examine the mental health of children living in Oregon who have been orphaned by their parents’ methamphetamine use.

Alix Spiegel
Freelance Reporter
National Public Radio
Washington, D.C.
Document the psycho-social impact of Hurricane Katrina on the residents of the Gulf Coast through several follow-up radio stories.
Previous Fellows

2005–2006 Fellows

Karen Brown
Reporter
WFCR-FM
Northampton, Mass.
Radio documentary on the effects of mental illnesses on siblings, from growing up with a sibling with a mental illness to forging relationships as an adult

Julianne Hill
Writer/Producer
Worldwide Skur, Inc.
Chicago, Ill.
Television news series on the work done in Chicago to reduce the stigma and challenges facing individuals with mental illnesses

Ingrid Leary
Freelance Reporter and Producer
TV3 News
Auckland, New Zealand
Series of news features on living with mental illnesses in New Zealand and neighboring Pacific countries

Shandukani Mathagu
Freelance Journalist
Sibasa, South Africa
Series of radio interviews exploring the impact of the Tshivenda communicative expressions on mental illnesses in the Vhembe area of the Limpopo province of South Africa

Encarnacion Pyle
Reporter
The Columbus Dispatch
Columbus, Ohio
Articles on the differences in discrimination and stigma faced by two people in Central Ohio—one with Parkinson’s disease and another with schizophrenia

Phil Smith
Executive Producer
Spoken Features
Radio New Zealand
Wellington, New Zealand
Explore the popular belief that people with mental illnesses are dangerous, as well as investigate the treatment of mental illnesses by the New Zealand prison system

Marion Scher
Freelance Journalist
Johannesburg, South Africa
Comparison of the stigma attached to mental illness in both rural and urban areas and black and white communities in South Africa

Michelle Trudeau
Contributing Correspondent
National Public Radio
Irvine, Calif.
Series of radio stories on the psychological development and well-being of immigrant children and adolescents

Rob Waters
Freelance Journalist
Berkeley, Calif.
Series of articles on the mental health needs and problems of children in foster care and the efforts made by leaders around the country to address them

Leigh Woosley
Reporter
Tulsa World
Tulsa, Okla.
Series of articles profiling adults who function within the workplace and social settings, despite living with anxiety disorders

To learn more about all previous fellows and their projects, including classes prior to 2000, visit www.cartercenter.org.
Media outlets listed were accurate at time of fellowship.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2004–2005 Fellows</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caroline Clauss-Ehlers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freelance Writer</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Series of articles that explores the impact stigma has on access to mental health treatment, utilization of mental health services, and coping for Latino families</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tom Davis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Columnist</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metuchen, N.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Series of articles following the progress of a New Jersey program designed to divert people from the prison system and find alternative help for mentally ill inmates</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Paul Diamond</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radio New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellington, New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Produce a series of radio features on Maori-based initiatives aimed at improving Maori mental health</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kevin McCormack</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
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<tr>
<td>KRON-TV</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco, Calif.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multipart series on how families cope with mental illness and the controversy surrounding involuntary commitment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Peggy Mears</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brainchild Productions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irvine, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series of radio pieces focusing on mental illnesses in adolescents and the challenge that developmental stages and dramatic transitions present in detection and treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greg Miller</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Writer and Online News Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science magazine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blacksburg, Va.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Series of articles exploring the looming mental health crisis in the developing countries</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Claire Keeton</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Times</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Series of articles on the mental health of South Africans living with HIV/AIDS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Michelle Roberts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporter</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Oregonian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland, Ore.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Series of articles about the resiliency of children, particularly how they overcome trauma, abuse, and other mental health crises</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kathryn Strachan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freelance Writer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Series of in-depth magazine articles on deinstitutionalization programs in South Africa</td>
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<th><strong>2003–2004 Fellows</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sewell Chan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporter</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Washington Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Series of articles exploring D.C.’s efforts to build a stronger system of care for children with mental illnesses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gail Fisher</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Photo Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Times</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, Calif.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A multimedia documentary that explores how a family copes with a loved one diagnosed with a mental illness</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kevin Heldman</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Freelance Journalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The mental health concerns of the critically ill and their caretakers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Wray Herbert
Assistant Managing Editor
U.S. News & World Report
Washington, D.C.
Mental illnesses and the Americans With Disabilities Act

Virginia Holman
Freelance Journalist
Carolina Beach, N.C.
Stories of children of parents diagnosed with schizophrenia and how they have fared as a result of living with and caring for a loved one with a mental illness

2002–2003 Fellows

Jim Chipp
Photojournalist
Capital Community Newspapers, Ltd.
Lower Hutt, New Zealand
The effects of trauma, particularly in relation to the Holocaust

Noel O’Hare
Freelance Journalist
Wellington, New Zealand
Issues affecting the mental health of migrants in New Zealand

Alex Spence
Freelance Journalist
Auckland, New Zealand
The relationship between mental illnesses and poverty in New Zealand

Maura McDermott
Freelance Journalist
Bronx, N.Y.
The gaps in access to health care among young adults ages 18 to 21 with mental illnesses

Peter Klein
Producer
CBS News, “60 Minutes”
Brooklyn, N.Y.
The effects of trauma, particularly in relation to the Holocaust

Lauren McKenzie
Documentary Producer
Television New Zealand
Christchurch, New Zealand
A three-part documentary looking at the human face of workplace stress

Thomas Curwen
Deputy Editor
Los Angeles Times Book Review
Los Angeles, Calif.
The roles impulsivity and mental illnesses play in contributing to suicides in the United States

Lila Corn
Education Producer
WABC-TV
New York, N.Y.
A series of reports on school mental health services

Eugene Richards
Freelance Photographer, Filmmaker, Writer, and Teacher
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Photographic essays, educational videos, and oral histories that assess, document, and challenge the world’s discrimination against and abuse of people with mental illnesses

2001–2002 Fellows

Sandra Ackerman
Freelance Writer and Editor
Durham, N.C.
Toward a Healthy Older Brain: The Science Behind the Headlines, co-authored with Allan Tobin, Ph.D.

Edie Rubinowitz
Freelance Journalist
Cambridge, Mass.
An in-depth radio report on the mental health care system in Cuba

Shankar Vedantam
Reporter
The Washington Post
Washington, D.C.
Multiple articles, including a look at attention deficit disorder in children and what scientists have learned about the causes of schizophrenia

To learn more about all previous fellows and their projects, including classes prior to 2000, visit www.cartercenter.org.
John Francis
Founder and Publisher
TEARAWAY Magazine
Wanganui, New Zealand
Youth and mental health issues, a 12-part series in TEARAWAY

Mike Gourley
Freelance Producer
National Radio and Long White Cloud Productions
Wellington, New Zealand
Relationships between media portrayal of mental illness issues and effects on public perception

Lawrence Hott
Producer and Director
Florentine Films/Hott Productions, Inc.
Haydenville, Mass.
*Imagining Robert*, a documentary film that tells the story of two brothers, one of whom suffers from mental illness and the other who is his caretaker

Angela Mitchell
Freelance Writer and Author
Chicago, Ill.
Recent medical breakthroughs and state-of-the-art treatments for adolescent mental illnesses

Tanya Ott
Producer and Host
The Village, WUFT/WJUF-FM
Gainesville, Fla.
The state of mental health care in juvenile justice and foster care systems

William Skane
Producer, “CBS Evening News” and “CBS Sunday Morning”
Washington, D.C.
A three-part magazine series on how America’s schools cope with children’s escalating mental health needs

Jodie Snyder and Susie Steckner
Reporters
The Arizona Republic
Phoenix, Ariz.
The challenges schools and workplaces face in accommodating people with mental illnesses

2000-2001 Fellows

Monica Brady-Myerov
Reporter
WBUR-FM
Boston, Mass.
The relationship between medication and mental illnesses, with a focus on children’s mental health

Michael Isip
Executive Producer
KVIE-TV
Sacramento, Calif.
Hope on the Street, a documentary film about recovery in people who are homeless and have mental illnesses

Nell Casey
Freelance Writer
New York, N.Y.
The role of social support in depression and the experience of family caregiving

Carl Ginsburg and Helen Demeranville
Freelance Documentary Producers
New York, N.Y.
Children with mental illnesses who have been released from jail and parents raising and relinquishing a child with mental illness

Robert Landauer
Editorial Columnist
The Oregonian
Portland, Ore.
The way in which various states address the Supreme Court’s directive in its Olmstead vs. L.C. decision and an analysis of why supported employment for people with mental illnesses is not given higher priority nationwide

George Wehrfritz
Tokyo Bureau Chief
Newsweek
Tokyo, Japan
The rising impact of depression in Japan associated with indicators suggesting that there is a mental health crisis brewing there

See www.cartercenter.org for a list of fellows prior to 2000.
Eligibility
Eligible applicants must:
• Have at least three years of experience in print or electronic journalism (writing, reporting, editing, producing, filmmaking)
• Complete online profile of personal and professional information available on Carter Center Web site: www.cartercenter.org. The profile may be e-mailed to ccmhp@emory.edu, or a hard copy may be included with the application packet.
• Submit a complete application packet, including how the applicant heard about the fellowships
• Attend orientation and presentation meetings in September at the beginning and end of the fellowship year

Application Packet
No standard application form is used. The application packet must be mailed (no faxes or e-mails accepted) and must include the following:
• Resume: 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 1000 words, the following points must be addressed:
  – describe reasons for applying and how this fellowship could benefit the applicant’s body of work;
  – clearly outline the proposed project and a plan for carrying it out;

Fellowship awards will be announced on the Carter Center Web site (www.cartercenter.org) Friday, July 13, 2007, 9 a.m. EDT. Inquiries regarding the fellowships are welcome throughout the year.
– 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. Printed materials should be in the format in which they were originally published, and electronic news reports should be airchecks. Do not submit an item that cannot be replaced, as materials will not be returned.

• Letters of Recommendation*: Provide letters from two people familiar with your work, commenting on your abilities and potential as a journalist. Letters must be originals: signed and printed on letterhead.

• 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. Letters must be originals: signed and printed on letterhead.

* Letters may be included with the application packet or mailed directly to the Mental Health Program.

**Time Line**
Application packets and letters of recommendation and support for 2007–2008 fellowships must be postmarked no later than Monday, April 23, 2007. Materials postmarked 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.

**Southern African applicants should send all application materials to:**
Anton Harber
Caxton Professor of Journalism and Media Studies
University of the Witwatersrand
P Bag 3, Wits 2050
Johannesburg, South Africa
717-4053
717-4081 Fax
anton@harber.co.za

**U.S. applicants should send all application materials to:**
Rebecca G. Palpant, M.S.
Senior Program Associate
Mental Health Program
The Carter Center
One Copenhill
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307

**Inquiries:**
ccmhp@emory.edu
www.cartercenter.org
(404) 420-5165
The Carter Center appreciates the support of the following donors:

The Annenberg Foundation  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
The Charles Engelhard Foundation  
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
Walter H. and Phyllis J. Shorenstein Foundation

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter founded the not-for-profit Carter Center in 1982 in partnership with Emory University. Guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering, the Center brings people and resources together to wage peace, fight disease, and build hope worldwide.

The Carter Center Mental Health Program  
One Copenhill  
453 Freedom Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30307

ccmhp@emory.edu (404) 420-5165  
www.cartercenter.org FAX (404) 420-5158

To view projects completed under the auspices of the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism, visit www.cartercenter.org.

The Carter Center January 2007