

The David and Ginny Rosenbaum Award for Excellence in Journalism

The Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College invites applications for the 2025 **David and Ginny Rosenbaum Award for Excellence in Journalism**. This award is intended to recognize and support St. Mary's College students who have demonstrated excellence in journalism as well as those intending to pursue careers in journalism.

A Florida native, **David Rosenbaum** was an award-winning American journalist and editor with the *New York Times* (1968-2005). He was best known for the *Times* feature, *The Fine Print*, in which he exposed hidden, perplexing or hypocritical aspects of legislation that were pending or had just passed. He spent some time working for various publications such as the *St. Petersburg Times* in Florida, and *Congressional Quarterly*, before beginning his long career with the *New York Times*.

David joined the Washington bureau of the *New York Times* in 1968 and remained with that paper until his retirement. Though he served a three-year stint in the early '80s as special projects editor for the *Times* in New York, it was his career at the Washington bureau for which he was best known. While there he held a number of top positions including business editor, assistant news editor, chief economics correspondent, chief domestic policy correspondent and chief Congressional correspondent. Even those who may not readily recall his work, often remember his widely-read feature, *The Fine Print*. The popular feature exposed hidden, perplexing or hypocritical aspects of legislation that was pending or had just passed.

Rosenbaum's insightful coverage of politics, economics and government policy earned him frequent praise. "David was one of the most accomplished journalists of his generation in Washington," Philip Taubman, *New York Times'* bureau chief reported. After nearly four decades at the *New York Times* he'd become a beloved fixture at their Washington bureau. Though he retired in December of 2005, David retained his old desk and planned to continue contributing occasional articles.

Less than a month after his retirement, David Rosenbaum was robbed and beaten while taking an after-dinner walk around his upscale District of Columbia neighborhood. On January 6, 2006, he was found semiconscious on a sidewalk in the 3800 block of Gramercy Street NW. In reference to the bungled care David received after being robbed and beaten over the head with a pipe, Marcus Rosenbaum, a senior editor at National Public Radio and David's younger brother said, "everything they could have screwed up, they screwed up." Various official investigations and reviews agreed with that conclusion. David Rosenbaum's death helped focus attention on the woefully inadequate, indifferent and improper treatment offered by some D.C. paramedics and hospital emergency room workers.

David's wife of 39 years passed away just a few months after he was killed. Like her husband, "**Ginny Rosenbaum**" began her career as a journalist in Florida. She later became an influential research analyst, author and editor known for her expertise on the subjects of governance-related shareholder proposals and corporate takeover defenses.

In December of 2006, the Honorable Peter and Susan Messitte established the **David and Ginny Rosenbaum Award for Excellence in Journalism**. This award was created to honor their friends, both gifted journalists. As directed by the Messittes, the Center for the Study of Democracy administers this award on an annual basis. **The 2025 award is \$500. Applications are due Friday, February 21, 2025.**

This program is made possible through the generous support of the Honorable Peter and Susan Messitte, friends of David and Ginny Rosenbaum.

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Application

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

SMCM Year/Standing: ☐ Second Year ☐ Third Year ☐ Fourth Year

Major: _____

Minor: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____

The following items are needed to complete an application:

- A current resume and cover letter discussing the importance of the award for your professional development and how you plan to use it.
- Two (2) writing samples (minimum of 1 page, single-spaced).
- The names of two people who would recommend you for the award. Academic references are preferred.

A completed application is due by Friday, February 21, 2025. Submissions should be emailed to the Center for the Study of Democracy (democracy@smcm.edu). Oral interviews will follow as appropriate. This award will be presented to the recipient at SMCM's Awards Convocation in April 2025.