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**Madelyn Johnston of Alvernia University selected as Pennsylvania's News Fellow**

HARRISBURG, Pa., February 20, 2018 – Madelyn Johnston, a senior at Alvernia University, Reading, has been selected as the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation's 2018 News Fellow.

For the second year, the PNA Foundation has partnered with the National Newspaper Association Foundation for its sixth annual NNAF News Fellows Program. The program will be held March 14-16, 2018, in Washington, D.C. A small number of college journalists from across the country will join Johnston at the nation's capital to cover the current divisions in America and its impact on local communities. Assisted by professional mentors and veteran journalists, Fellows spend an intense two-and-a-half days interviewing experts and leaders in Washington, then return home to publish a story in their respective student publications or local newspapers.

Johnston was selected from college applicants across Pennsylvania. A communications major, with a minor in women and gender studies, Johnston is managing editor and writes for *The Alvernian* university newspaper. She has worked as a communications associate for the Jubilee USA Network and spent a semester studying media at The Washington Center.

In selecting Johnston as Pennsylvania's Fellow, judges commented, "While we received a variety of very worthy applications for this prestigious program, Mady's impassioned and finely-crafted cover letter set her apart. Her interest in informing the opinions and perspectives of young people as well as sharing what her generation's concerns and goals are, was impressive. As she moves into a journalism career, we are confident that Mady's amazing experiences in Washington will only enhance her experience and preparation."

NNAF limits the number of News Fellows to no more than eight students each year. The purpose of the program is to develop news literacy skills in young journalists by looking at issues from a community newspaper perspective. Previous issues have tackled national security, the Supreme Court and terrorism.

The PNA Foundation, through its Fellows Fund for the Future, is sponsoring Johnston's participation as part of its mission to develop the next generation of journalists. Sponsorship includes hotel accommodations, travel costs and tuition fees. Fellows will enjoy dinner at the National Press Club, with other meals and local transportation also provided.

**About PNA Foundation:**

The PNA Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation organized as a public foundation. Its mission is to provide training and resources to PNA members, to develop the next generation of readers and journalists, and to educate the public on the importance of the First Amendment and the role of a free press.

**About PNA:** The PNA, founded in 1925, is the nonprofit trade association for print and digital news media in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its mission is to advance the business interests of Pennsylvania news media organizations and to promote a free and independent press. It has more than 300 newspaper and media-related members, including daily, weekly, and college newspapers and online publications.

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