

For Immediate Release
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SABR's Negro League Committee Awards Two \$2,500 Scholarships

The Negro Leagues Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) is pleased to award \$2,500 scholarships to two graduating high school seniors as a result of its first-ever national essay contest. The winners of the inaugural contest are Chad Richardson of Lakota West High School (West Chester, Ohio), and Lewis Pollis of Cleveland Heights High School (Cleveland Hts, Ohio).

Richardson's essay was entitled "Shattering the Color Barrier." A writer for his school newspaper and a grant winner in the Ohio University Scripps Journalism Program, he intends to major in journalism at the University of Missouri. Pollis' essay was entitled "Guts Enough to Not Fight Back." Pollis was the editor in chief of his high school newspaper and is a member of the editorial board for Green Pages (the official publication of the US Green Party). He plans to major in political science at Brown University.

The contest was open only to high school seniors planning to pursue a degree at an accredited US post-secondary institution and carrying a minimum 2.5 GPA at the end of their junior year. Students had to write a 1,000-word essay answering one of the following questions: "What influence or impact did Jackie Robinson, as the first African-American to play modern day major league baseball, have on the Civil Rights movement?" OR "What are the comparative aspects of the historical breakthroughs of Jackie Robinson in baseball and Barack Obama in politics?"

John Zajc, SABR's Executive Director, said: "The Negro League Committee's activities are introducing a new generation to the rich history of baseball's Negro Leagues, the intersection of baseball and popular and social culture, and the fun of researching and analyzing the game. I wish the winners and all entrants the best of luck in their academic careers."

Larry Lester, co-chair of the Negro Leagues Committee, adds, "To the credit of our scholarship winners, Pollis and Richardson beat competitive essays from 36 states and Germany, with the will and skill often exhibited by Negro League players before Jackie Robinson."

The Society for American Baseball Research is an international, member-driven organization whose mission is to foster the study of baseball, assist in maintaining the history of the game, facilitate the dissemination of baseball research, and stimulate interest in baseball. More information is available on SABR's website at: www.sabr.org.