

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND MUSICAL THEATRE

Scholarship Catalog

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Scholarship Eligibility Requirements



This catalog provides a description of the scholarships available from the Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre as of October 2020. Descriptions include the scholarship title, donor information, basis for the scholarship, criteria for each scholarship as indicated for each specific donor. Take time to learn more about our generous donors' life and legacy.

To successfully apply for and maintain department scholarships, follow the procedures common to all scholarships found under [scholarships4kats](#).

Application Priority Deadline November 1st.

Ethel Brown Nicholson Endowed Scholarship

Ethel Brown Nicholson and her husband of 33 years, William F. Brown lived a full life, traveling around the world eight times with Bill's business as president of the European operations for Conoco. They met kings and queens and were involved many social functions. Ethel was always the perfect hostess, always dressed beautifully, and was always generous to those in need. She enjoyed golf and bridge. In 1967, they built a house in Elkins Lake, Huntsville, Texas where she lived until her death in 2012. She established several scholarships at Sam Houston State University in memory of her first husband, William Brown, and James Boseman Jr., son of her very special friends, Judy and James Bozeman.

John D. Nicholson, Sr., is her loving second husband of 34 years. This family included stepsons, John Douglas Nicholson, Jr. and Bradley Alan Nicholson, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

ETHEL BROWN NICHOLSON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP:

Full time student in good standing. Theatre or Musical Theatre majors with GPA 3.0. Financial need a consideration.

Ethel Nicholson Endowed Scholarship in Memory of James D. Bozeman, JR.

A fourth generation Houstonian, Jim Bozeman was fun loving and outgoing - - a free spirit. He played center in his ice hockey league with the finesse of a figure skater. Having attend the High School for Health Professions, he spent a summer in Honduras as a volunteer with the Amigos de las Americas program to provide inoculations for babies and children. Becoming interested in computers, he built his own clone before the term was popular. At the University of Texas at Arlington, he majored in architecture, because it offered the unique combination of art and engineering. His entrepreneurial endeavors included a construction business in Dallas and later a computer consulting business. Returning to Houston in the late '80's to assist his family trust company with computer capabilities and systems management, he was dedicated to the trust business, and became an important contributor to its growth and success. His interests were as diverse as his background. He was technically oriented, but loved art, nature (rock hunting in particular), travel and the outdoors. He also loved country and western music and was a gourmet cook. Jim faced the last two years of his life with courage, determination, and the love of his family.

ETHEL NICHOLSON SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF JAMES D. BOZEMAN, JR.:

Full time undergrad in good standing. Musical Theatre majors with GPA 3.0.

William F. Brown Scholarship

Mr. Brown attended Tulsa University where he received a master's degree in petroleum engineering. He then earned a master's degree in advanced management from M.I.T. He traveled extensively in international negotiations for Continental Oil Company before he became Chairman and Managing Director for Conoco in London, England. On retirement from Conoco Mr. Brown was Vice President of International Marketing and Manufacturing in the Eastern Hemisphere Petroleum Division. Mrs. (Brown) Nicholson and J. D. Nicholson are pleased to be able to benefit and encourage students in the Theatre Department at Sam Houston State University. This endowment is established through the generosity of Mrs. Brown Nicholson and J. D. Nicholson.

WILLIAM F. BROWN AWARD:

Theatre or Musical Theatre majors with overall GPA of 3.0.
Demonstrate financial need.

Margaret A. Conwell Memorial Musical Theatre Endowment

The endowment fund was established in memory of Margaret Ann Conwell, beloved wife and mother of the donors, and will continue to provide financial assistance to selected students who have met the criteria outlined in the "Selection Criteria" portion of this agreement. Margaret received her B.B.A. at Sam Houston State University in 1971. Theatre and Margaret shared a mutual love affair. She rekindled the cold ashes of Huntsville Community Theater. She nurtured the university's hungry and tired drama majors and they, in turn, adored her. This endowment was begun by drama alumni upon hearing of Margaret's death. She also founded the first gift shop at the Huntsville Memorial Hospital and was active in countless organizations in Huntsville.

MARGARET A. CONWELL MEMORIAL MUSICAL THEATRE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP:

Full-time undergraduate Musical Theatre Major with GPA 3.0.
4 awards: Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, Senior
Financial need is a consideration.

Erica Czerwinski Scholarship

Established in loving memory of the Donors' daughter, Erica Starr Czerwinski, who was tragically killed by a drunk driver, and will continue to provide financial assistance to selected students who have met the criteria outline din the "Selections Criteria" portion of this agreement. Erica loved life and loved the SHSU Theatre Program. She enjoyed every minute of being part of such a great program and she will always be part of the program. She loved animals and people and never refused to help anyone who asked. It is Erica's wish that the recipient of her scholarship does the same for someone else later in life if they have the chance.

ERICA CZERWINSKI SCHOLARSHIP:

Full-time undergraduate Musical Theatre or Theatre major with GPA 2.0.
Financial need.

Ruth Wynne Thomason Hollinshead Endowment in Theatre and Musical Theatre

This endowment is established in memory of Ruth Wynne Thomason Hollinshead to provide financial assistant to selected students who have met the criteria outlined in the "Selection Criteria" portion of the agreement.

RUTH WYNN THOMASON HOLLINSHEAD ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THEATRE:

Recipient must be a student in good standing majoring in Theatre with GPA 3.0.
Special consideration will be given to students with an interest in costume design.
Demonstrate financial need.

Erica Starr – Live Your Dream Memorial Theatre Endowment Scholarship

Erica loved life and loved the SHSU Theatre Program. She enjoyed every minute of being part of such a great program and she will always be part of the program. She loved animals and people and never refused to help anyone who asked. It is Erica's wish that the recipient of her scholarship does the same for someone else later in life if they have the chance.

ERICA STARR LIVE YOUR DREAM MEMORIAL THEATRE ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP:

Full-time undergraduate musical theatre major in good standing with GPA 2.0.
If in any one year there are no qualified musical theatre major applicants, then students majoring in theatre and showing an interest in the technical side of theatre (lighting, costumes, scenery, etc.) will be considered.
Demonstrate financial need.

Erica Starr Memorial Theatre Endowment Fund

This endowment is being established in memory of Erica Starr Czerwinski to provide financial assistance to selected students who have met the criteria outlined in the "Selection Process" portion of this Agreement.

ERICA STARR MEMORIAL THEATER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP:

Recipient must be a student in good standing majoring in theater and showing an interest in the technical side of theatre (lighting, costumes, scenery) with GPA 2.0.
Demonstrate some financial need.

Jim and Julee Miller Theatre Scholarship Fund

Jim Miller led the Department of Theatre and Dance for 28 years, serving first as coordinator of the theatre program and later as the chair of the department. He was the moving force in the creation and establishment of the departments extremely successful musical theatre program. His wife, Julee Miller, was member of the SHSU faculty in the Department of English and a patron of the arts.

JIM AND JULEE MILLER THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

Full-time theatre major (sophomore, junior, senior) in good standing with GPA 3.0. Financial need is a consideration.

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Glenn and Katherine Payne Theatre Scholarship

Dear Theatre Major: Welcome to Sam Houston State's Department of Theatre, which I believe is one of the best in the State of Texas, and possibly one of the best in the country in view of all the out-of-state students who come here to participate in the program. I want to wish you the very best in your endeavors, both while in school and hopefully, after your graduation, professionally in the crazy and wonderful world of theatre. My wife and I married young and promptly had five children, so after schooling we did not have the time or financial means to pursue full time work in the profession; however, we continued to follow our passion in our spare time. We worked with theatres wherever we were living, in Texas, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and Arizona, and now back in Texas. We did do some professional stints (i.e. paid work mostly in directing) but primarily semi-professional, and non-professional, and we had a summer rep company for a time in Pennsylvania. We also did some work in films. This brings me to my main reason for telling this story. If you are unable to make a living working in theatre, please don't abandon your love of the field. With your love of theatre, and its excitement, satisfaction, and, yes, its disappointments at times, lend your talent and knowledge to the groups wherever you may wind up. You will meet and acquire many, many friends, and will help improve those companies so that they will become even more valuable and productive.

In a few words, follow your dreams even if you can't do it full time. Thank you for loving theatre as did my wife and I. -Glenn M. Payne

GLENN AND KATHERINE PAYNE THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP:

Full-time undergraduate theatre major in good standing with GPA 2.5.

Theatre major in Acting/Directing track.

Financial need a consideration.

Dr. Charles A. Schmidt Drama and Dance Endowment Fund

Scholarship created to honor Dr. Schmidt's thirty-two years of service to Sam Houston State University, his generosity to countless students, his constant demands for high standards and his colorful personality.

DR. CHARLES A. SCHMIDT DRAMA AND DANCE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Student in good standing with GPA 2.0. Financial need.

Thelma Jean Barnes Townley Scholarship

Thelma Townley was born on May 22, 1930 in Blackwood, Monmouth, South Wales, to Herbert George Barnes and Hilda Rees Barnes. She became a United States Citizen in 1957. She served in the Royal English Navy from 1949-1953 and retired from Butler, Binion, Rice, Knapp and Cook Law Firm, in Houston, Texas where she was employed from 1969 – 1982. Mrs. Townley has a strong interest in world affairs, history, and philosophy. Her hobbies include reading, (her favorite author being Jane Austin), gardening, golf and knitting. She attended Lee College in Baytown, Texas receiving technical training in offset printing. She lives by and taught her children the motto: "Be the best you can be".

Charles W. Jones III '81 has over 27 years' experience in the financial services industry and has put his BBA in finance to good use. A specialist in indirect lending operations. Charles is Senior Vice President of Wachovia Dealer Services, the fifth largest automobile financial company in the nation. During his tenure with Wachovia Dealer Services Charles has strived to develop the next generation of leaders and significantly improved employee retention within the firm. He has partnered with human resources representatives, Satisfaction Power, and employee consulting firm, and that made the Dallas location one of four beta test sites in the nation for its innovative and successful employee retention program.

A dynamic philanthropist, Charles has sponsored two overseas children since 1993 as part of World Vision and, through Trains of North Park, has helped raise money in support of the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. Charles has also served as a Reading First volunteer and was nominated for the 2006 DFW Chapter Wachovia Volunteer of the year. In addition to his service to the community, Charles served on the Advisory Council for the College of Business Administration, the Executive Leadership Council for the Share the Vision capital campaign. The SHSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and is a life endowed member of the SHSU Alumni Association. He has co-sponsored the Dallas and Ft. Worth alumni reception in recent years and is a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. His philanthropy extends to SHSU with his support of athletics, the College of Business Administration, the College of Education, the Department of Theatre and Dance, the Alumni Association, and academic scholarships. Charles sponsors a scholarship at Seminole Community College in Florida and established the Charles W. Jones III Endowed Scholarship for

finance students and the Harold R. Bradley Music Scholarship at Sam Houston State. "Thanks to the opportunities given to me by the College of Business Administration, I have been able to positively impact my company and my community," he states. Charles and Lina, his wife of seventeen years, live in Frisco. Charles is a native Texas, born in Lufkin, Texas. He graduated from Houston E.L. Furr high school in 1977.

THELMA JEAN BARNES TOWNLEY SCHOLARSHIP:

Recipient must be an outstanding, full-time Theatre or Musical Theatre major in good standing with GPA 3.0.

Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Scholarship

Everitt Donald Walker, Sr. was chosen as a Distinguished Alumnus of Sam Houston State University in 1978. Mr. Walker received his B.S. Degree from Sam Houston in 1948; a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Texas in 1949; and an honorary Doctor of Laws from Southwestern University in 1976. After a colorful career as a test pilot in the United States Air Force, Mr. Walker entered the business world. During his lifetime, he marked many noteworthy achievements, having been the president and Chief Operating Officer of the twelve-campus University of Texas system, and later, Chancellor. Mr. Walker's wife, Mrs. Katy Walker, was the former Kathryn Marie Keneaster, an educator. Mrs. Walker passed away in October of 1990, and Mr. Walker's death occurred the following May. Mr. Walker was active in the Sam Houston State University's alumni activities, and made arrangements through his Last Will and Testament to bequeath this endowment to the university.

KATY AND E. DON WALKER, SR. SCHOLARSHIP:

Theatre major in good standing with GPA 3.0.

Encourages recipients after graduation to contribute back to the endowment.

The Jennifer Kathleen Weber Memorial Scholarship

This endowment is being established in memory of Jennifer Kathleen Weber to provide financial assistance to selected musical theatre students. Jenny brought humor and heart to all her work. Her first semester at SHSU as a Musical Theatre major, she was cast as Judy Turner in A Chorus Line. As one of two freshmen in the show, the bar was set high, and Jenny more than exceeded expectations. A stellar dancer, strong singer and very funny actress, Jenny embodied the idea of a triple threat. But she was much more than a talented young woman. Jenny was a good friend, castmate, and colleague - the kind of person you want to work with. Although her time on this earth was cut far too short by cancer, her impact and legacy lives on through this scholarship.

THE JENNIFER KATHLEEN WEBER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Musical Theatre major in good standing with GPA 3.0. Financial need.

The Daniel Sellers Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Musical Theatre

Dan Sellers loved life. He enjoyed being around people; he enjoyed being alone. He read all the time. He painted; he wrote; he cooked and gardened and enjoyed hunting and fishing and judo. Dan learned how to fly later in life, received his pilot's license and had a great time being in the skies. Dan was generous to a fault - usually anonymously. He wanted to be able to give without others feeling obligated. He was risk taker, a free spirit, a traveler. He served as a Peace Corp Volunteer in Afghanistan in the 1970's. He was a teacher, a parole officer, an airplane mechanic, a social worker. Dan enjoyed life's journeys. He flowed the roads that called to him as each emerged.

Although illness took its toll on Dan in the final years of his life he still maintained an interest in the arts, and critical discourse and was intensely curious and perceptive. He loved to play the Devil's advocate. He would sometimes take the most outrageous stance simply to make a point. Dan was very connected to the Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre - his significant other of 44 years was a faculty member in the department. Dan frequently came to shows presented by the Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre, and while he loved the regular plays he always tried to make it to the musicals. Dan had a wicked sense of humor and was not above laughing at himself. He loved his cats beyond all measure and took comfort in their company. Dan was a wonderful human being gone to soon. This scholarship is established in his memory so that he will be able to help future students realize their dreams.

Penelope Hasekoester (Penny) came to Sam Houston State University in 1993 as a pool faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Over the years she became a full professor and tenured faculty member of the department. Ms. Hasekoester became Chair of the Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre. Penny served as Chair for thirteen years until 2017, when she became and Associate Dean in the College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication. Penny Hasekoester and Dan Sellers had a long-time, loving relationship. They were significant others for 44 years. Penny Hasekoester created this scholarship in Dan Sellers' memory as he was an enthusiastic patron of the arts and felt strongly about helping young artists pursue their dreams.

THE DANIEL SELLERS MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN MUSICAL THEATRE:

Full time Musical Theatre major (sophomore, junior, senior) in good standing with GPA 3.0.

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Bill & Ann Stokes Scholarship

William N. Stokes, Jr. of Vernon, Texas, earned a degree from Yale University School of Law and then served as a communication officer in the U. S. Navy during World War II. After the war, he established a law practice in Dallas, but soon became involved in farm credit administration. From 1956 to 1971, he served as president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Band of Houston. Stokes wrote several reminiscences of his travels through the Big Bend region of Texas. Awarded the B.A. degree from Baylor University and the LL. B. from Yale University, William N. Stokes, Jr. was an attorney in Dallas. As counsel for the Farm Credit Administration, the Houston Bank for Cooperatives, and the Federal Land Bank of Houston, and later as president of the Houston Bank for Cooperatives and then the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Houston, he helped draft legislation and implement programs of vital importance to cooperatives. He has been closely associated with the Plains Cooperative Oil Mill since its inception.

Ann Bradshaw Stokes was a Texas actress as noted by husband Bill Stokes. Ms. Stokes was a journalist, publicist, and playwright from Dallas, Texas. She graduated from the College of Industrial Arts, 1930 (now, Texas Woman's University).

BILL & ANN STOKES SCHOLARSHIP:

Full-time Theatre or Musical Theatre major (sophomore, junior, senior) with GPA 3.0. Demonstrate financial need.

Kevin Dodson Memorial Theatre Endowed Scholarship

Kevin J. Dodson was a native Baytown. He graduated from Robert E. Lee in 1981. He graduated Cum Laude from Sam Houston State University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching with a major in Theatre and a minor in Communication Studies. Kevin's irresistible love, devotion, and enthusiasm for the Theatre resulted in many innovative contributions to the Theatre Program. Kevin was chosen to direct Children of a Lesser God in the 1984-1985 season, and he helped establish the Summer Repertory Theatre, Showstoppers, to benefit abused children, and Texas Humor Productions, all in 1985. Kevin participated in many productions, but he will be best remembered for his portrayal of Joseph in Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, his best work. There was an angel in Kevin who came to stay with us awhile. Kevin Dodson, 29, passed away on August 21, 1991.

KEVIN J. DODSON THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP:

Theatre major with an emphasis in directing.

Larry Routh Scholarship

Larry Routh graduated in 1976 with a BFA in Theatre from Sam Houston State University. Larry returned to SHSU in the role of Technical Director of the Theatre Program in January 1985. He has served SHSU in that capacity for Theatre and Musical Theatre ever since. When the Gaertner Performing Arts Center opened, he retained the TD position and added PAC Facilities Manager to his title. Larry has been integral to the success, development and continued growth of Dance, Theatre and Musical Theatre and to the establishment and organization of the new College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication. Actor, director, designer, playwright, filmmaker, technical director, mentor – Larry's contributions of time, energy and expertise resonate with SHSU alumni and throughout the university, these departments and the college. Larry Routh has been honored by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for acting and directing. He received the SHSU Staff Excellence Award in 1995. Larry Routh is an outstanding example of the SHSU motto, "The measure of a Life is its Service."

LARRY ROUTH SCHOLARSHIP:

Full-time junior or senior Design/Technology student in good standing with a GPA 3.0. Financial need considered.

NEEDS FUNDING

Thank you to our valued donors and their families. Your generosity is making a real difference in the lives of our students. Thank you for investing in their futures and providing them with the means to pursue their degrees on the way to fulfilling their dreams!

Many of our endowed scholarships rely on continued support to maintain their principal value. If you are someone who has benefitted from the generosity of others, consider giving back by contributing to one of our endowed scholarships. Visit [University Advancement](#) and click on the "Give Now" button to make a difference. Your gift can be directed to a particular department scholarship or program so that you make an impact where you desire.

Faculty and Staff can designate a portion of each paycheck to one of our endowment accounts. Visit the [We Care We Give](#) page to learn more.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Scholarship

Must be a full-time undergraduate student in good standing enrolled at SHSU.

- Must major in any program within the Department of Theatre, Department of Dance, and/or the School of Music
- Must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50
- Financial need may be a consideration, but not a determining factor
- Minimum amount of each award is \$2000.00
- Must be distributed in the following academic year (half in the fall and the remaining half in the spring semester)
- Minimum of 1 award required, but if funds permit, more can be given

Funds available for awarding \$8000.00 Special Notes to Consider:

- The Donor of this scholarship is the Division of Student Services
- The Donor's intent is to award 4 scholarships if funds are available as follows: 1 recipient should be chosen from each of the 3 performing arts departments and a 4th one selected by Mrs. Gaertner from any of 3 performing arts areas
- Mrs. Gaertner is the honoree and will participate in the selection process by selecting the 4th recipient if funds are available

Sofia Victoria Mendez Performing Arts Scholarship

Must be a full-time undergraduate student in good standing enrolled at SHSU.

- Major in any discipline within the performing arts
- Demonstrate financial need
- Demonstrate a high level of skill in their major
- Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0
- The Donors consider financial need to be the most important criteria
- Minimum of 1 award
- Must be distributed in the following academic year (half in the fall and the remaining half in the spring semester)
- Minimum amount of each award is \$1000.00
- Funds available for awarding \$1000.00

Mary S. and G. Scott McCarley Performing Arts Scholarship

Must be a full-time undergraduate in good standing enrolled at SHSU.

- Major in dance, music, music therapy, theatre, or musical theatre
- Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.50
- Financial need may be a consideration, but not a determining factor
- This is a rotating scholarship between dance, music, and theatre
- Minimum amount of each award is \$1000.00
- Must be distributed in the following academic year (half in the fall and the remaining half in the spring semester)
- Funds available for awarding \$1000.00



Apply for all of the scholarships listed in this catalog with one application! Start your application today!

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