

College
of Fine Arts

FOCUS ON
Scholarships

TCU

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ON THE COVER

Nordan Scholar Erin Johnson '16
Josh Brewster Photography

*Left: Jovane Caamaño as Everyman, Madison Calhoun as Good Deeds, and the ensemble of *Everyman*, presented by Theatre TCU.*
Amy Peterson photo

Making a
difference

One of the most pressing issues facing our nation is how to nurture the next generation of artists in the face of mounting student debt and potential economic uncertainty. Scholarships are critical for helping students and families choose an arts education at TCU and ensuring that these talented young people can realize their full potential. Our students work closely with faculty experts to expand and deepen their knowledge and gain the critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills to excel in our changing global society.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT has never been more vital to TCU and our talented and deserving students. Scholarships are the University's top priority because they enable TCU to remain accessible, attractive and competitive.

The College of Fine Arts is so grateful to our alumni, parents and friends who have made scholarship support their

philanthropic priority and for the significant impact they are having in the lives of our students. TCU donor support has done much to alleviate the financial burden our students carry upon graduation as well as to attract and retain talented students in the arts.

There are multiple opportunities for donors to merge their interests with the needs of the College. Here

are some ways you can make a meaningful philanthropic investment in TCU students:

**Establish a named
Endowed Scholarship**

A philanthropic investment in an endowed scholarship ensures that students in the College will benefit from your support in perpetuity. Donors may choose to name their scholarship in honor of a beloved faculty member, memorialize a family member, support a specific department or otherwise designate their gift in a variety of ways.

**Support the College of Fine
Arts Heritage Scholarship**

The College Heritage Scholarship Fund allows multiple donors the opportunity to contribute to an endowed scholarship fund with no minimum financial commitment. Each year the Dean can use these funds to award financial support to the most deserving students in the College.

**Make an annual gift
to student scholarship**

To designate your gift to student scholarships, visit makeagift.tcu.edu.



Meet these former Nordan Scholars in TCU's School for Classical & Contemporary Dance.



Erin Johnson '16

Currently with the Eugene Ballet Company (Eugene, OR).

BFA Ballet with General Business minor

Hometown: Colorado Springs, CO



Leah Williams '18

Leah is now performing and teaching.

BFA Modern Dance with Arts Administration minor | Deans Scholar

Hometown: Allen, TX

They came to DANCE

Why did you choose TCU?

Erin: While auditioning for universities, I always found TCU filled what other schools lacked. My professors could get to know me and work with me for all four years. I discovered that TCU pushes for versatile dancers; not only in modern and ballet, but also production, choreography, pedagogy and academic studies.

Leah: When looking for my dream college, I found TCU to be a stand out among the 11 schools where I applied. It surpassed my expectations with its friendly, beautiful and genuine environment, cultivating the perfect place for me to develop as a young artist.

How was your scholarship significant to you?

Erin: Without the aid of donors, I would have been unable to attend this respected university and unable to receive

the best possible training for my desired career. As a recipient of this scholarship, I would like to thank the Dr. L. A. and Pearl Nordan Endowment for the chance to strive toward and pursue my dreams.

Leah: I would not have been able to be at TCU without my Nordan Scholarship. It lifted my financial burden and I am eternally grateful. I was happy to have made a home at TCU, and it was solely because of the freedom the Nordan Scholarship granted me.

What are you most proud to have accomplished at TCU?

Erin: One of the highlights in my time at TCU was being able to perform George Balanchine's *Valse Fantaisie*. It was the most challenging, but most rewarding ballets I have ever rehearsed and performed.

Leah: My proudest accomplishment at

TCU was being chosen to perform at the American College Dance Association—a collegiate dance conference and adjudication – in two senior choreographic works, comprised of a satirical, eight-minute solo and a fierce, woman-empowering group number.

Did TCU faculty make a difference for you?

Erin: I am truly humbled to have been able to work with such passionate, esteemed professors, not only in the School for Classical & Contemporary Dance, but across all of TCU's campus.

Leah: The dance faculty was key. They were always open and thoughtful, their feedback on technique and artistry was exceptional, and their knowledge of the professional dance realm is priceless. ❖



“
I could not have gone to TCU without my Nordan Scholarship.
”

LEAH WILLIAMS
Nordan scholar
in modern dance



Luis Cuenca '17

Making his mark in Graphic Design

BY LEWIS GLASER | DEPARTMENT OF GRAPHIC DESIGN

A few years ago, Dean Oram, one of our part-time faculty members and Group Creative Director at the Richards Group Agency in Dallas said to us, "There's a young man I'd like you to meet. He's the son of a colleague, interested in Graphic Design."

To make a long story short, Luis Cuenca entered the scene as a high school senior. He visited TCU and immediately enrolled as a Graphic Design BFA candidate. He passed the qualifying portfolio examination with flying colors and earned a competitive scholarship that led to him becoming a Fellow of the Graphic Design Honors Society. Cuenca has received international recognition for his design work from *Graphis* Publications in Zurich, Switzerland, and served as the president of Design Focus, the Department's student organization. And he did it all while working part time to help pay the bills.

It is our pleasure to feature Luis as one of our (many) outstanding scholarship students. Luis is currently employed by the Richards Group.

Why did you choose TCU?

I always knew I wanted to stay in state; the idea of moving away from my family was not one that intrigued me. The deciding factor was finding out how much TCU's design program had been growing over the past years. After talking to many professionals in the field, they assured me that TCU was an excellent choice for both its networking opportunities and challenging, yet rewarding, graphic design program.

How was your scholarship meaningful for you?

The scholarship provided me with enough peace of mind to allow me to focus more on my studies than on my bank account. I still had to work quite a bit outside the University, but the scholarship improved the quality of my design projects due to fewer hours spent working off campus.

What are you most proud to have accomplished in your time at TCU?

I'm extremely proud of my induction into the Graphic Design Honors Society. This achievement came with challenges, but knowing that all of my hard work hadn't gone unnoticed made it all worthwhile.

How did TCU faculty make a difference for you?

I cannot express how helpful all the faculty was. Not only did they help me improve in graphic design, they also helped me grow as a person. As cheesy as it sounds, the way they pushed me helped me become more responsible and confident in my ability to deal with stressful situations. I see the Graphic Design faculty more as family members than anything else; it was never just about caring how they graded me; it was about what I learned from them. Their lessons were well worth my attendance at TCU. ♦

Doubly gifted

Violist Aubrey Fineout '17



Aubrey Fineout, a native of Coppell, Texas, decided to come to TCU because she liked the student-teacher interaction and how professors genuinely care about what they teach. She noticed how TCU students ask questions and can retain their individuality. When Aubrey won the Nordan Scholarship in music, she knew that TCU was the right school for her. Here, she says, professors have a range of interests and abilities and enjoy discussing a variety of topics. She felt that teachers want her to succeed both in and out of the classroom and after she graduated in 2017.

While pursuing two degrees, Music Performance and Creative Writing, Aubrey distinguished herself in both fields by winning a prestigious writing award at TCU and by representing our University in a viola master class in Steinway Hall, Fort Worth. Of all her accomplishments, Aubrey is proudest about getting a TCU grant that provided her with an opportunity to study British Literature in London, England. She says that the lessons she learned in London influenced her writing, her outlook on the world, and even her music.

In her spare time, Aubrey enjoys illustrating her novels, playing Celtic music with her sister, raising orchids, collecting antique stamps and learning how to play a tin whistle. Aubrey currently is an active performing artist in the DFW Metroplex. ♦



Nordan Scholar
**RUIXUE
ZHANG '17**



I am from Beijing, China, and first met Dr. Tamás Ungár when I was 13 years old and at a school affiliated with the Central Conservatory of Music. Everyone in the school knew Dr. Ungár. He visited twice a year and for him to select me from the 152 students for an individual lesson is an honor. For the next four years, I performed for him every time he resided in our school, and it was natural that I followed him to TCU.

Winning the Nordan Scholarship made it possible

for my family to afford my education. Without this support from TCU, it would not have been possible for me to study here. All the descriptions I heard about TCU became a reality for me. It is indeed an excellent environment in which to study, with lots of opportunities to perform, and wonderful, caring professors who believe in nurturing you for the music profession.

In the area of piano, winning the Music Teachers National Association's Collegiate Piano Competition in 2015 was very important.

Receiving recognition from so many teachers and fellow students as a performer was wonderful and I know it brought a lot of attention to my teacher and TCU. Academically I have learned a great deal. Combining music with other interesting subjects made me aware that there is so much to learn besides music.

Being part of TCU has helped me realize the beauty of the teaching profession. I hear from my friends at other universities that they do not find their professors so

caring and helpful. Not only do the TCU piano faculty care and support each student, but the professors give their time so that I can understand their area of expertise. TCU professors bring the best out of you, and I felt this from the very first moment I came. TCU is the right choice for my education. ♦

Ruixue is currently pursuing a Master's in Piano Performance at The Juilliard School.

Nordan
Scholar

No holding him back

The inspiring path of William Jenkins '16

BY SALLY PACKARD | SCHOOL OF ART

William Jenkins spent his early childhood in inner-city Baltimore, Maryland. As a child, William was fascinated by people’s behavior, constantly asking “why people do the things they do?” His other passion was drawing and he spent hours copying Japanese Anime. He loved comparing the differences between Japanese and American animation. But in the fifth grade, William was placed in a special education class due to his poor testing skills. “No one expected me to achieve academically,” he says. Nevertheless William was determined to attend college. When he began to

look at universities in his senior year, his father told him he could not choose one close to home because he needed to have a different cultural experience. William chose Texas and TCU. But in order to attend TCU, William had to raise his SAT scores. As a result, he spent one year after high school, commuting everyday from Maryland to a community college in Virginia in order to gain admittance to TCU. William graduated from TCU with a double major in Studio Art and Psychology and is currently a student at Southwestern College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, studying art therapy. William discovered art therapy during his last

semester at community college, when he met a classmate who told him about the field. He knew it was the perfect blend of psychology and art and that this was the career he wanted. He says the great thing about psychology is that it is part of the “real world” while art-making has the ability to relieve stress and pain for people of any age. William has succeeded in all the ways we wish for our students. He is self-motivated, with a will of steel and a generous heart. While at TCU, he volunteered at Cook Children’s Hospital, implementing an art therapy program for the young patients. One of William’s most meaningful achievements

is graduating from Texas Christian University: “Just to say I graduated from TCU with a double major makes me proud,” he says. Stay tuned for William’s next chapter. ❖

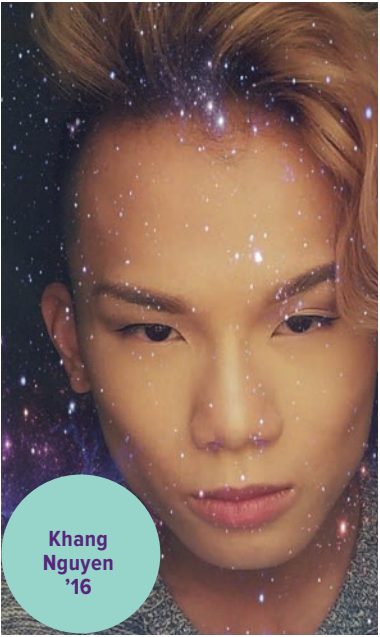
At TCU, William volunteered at Cook Children’s Hospital, implementing an art therapy program.

BY JANACE BUBONIA | DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR DESIGN & FASHION MERCHANDISING

Scholarships allow Fashion Merchandising majors to pursue their dreams



Mukamtagara
Walker-Williams
'18



Khang
Nguyen
'16

The Department of Interior Design & Fashion Merchandising has two amazing TCU Community Scholar alumni: Mukamtagara Walker-Williams and Khang Nguyen. Both of these former students were Fashion Merchandising majors and are passionate about their time at TCU.

Mukamtagara is from Desoto, Texas, and graduated from TCU in 2018. Her scholarship allowed her to be immersed in an environment that would not have been open to her without financial assistance. She said, “TCU granted me not only educational opportunities but also opportunities to be in social settings outside of my comfort zone.” Mukamtagara enjoyed her experience with professors who care about the success of their students and provide the teaching approaches and resources to be successful. Even though she found her college classes challenging she was able to find academic success at TCU.

Khang was born and raised in Ho Chi

Minh City, Vietnam, and immigrated to Fort Worth as a child. He majored in Fashion Merchandising with a Studio Art minor, graduating in 2016. Khang visited TCU when he was in middle school and felt a strong connection to the University. He saw TCU flags and billboards within the community as signs he needed to apply to TCU. Khang’s scholarship allowed him to study abroad in Italy, attain an internship with Stanley Korshak and enjoy a sense of independence because he did not have to rely on his parents for financial support. In Khang’s words, “I am most proud of my ‘chameleon-like’ ability to adjust, adapt and seize opportunities, such as becoming the executive director of Collaborative Greek Alliance, a proud brother of Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Inc. and the Undergraduate Representative of the brotherhood’s National Executive Council. My brothers accepted me wholeheartedly, loved me for who I am and provided me with an unbreakable bond that I can always lean on.”

Khang is thankful for the opportunity to have studied under some of the most inspiring and caring professors at TCU. Professor Carithers empowered him to have a passionate voice for social injustice issues and allowed him to explore topics outside his comfort zone. Khang also shared that “Dr. Reddy and Dr. Bubonia provided me with an awesome learning experience, encouraging me to be the sassy and beautiful soul that I am, so I can pursue my dream of becoming the next creative director of a fashion house.”

Both of these Fashion Merchandising majors had amazing experiences at TCU that will shape their careers and lives. They are both very thankful for the financial support of their Community Scholarships that made their dreams of attending TCU a reality. ❖

Walker-Williams is currently in a management training program with Nordstrom.

Nguyen is working towards opening his own entrepreneurial venture.

BY HARRY PARKER | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Recruiting the best

Theatre scholarships make it possible

In the performing arts, like athletics, there is heavy demand for the most talented students from across the country. Our faculty members spend countless hours each year travelling across the country (New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Dallas and Fort Worth, of course) to identify and recruit outstanding new theatre students for TCU, students who are excellent artistically, academically and have demonstrated strong character. Normally, we audition between 300-400 students for approximately 35 Theatre openings (in Acting, Musical Theatre, Design, Production and Theatre Studies) in each first-year class.

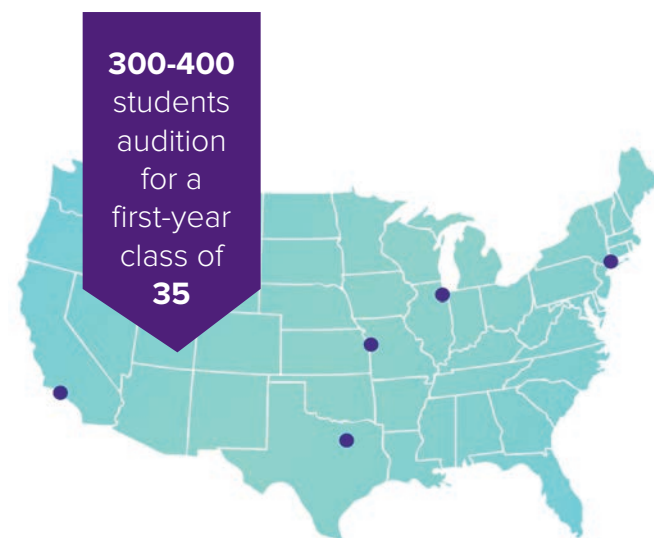
Once these talented students are identified and admitted, the next task is to ensure sufficient financial aid to enable them to choose TCU. This task requires the considerable support of scholarships and grants.

As an example, the cast of *A Day in Hollywood / A Night in the Ukraine*, Theatre TCU's opening production of the fall 2015 season, featured a cast of 16 students and had

student designers for scenery, costumes and lighting, as well as a student stage manager. Every one of the 20 students who fulfilled major production responsibilities for this show received significant financial aid from TCU. Fourteen of them received Theatre Activity Grants and 13 received Theatre Production Grants in exchange for 10 hours of work each week in scenery, costumes, lightings, props, scene painting, box office and publicity responsibilities. Additionally, there were 11 endowed and named scholarship recipients from this group, including Chancellor's Scholarships, Nordan Fine Arts Scholarships, Mary Hawn Scholarships, the Lou Miller Canter Scholarship, the Bill and Ann B. Stokes Scholarship and the Clay and Kristen Hicks First Nighters Scholarship.

Musical Theatre major Mackenna Milbourn '18 was a recipient of the Nordan Fine Arts Scholarship, as well as a Theatre Production Grant to work 10 hours per week in the Theatre TCU Costume Studio. Musical Theatre major Chandler Benzinger holds the

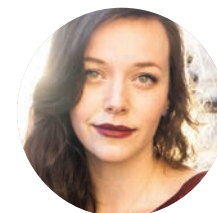
Clay and Kristen Hicks First Nighters Scholarship, as well as a Theatre Activity Grant. Kristina Vanderhout '16, a Design major who designed the show's scenery, received a Mary Hawn Scholarship and a Theatre Production Grant to work in scenic painting. Without scholarships, we could not attract and retain excellent Theatre students such as these. ❖



Each year, TCU theatre faculty members travel to New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and Kansas City to recruit talented students for the incoming class.



photos by Amy Peterson

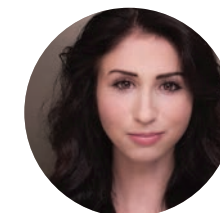


Mackenna Milbourn '18
NORDAN FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP / THEATRE PRODUCTION GRANT

Mackenna is currently a working professional actor.



Chandler Benzinger '19
CLAY AND KRISTEN HICKS FIRST NIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP / THEATRE PRODUCTION GRANT



Kristina Vanderhout '16
MARY HAWN SCHOLARSHIP / THEATRE PRODUCTION GRANT

Kristina is currently attending graduate school at UCLA.

Every one of the

20

students who fulfilled major production responsibilities on the musical *A Day in Hollywood / A Night in the Ukraine*

were supported by significant financial aid from TCU:

14 THEATRE ACTIVITY GRANTS

13 THEATRE PRODUCTION GRANTS

NORDAN FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARSHIPS

MARY HAWN SCHOLARSHIPS

LOU MILLER CANTER SCHOLARSHIP

BILL AND ANN B. STOKES SCHOLARSHIP

CLAY AND KRISTEN HICKS FIRST NIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP

TCU's Nordan Fine Arts Award

The Nordan Fine Arts Awards, established by Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Nordan in 1965, are competitive scholarships in art, graphic design, dance, music and theatre.

This endowed scholarship is open to entering freshmen of superior talent in art, graphic design, dance, music or theatre with 12 or fewer semester hours of academic credit. Selection is made by audition or portfolio. ❖

Jackie Raye '16 and Abbie Ruff '16 were named Nordan Scholars in Theatre. Both are currently working professional actors.



The Sunkel Endowment: A new window on the world

BY LORI DIEL | SCHOOL OF ART



With the support of a travel grant provided by the Sunkel Endowment, Auriel Garza (MA 2015) traveled to San Francisco to attend a conference sponsored by the International Association of Visual Culture. Auriel is currently the Educational Resources Coordinator at the Kimbell Art Museum.

TCU alumni Robert and Mary Jane Howell

Sunkel '54 '55 believed personal experience was the most valuable form of education; accordingly, they traveled the world to experience art, architecture and culture firsthand. Now deceased, the couple's vision continues through the Robert and Mary Jane Sunkel Art History Endowment. Since its establishment in 2001, grants from the endowment have supported dozens of TCU art history graduate students by underwriting travel expenses connected with research for their required theses. TCU

graduate students have traveled nationally and internationally, and report that the Sunkel's generosity had a profound effect on their education and their futures.

A recent bequest from the estate of Robert Sunkel added approximately \$1.2 million to the existing Sunkel Art History Endowment, bringing the total to \$1.5 million. The endowment has had a significant impact on the TCU art history program, enabling students to engage directly with works of art through, for example, a faculty-led graduate student trip to the Crystal Bridges Museum in Arkansas, and a five-day trip

to Mexico City, where students visited artists' studios, galleries, museums and archaeological sites such as Teotihuacan. Graduate students have used Sunkel funds to travel to Cuba, London, Zurich, Los Angeles and New York City, all in support of the theses they are now writing.

The endowment will help TCU attract the best students to Fort Worth. With generous funding provided by the Kimbell Art Foundation and TCU, as well as the Sunkel Endowment, each student admitted to TCU's MA program in Art History receives a full tuition waiver and a generous stipend, along

with continued access to the Sunkel Endowment for travel related to their theses. That doubtless would have pleased Bob Sunkel, described as "an impeccable learner" by Cathy Sunkel '74, wife of the Sunkel's nephew, David. "Through Bob and Mary Jane's generosity, many graduate students have had the opportunity to enrich their education," says Cathy Sunkel. And with the significant growth of this endowment, many students in the future, especially those who may not have been able to afford a graduate education, will continue to benefit from their generosity. ❖

**College of
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