



THE DAILY TEXAN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

For more than a century, The Daily Texan has been a critical source of information and opinion and a guiding light for the UT community.

The dedication and efforts of the Texan staff are not lost on those of us who came before you, and labored — happily, and with enthusiasm and professionalism — in our own Texan “basement.”

One of the ways the **Friends of The Daily Texan** shows its continuing support of the Texan is by creation of an **endowment** to permanently fund a scholarship grant for a Texan staffer each year. New awards are suggested and funded by members of the organization every scholarship cycle, allowing the Texan to grow as a high-impact student media publication.

In 2025, there will be 13 recipients who receive a total of \$23,500.

\$2,500

Kirk and Vicki Bohls Sports Journalism Award
A. R. “Dick” Elam Award
S. Griff Singer Award
Rene and Jimmy Wisch Award
Lynne Dobson and Greg Wooldridge
Photojournalism Award
Friends of The Texan Award Winner

\$1,500

Jerry and Becky Conn Scholarship Award
Faculty Recognition Awards (2)

\$1,000

Bill Mintz Outstanding Reporting Award
Middy Randerson Life and Arts Award
Friends of The Texan Award Finalist (2)

“Today’s student journalists stand in the same spot as previous generations of Daily Texan student journalists: anxious to learn, anxious to deliver quality coverage and anxious to fight for a free and unfettered student press. The Friends of The Daily Texan group is proud to support your efforts.”

—John Reetz, President, Friends of The Daily Texan, Inc.

Thirteen cash awards are given to students in any major at the University who has made a significant contribution working for The Daily Texan. Recipients will have an interest in news media, a minimum GPA of 2.5 and have completed two semesters on the staff of The Daily Texan. Recipients must be currently enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin. The awards will be paid in May 2025.



Scan this QR code to fill out the online application for consideration.

HOW TO APPLY

- Visit bit.ly/DTFriendsScholarships or scan the QR code to fill out the application
- Provide portfolio with three work samples of Daily Texan contributions
- One (1) letter of recommendation from within TSM
- An optional one (1) letter of recommendation from outside TSM

Application must be completed by **1 p.m., Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

The selection committee is composed of The Daily Texan Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Adviser, representatives from The Friends of The Daily Texan, and two at-large representatives from the Texan’s permanent staff. The committee is chaired by the Director for Texas Student Media, who only votes in case of a tie.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

KIRK AND VICKI BOHLS SPORTS JOURNALISM AWARD

\$2,500 cash award



Veteran Austin American-Statesman columnist and sports editor Kirk Bohls and his wife Vicki have endowed a permanent grant to fund an annual scholarship for a Daily Texan sports journalist. The \$2,500 award will be presented each year at the Friends of The Daily Texan Hall of Fame dinner and will recognize the achievements of a sports-focused staff member at The Daily Texan. Bohls said he and Vicki decided to establish the scholarship because of the importance of providing support to aspiring journalists. “Vicki and I are thrilled to play a small part in aiding journalism’s cause especially at this time in history when it’s needed more than ever to groom great reporters,” Bohls said. Bohls is currently marking his 50th year at the Austin American-Statesman and is considered one of the best and most knowledgeable sports journalists in Texas, and the country. He has been Texas Sportswriter of the Year six times. He began his career at The Daily Texan in 1971.

A. R. “DICK” ELAM AWARD

\$2,500 cash award



The Dick Elam Scholarship will be awarded annually to a staffer who has made a significant contribution to The Daily Texan and seeks a career in journalism or journalism education. Elam passed away in 2023 after a long career in journalism and journalism education. He served as editor of The Daily Texan, was a small-town newspaper owner in Texas, and taught journalism at The University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a member of the inaugural class of The Daily Texan Hall of Fame. Elam served as editor of The Daily Texan during 1949-1950, and under his leadership the newspaper won All-American honors from the Associated Collegiate Press. It was a tumultuous period, and Elam’s Texan served as a bridge to modern times by addressing issues that are still relevant

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

S. GRIFF SINGER AWARD

\$2,500 cash award



S. Griffin Singer, respected Texas journalist and beloved former UT journalism professor, has been honored with an annual scholarship to be awarded in his name to a staff member of The Daily Texan. The \$2,500 annual grant will come from Friends of The Daily Texan, Inc. Major funding for the Griff Singer scholarship comes from a \$25,000 grant from an Austin journalist and her mother, a 104-year-old former journalist. The donation is from former Daily Texan staffer and Austin journalist Jo Clifton and her mother, Loretta Diggs Pendergraft.

In addition, entrepreneur and investor Joe Phillips, a former Texan sports editor, also donated \$25,000 to the Singer Scholarship fund.

“The naming of a scholarship in Griff’s name was overdue, and we are glad to make it a reality,” the Friends board said. “He signifies the best of the UT journalism school and has positively impacted thousands of students through the decades. His professional career is outstanding and an indicator of his knowledge and work in metro and community markets. He continues giving back daily to the profession he loves.”

RENE AND JIMMY WISCH AWARD

\$2,500 cash award



The Rene and Jimmy Wisch Scholarship Award for Outstanding Reporting of the Impact of Politics on Public Policy, and therefore the everyday life and well-being of Texas citizens, is given to honor their memories and to promote development of journalistic skills that will directly impact the public good. The Wisches founded the Texas Jewish Post in 1947 on a kitchen table in their one-room, walkup apartment located on the outskirts of downtown Fort Worth. The newspaper continues to publish a print and online weekly edition at www.tjpnews.com of vibrant journalism that serves the Jewish communities of the Metroplex. The Texas Jewish Post was very much a family newspaper. Rene and Jimmy had five children, four daughters, and their son, Steve, who worked on The Daily Texan during his college years. Receipt of this award-scholarship recognizes outstanding achievement in news reporting, analysis and/or profile writing that offers readers a keener understanding of the impact of politics on public policy. Rene and Jimmy Wisch spent a lifetime writing about the issues of their day and the impact of politics on local, state and national policy. This award seeks to encourage student journalists to hone their skills to provide readers with insight into how politics affects their daily lives.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

LYNNE DOBSON AND GREG WOOLDRIDGE PHOTOJOURNALISM AWARD

\$2,500 cash award



Austin residents Lynne Dobson and Greg Wooldridge have funded a grant which will provide an annual scholarship to a photojournalist at The Daily Texan. Dobson, who moved to Austin in the 1970s, worked as a photographer at The Daily Texan. A graduate of UT Austin in 1979, she had a 25-year career as an award-winning photojournalist for newspapers in Ohio, California and Texas, including the Austin American-Statesman. She met her husband, a sportswriter, at a small newspaper in the San Francisco East Bay area and they began a collaboration that continues to this day. Dobson and Wooldridge have more than 50 years of journalism experience between them in newsrooms across the country, including the Austin American-Statesman in the late 80s through 2002, where Lynne was a staff photographer and Greg was a sports and features editor. They also worked in the Dobson family business, Whataburger Restaurants, for many years in community and non-profit outreach, communications and public relations. Lynne is a 1979 honors graduate of the School of Journalism at the University of Texas College of Communication, worked as a Texan staff photographer and was inducted into the 2023 Daily Texan Hall of Fame. Lynne and Greg believe in hands-on philanthropy and collaborating with organizations' leaders and recipients. This led to the creation of Tejemos Foundation in early 2020, which first provided COVID and hunger relief, crisis healthcare and educational support.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAN AWARDS

\$2,500 cash award (winner)

\$1,000 cash award (2 finalists)



The \$2,500 Friends of The Daily Texan Award, plus two runner-up grants of each are sponsored by Friends of The Daily Texan. The Friends of The Daily Texan is an association for alumni of The Daily Texan and others interested in promoting the publication's long-term sustainability as a site of student press innovation. Through mentorship, fundraising, networking and public education, Friends of The Daily Texan works alongside current Texan staffers to continue the publication's rich tradition of journalistic excellence. It is a non-profit organization formed in the spring of 2013 by a group of alumni concerned about the Texan's future. The newspaper was struggling for survival, and a threat to cut print production days of The Daily Texan galvanized hundreds of alumni into creating a group that would not only raise money for the Texan, but establish alumni as prominent advocates and valuable resources. Today the Texan faces the same challenges mainstream media faces, but it faces those challenges with guidance from Moody, an energized TSM management and the supportive Friends of The Daily Texan group. As in previous decades, The Texan remains the leader in the world of student media, working to build a successful future to carry that paper through its second 100 years.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

JERRY AND BECKY CONN AWARD

\$1,500 cash award



An Austin couple who met more than 60 years ago as staffers on The Daily Texan has established an annual cash award for present-day staffers. With their gift to the University, the couple established the Jerry and Becky Conn Daily Texan Scholarship Fund to be awarded annually in perpetuity. The couple said their gift came from two separate intentions: To combat ignorance and commemorate the Texan. For them, the Texan provides “great practice and learning experiences that include the highest standards of American journalism.” Jerry was walking back to the Sigma Chi House after a wrestling class in Gregory Gym and dropped by the Texan office just to visit. Becky (Reynolds), an officer in student government, dropped in after a committee meeting discussing banning alcohol at parties. They got into a lively discussion of that issue as strangers. They were married a year and a half later. Becky was awarded a Jesse H. Jones Scholarship at UT. A native of Portland, Oregon, she graduated from high school in San Jose, Costa Rica. Jerry, a native of Beaumont, worked during college summers on the Beaumont Enterprise and the San Angelo Standard-Times. Upon graduation, he worked for The Associated Press during a session of the legislature before going into the Army.

THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM & MEDIA FACULTY RECOGNITION AWARDS

\$1,500 each (2)



Jean-Marc Bouju



John McConnico

The Faculty Recognition Award is a cash award designed to honor the extraordinary efforts of outstanding faculty and Texan staffers who have made significant contributions working for The Daily Texan in spite of financial hardship. This is made possible by award-winning photojournalists **John McConnico** of Texas and **Jean-Marc Bouju** of France, both former Daily Texan staffers. The awards are intended to encourage young people to choose careers in journalism to continue the Texan’s tradition of creating truth seekers and storytellers, just as the newspaper has since 1900. The awards should go to the staff members who are in the most need and whose lives may change because of what they experienced at the newspaper. Students eligible for the Faculty Recognition Award can major in any degree-conferring college at the University.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

BILL MINTZ AWARD

\$1,000 cash award



The Bill Mintz Award for Outstanding Reporting on the Converging Issues of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change will recognize reporting that explores and confronts the urgency of the world — and the University of Texas — trying to deal with the unprecedented dangers ahead due to profound environmental and climate changes already underway. The reporting will cover the big-picture, world-wide issues from a perspective that sheds light on action, and local, state and national steps that can help forestall the recent “delay means death” warning of the U.N. Secretary General. Of additional interest would be the University’s role in educating students and providing guidance and information through research and policies. The reporting would explore the political and economic challenges and realities of bringing about change and cover both the success stories and failures. Sustainable living, and how individuals can make a difference would be one key area of interest.

MIDDY RANDERSON LIFE AND ARTS AWARD

\$1,000 cash award



The Middy Randerson Scholarship will underwrite coverage of entertainment, the arts and lifestyle trends that go beyond daily reporting. The stories will call attention to people and developments in these fields that readers need to know about. The scholarship honors an arts and entertainment writer and editor at The Daily Texan in the late 1960s and early 1970s who was steadfast in her devotion to her work and to her friends. Middy, who died in February 2020, set a fine example for the students who will receive the scholarship bearing her name. She took joy in her work, and her enthusiasm was contagious. Although she was officially the leader of the Texan’s arts and entertainment staff, Middy was not a woman to be pigeon-holed, and she was quick to jump in whenever an all-hands-on-deck approach might be necessary. For instance, in the spring of 1970, Middy was one of a group of Texan reporters who hustled to the Houston headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to cover developments in the potentially life-threatening flight of Apollo 13. She kept — and displayed — her NASA press credentials from that assignment for the rest of her life. The grant for this scholarship comes from John Pope, a Daily Texan colleague and friend of Middy’s.