

# The NEW THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP GUILD

June 2025

## *The New Theatre Scholarship Guild Annual Event*

This year, the New Theatre Scholarship Guild's annual event truly met the theme: "A Night to Remember – Titanic Dinner Party." Held at the elegant Milburn Country Club, the evening transported guests back to the grandeur of the RMS Titanic. Stepping into the role of Captain John Smith, Richard "Buzz" Herman welcomed attendees aboard with a glass of champagne and the promise of an unforgettable voyage.

The night featured a sumptuous five-course dinner inspired by the Titanic's menu. Talented professional students from the UMKC Conservatory—Peter Grebenyuk, Andrew Voggesser, Jacob Bross, and violinist Dmitrii Tulupov—provided entertainment.

Guests browsed the auction room, which included many desirable items. The event culminated in a thrilling raffle prize: a ride in a WWII-era 1940 Stearman biplane piloted by board member John Wittenborn.

More than an elegant evening, the event continued with the Guild's mission of supporting the Scholarship Program. The Guild proudly awards \$3,500 scholarships to each of seventeen aspiring performing arts students from UMKC, KU, UCM, and K-State.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our generous supporters. Your continued contributions help shape the future of the performing arts—one student at a time.



Richard Herman, stepping into the role of Captain John Smith



A Night to Remember - an evening themed after the RMS Titanic



UMKC Conservatory students—Peter Grebenyuk, Andrew Voggesser, Jacob Bross



UMKC Conservatory violinist Dmitrii Tulupov



## More Photos from A Night to Remember



Auction Committee: Deb Speight, Jenny Tritt, Jean Svoren, Chille Powers, David Wiley, Melissa Cooper, Kathy Klosterman, Kelly Wilcox



Kelly Campbell, Marylou Turner, Linda Stevens



Kelly Wilcox, Ed See, Board Member, Melissa Cooper



Julia bought this lovely coat at the auction



Marilyn Thompson and Judy Horn



Sue Forbes, Patty Bibbler

## A Season of Giving, A Future in Bloom

In May, a small number of the New Theatre Scholarship Guild board members navigated the halls of UCM and KU, not as mere attendees of banquets but as messengers of opportunity, with a Guild Scholarship for five performing arts students in each university.

Each scholarship, a carefully considered \$3,500 investment, represented more than just financial aid. It embodied belief in the five promising students' talent, dedication, and potential. Presenting those awards felt like planting seeds in fertile ground. It was a privilege to participate in their journey, to play a small part in nurturing the future of theatre, and to experience firsthand the tangible impact of the Guild's commitment.

We can only hope these seeds blossom into extraordinary performances, enriching our world with the power of storytelling.

*Seth McClintock, President*



KU Students: Sean Ingram, Penny Gamm NTSG, Sergio Alicea Roman, Kitty Corum, Casey Schenk, Jackie Stokes NTSG, not in picture, Natlie Loftus



UCM Students: Reagan Medlock, John Plasencio, Richard Herman NTSG, Seth McClintock NTSG, Kat Klostermann NTSG, Trae Selemaea, Hannah Vath

## Behind the Curtain: Secrets, Spotlight & Stage Magic Revealed

On the evening of February 10, members of the New Theatre Scholarship Guild were treated to a rare insider experience that pulled back the curtain on the theatrical magic of the New Theatre & Restaurant. If you missed it—you missed more than an event. You missed a masterclass in behind-the-scenes brilliance.

In a candid and engaging talk, Todd Lanker, Associate Director of the New Theatre & Restaurant, shared a personal journey through his diverse career path, highlighting how each role shaped his leadership today. He offered a glimpse into the often-tense moments that occur offstage to ensure the performance never falters. Todd reflected on his work, "My work, onstage and off, has been guided by a passion for reinvesting in known stories to uncover and rediscover the human truth obscured by familiarity."

But the evening didn't stop at words—it lit up. Literally.

Melissa Legg, the theatre's brilliant Master Electrician, led an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour, where she unveiled the artistry and precision behind the lighting board. With a dazzling demo of the lighting system's power, she revealed how every mood, shift, and spotlight during a show is meticulously crafted under her command.

Audiences often applaud what they see on stage, but this event spotlighted the unsung heroes like Todd and Melissa—those whose artistry behind the scenes brings every performance to life.

For those who attended, it was an unforgettable journey into the heart of the theatre. For those who didn't—let's just say, you missed more than just a talk.

Watch for the Meet & Greet Sessions for the upcoming season!



Todd Lanker & Melissa Legg



**CLUE**

*Directed by Jerry Jay Cranford*

## WHO DUN IT? This dress rehearsal is a must see!

*Thursday, June 26, 2025 - All dress rehearsals begin at 1:30 P.M.*

Who could the murderer be? Professor Plum with the lead pipe, Mrs. Peacock with the candlestick, or Colonel Mustard with the revolver? Murder, blackmail, and hilarious twists & turns will draw the audience into a murder case filled with non-stop laughs!

Doors open at 1 p.m. Reserve your tickets online at [www.tntguild.org](http://www.tntguild.org)!



# The NEW THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP GUILD

9229 Foster St., Overland Park, KS 66212

**2025-26**

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Miller

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Margo Miller

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Jackie Stokes

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Lora Smith

#### **Scholarship**

Richard (Buzz) Herman

#### **Scholarship Liaisons**

**KSU** - Jerry Ogden

**KU** - Penny Gamm

**UCM** - Ed See

**UMKC** - Caryn Hastings

## *Photos from the Annual Event*



John Wittenborn



Nancy Greenlee, Jackie Stokes, Lora Smith, Kelly Wilcox



Jennifer Westphal Lisa Morris, Kim Maxon, Nancy Greenlee, Darlene Gibson, Julie Lenz, Sally and Doug Burton

*See more inside. . .*

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