



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Moody College of Communication**

**Office of  
Undergraduate Education**

300 W. Dean Keeton, A0900  
Austin, Texas 78712-1069  
512-471-1553  
moody.utexas.edu

September 13, 2019

Ms. Deborah W. Buks

Dear Ms. Buks,

The Moody College of Communication of The University of Texas at Austin thanks you for your continued support of our outstanding students through the Ward Creative Communications, Inc. Scholarship.

Enclosed is a letter of appreciation from the 2019-2020 recipient. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (512) 471-1553.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Bernstein, Ed.D.  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education  
Moody College of Communication

Alexa Jones

June 22, 2019

Ms. Deborah Buks  
616 W 19th Street  
Houston, TX 77008

Dear Ms. Buks,

My name is Alexa Jones and I wanted to offer you my sincerest thanks for making it possible for me to receive the Ward Creative Communications, Inc. Scholarship. I also wanted to emphasize my appreciation of your commitment to the Radio-Television-Film Department, as it has given me many opportunities in the field of film.

I personally became interested in directing film after taking Britta Hanson's "Narrative Strategies" course, which delved into techniques as well as the ideological aspects of filmmaking, such as feminist theory and queer representation. Besides my focus in film, my freshman year illuminated a variety of pathways that grabbed my interest. For example, after testifying at the Texas Capitol, I noticed the correlation government has with film. In order to shoot on certain locations, government approved permits are needed. The taxation rate on equipment is determined by both the state and federal government. In every facet of production, the government determines location, budgetary, and many other potential restrictions. After realizing the governmental role in film, I decided that I wanted to take more courses in the Government major on top of my Radio-Television-Film one. Within the semester, I have committed to a Government and Radio-Television-Film double-major with a Chinese minor in the hopes of increasing my already existing literacy in Chinese and understanding my rights as a filmmaker, as well as advocating for others in the film industry who may not be fully aware of their legal standing.

When I am not devoting my time to my classes, however, I am involved with UT's local theatre programs and thriving drag scene. Specifically, I work as a costume designer for the University Theatre Guild's productions, which include the shows *Maelstrom*, *Anatomies*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. These particular shows involved roughly one hundred hours of work each due to time period research, early draft designs, final designs, sewing and shopping for potential costumes, and tech week fittings and retouching. In addition, my nights are spent downtown performing in drag competitions at Oilcan Harry's, a local gay dance club that hosts open mic night style performances for the Austin community. Going to Oilcan Harry's has been an incredible experience, as it has shown me a different side of Austin that is devoted to the LGBTQ+ community. In my short time in Austin's gay scene, I have met an incredible set of people, such as Devon Scott, who creates amazing makeup impersonations of celebrities such as Elvira, Biche LaMousse, who edits and creates hilariously comedic videos to aid in her drag performances, and Celia Light, who is my age and currently hosts a drag show called *Drag on the Drag* at the Dobie Apartments in order to help local drag talent. All of these individuals and more helped me hone my ambitions while also being involved in a loving and accepting environment.

This scholarship has aided me significantly because it has given me the financial support I need to continue my schooling. More specifically, because of my busy schedule and course load, I will need to take summer school on top of being a full time student in the fall. Ideally, I want to use the scholarship towards studying in a Beijing affiliate program in order to take both advanced Chinese and government courses. Due to overseas travel being rather expensive in the summer, this scholarship has been absolutely vital so I can graduate on time while also being involved in a multitude of activities. Words cannot express my gratitude, but thank you so much for this opportunity. I promise I won't let it be wasted in the slightest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexa Jones', written over a horizontal line.

Alexa Jones