



[www.allstardancecamp.net](http://www.allstardancecamp.net)

## The Ron Montez Youth Scholarship Program

*by Elizabeth Edwards, Scholarship Committee Chair*

The Ron Montez Youth Scholarship Program (RMYSP) was established in 2021 as a memorial to a special dance instructor at All Star Dance Camp. Due to Ron's enthusiasm for teaching young people, it was decided this was how he would choose to be remembered.

The RMYSP is a special project of the Jackson (TN) Ballroom Dance Club. The scholarship committee consists of Elizabeth Edwards, chair; Caren Vitell and Kem Overby.



In addition to memorials for Ron, many campers have chosen to make donations to honor or in memory of other campers.

Each year, two generous instructors donate a private lesson to be raffled off on Sunday night. This year, the instructors are Missy Lindsey and Phillip Farley. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and will be available near the camp desk on Sunday afternoon and evening.

New this year: we'll also be raffling off a custom quilt made by Sharon Davenport, beautifully crafted from camp T-shirts. Tickets for the quilt raffle are \$10.00 each.

The scholarship program has grown, over the past few years:

- 2022 - one scholarship awarded
- 2023 - three scholarships awarded
- 2024 - four scholarships awarded
- 2025 - seven scholarships awarded

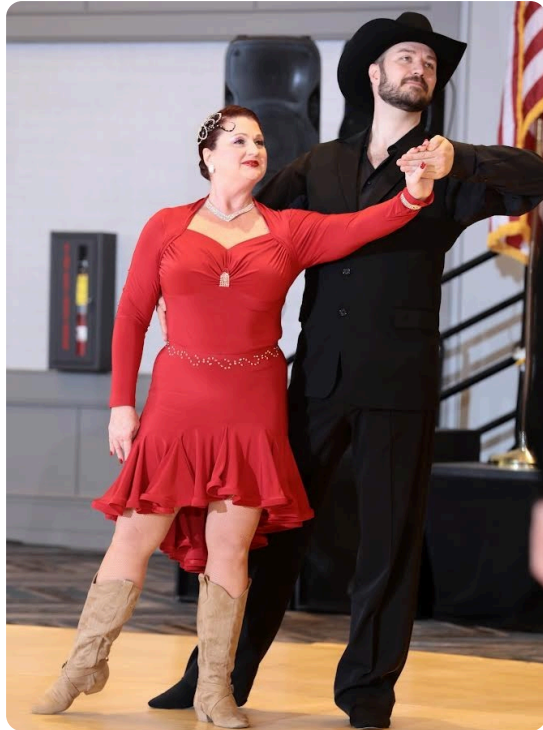
We'd like to give special recognition to John and Patsy Wilson, former owners of Dance Shoes of Tennessee, who have given two of the scholarships in 2023,

2024 and 2025.

A total of seven delightful young adults will receive full or partial scholarships this year. Keep reading, below, to learn about our scholarship winners for this year!

## **Dance Teachers Donating a Private Lesson for the RMYS Fund**

Don't forget to purchase raffle tickets at the Sunday Evening Welcome Party. Each ticket costs \$5.00 and if your ticket is drawn you win a private lesson.



*Missy Lindsey with her pro partner,  
Jason Barnes.*



*Phillip Farley*

## **2025 Scholarship Winners**



### **Avis Wallace**

Avis Wallace is a member of the Ballroom Dance Club at Mississippi State. She has been such a highly motivated and quick learner that her instructor hopes to see her in a leadership position with the club. She competed at the Heart of Dixie Ballroom Challenge in Birmingham after only a few months of lessons.



## Ethan Killough

Ethan Killough is Cameron Stevens' student at The Dance Studio of Tupelo. Last October they won first place for their swing to "Blue Suede Shoes" at Dancing With the King. This will be his first time attending All Star Dance Camp. He became interested in Ballroom Dancing through his cousin, Lexie, another of Cameron's students. He found that he loved to dance and that he has a natural affinity for it.



## Kendall Ward

Kendall Ward has been dancing at Dueta Dance for three years. She is a dedicated student of Spenser and Miah Thompson. She has developed special workouts targeted towards improving her dance skills and is thrilled to be able to continue improving her dance skills at camp.



## Kevin Rico

Kevin Rico was introduced to ballroom dancing while he was a student at the University of Mississippi. He has recently graduated and is a first-year teacher at Houston High School, where he is the core music director. After moving to Tupelo, he began dancing at The Dance Studio as well as continuing to attend the Ole Miss Ballroom Dance Club parties.





## Mariana Rivas Varela

Mariana Rivas Varela began taking dance lessons at age 5. She studied tap, jazz and ballet in her hometown of Guanajuato, Mexico. She moved to the US before High School and eventually landed at the University of Texas at Austin, where she was introduced to competitive ballroom dance. She comes highly recommended by her instructor at the University, where she has participated and competed with Texas Ballroom. Benjamin Prior has partnered with

Mariana in amateur couple ballroom competitions. He is anxious for her to experience the social side of ballroom dancing and the fun one can have dancing for pure joy.

## Michelle Hedrick

Michelle Hedrick comes highly recommended by the faculty advisor for the Mississippi State University Ballroom Dance Club. Michelle learns the leader's as well as the follower's part of each dance they learn. Despite being a graduate student, Michelle is dedicated to learning more and regularly travels to Tupelo for the Dance Studio's Friday night class and dance.



## Zack Amsellem

Zack Amsellem is from Swannanoa, North Carolina. He was voted "Star Camper" his very first year attending camp, which was just a few years ago. Zack is a rising Senior in High School and plays in the band. Zack has a real love for music, movement and dance that you will find is infectious, if you have the opportunity to dance with him.





# Sunday Dance Party Theme

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***“Destination Danceland”*** On Sunday night, our journey begins! Let's pack our enthusiasm, embrace the journey, and get ready to dance, dance, dance! We'll reunite with old friends, welcome new ones, and step into this unforgettable dance adventure together. The camp staff and pros will be introduced and we will celebrate campers who have attended for five, ten, and fifteen years! Please note that there is no meal at this party, so be sure to eat beforehand. Attire is dance party casual.



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## Never Miss A Beat!

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If you've missed any of our newsletters, they are all available on our website by clicking [here](#).

You can also access key information by clicking the associated links.

[Class Schedule](#)

[Party Schedule](#)

[What to Wear](#)

[Things to do Before Camp](#)

[Things to Know About Classes](#)

[When You Arrive](#)

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## Comments? Questions?

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# About All Star Dance Camp



All Star Dance Camp is the best ballroom dance vacation! Dancers of all ages and abilities gather in Philadelphia, MS at [Pearl River Resort](#).

In addition to a welcome party on Sunday evening, camp features four full days of classes with dinner and dance parties every evening. As always, National Champions Jim & Jenell Maranto will be headlining camp. All Star Dance Camp offers seven or more classes daily and opportunities to take private coaching with all our great camp staff members. Campers can choose their own classes and class levels. Class levels include Beginning, Intermediate and Full Bronze as well as Silver levels.

Camp tuition includes classes, dinner Monday - Thursday and dance parties each evening. Call Jill at (662) 213-0504 to register.

## All Star Dance Camp

June 8-13, 2025

[allstardancecamp.net](http://allstardancecamp.net)

Call Jill at (662) 213-0504 for registration.

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