

KATHLEEN HOOD PRIZE



for ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*Class of 2015*

*Presented by The Sunset High School Alumni Association  
Sunset High School • Dallas, Texas*

*“We cannot always build the  
future for our youth, but we can  
build our youth for the future.”*

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

## WAYMAN KATHLEEN BLYTHE HOOD

---

Wayman Kathleen Blythe Hood was born on August 8, 1903 in Kemp, Texas. She earned a bachelor's and four master's degrees before spending 35 years teaching English in the Dallas public schools. Most of these years she taught at Sunset. She retired in 1973 and died in 1974. The respect and affection of her students are captured in this remembrance from the 1974 Sundial:



She ascended to her desk on the platform, her very presence commanding silence from her pupils.

The class would fidget nervously as she began to explain what would be expected of them in the coming semester.

Muffled moans arose from the students when they realized they would be expected to complete what seemed like three years' worth of assignments in less than four months.

Students plunged into her class like beginners in the cold depths of a large swimming pool. A few sank, but most swam. I was a swimmer, as were the thousands of students who passed through the portals of Kathleen Hood's English classes for the past 35 years.

Few of us can remember what a split infinitive is ... but can tell you the name of Elizabeth Browning's pet dog.

She would draw from her classes everything from blood to that inevitable Senior Theme, and ultimately respect and love.

She was the picture of dignity, a true lady.

# WAYMAN KATHLEEN BLYTHE HOOD

---

Pupils would turn in the countless required themes with a good deal of reserve. Nobody was ever sure of how they would be received. But if they never saw it, she was proud of her students.

Those who talked to her after her retirement last spring found she didn't like being dormant. She began to china paint, a hobby she had when she was a young girl. All but one of the pieces she did as a girl were destroyed by fire. The remaining piece, a plate, was one treasured much more than the four master's degrees she held. The degrees were kept turned face down against the wall in her garage.

She hated to have her picture taken. She would cut herself out of group shots. She did keep all her post cards, letters, and Christmas cards from many years back. She loved her students as much as they loved her.

She touched many kids, changed many of their lives, and enchanted them with the success stories she told of her former students. We all secretly dreamed of having her tell one of her classes about us and of coming back after graduation to disrupt her afternoon classes.

She not only taught us about participles and James Joyce, but about life. We learned of life during the war, a once in a lifetime love, and about that amazing English teacher ... Mrs. Kathleen Hood.

— Kathleen Carroll  
Sunset Class of 1973

## WAYMAN KATHLEEN BLYTHE HOOD

---

Her dedication to teaching, to her students and to Sunset are best expressed in her own words upon her retirement:



The only business of the home and the school is to fit youth for citizenship, to help them to organize their resources to encourage them to develop their potential, to direct their powers of conduct, and to prepare them for their social and physical world. To these ends the faculty of Sunset High School takes pride in being privileged to have a part in sharing experiences with the student members of our school community, in sharing the rewards of jobs well done.

Upon considering my personal association with the profession of teaching in the secondary schools, I look upon my experiences at Sunset as the pleasant as well as the most rewarding. Teacher-student relationship has been a very happy one, many students becoming fast friends over the years; teacher-faculty relationships have also been pleasant, binding me to some few with emotions too deep for adequate expression. Both students and teachers have with their understanding, friendliness, and helpfulness made my sojourn in this our school one of joyous regret that my career is fast approaching a climax.

I feel, as all of us Bisons must, a sincere loyalty to our school, to the administrative staff who directs it, to the executive branch at 3700 Ross Avenue, who guides its curricula, and to the marvelous alumni who carry the name of Sunset High School into every nook of the universe. We definitely have fulfilled a preparative need in the world - else our students could not have succeeded so well; consequently we feel proud indeed to be a part of any success which leads its aura to those whom we claim, to those without whom we would be only second class.

May the best be the reward of each as he approaches the end of another school year, and may we end the year with a better understanding of the human needs of those about us, remembering always that *"the measure of a man is man himself."*

Sincerest regards,  
Kathleen Hood  
*English Department*

## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND THE KATHLEEN HOOD PRIZE

---

### *Mission Statement*

The Sunset High School Alumni Association was created in 2000. We exist to preserve Sunset's place as a significant educational and social place in northern and western Oak Cliff while recognizing achievements through its students, graduates, faculty and staff. We exist to ensure an ongoing pride in attendance at Sunset High School and to celebrate its place in the growth of Dallas. We continue to preserve and ensure ongoing academic, social and athletic opportunities while developing funding for scholarships and unique co-curricular activities.

### *The Kathleen Hood Prizes*

The Kathleen Hood Prizes for Academic Excellence were instituted by the Sunset High School Alumni Association to honor an outstanding teacher who for over 35 years educated, guided and inspired her students with high expectations and love of learning. Each year four cash prizes are awarded to the outstanding graduating seniors in Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics as selected by the Sunset faculty. The winners may use the prize money to fund education beyond high school.

The Prizes are funded through an endowment established by Ronald T. Luke, JD, PhD, Sunset Class of 1967, who was one of the students Ms. Hood inspired. With her help and encouragement he was the first in his family to attend college, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard and the University of Texas School of Law.

By annually awarding the Kathleen Hood Prizes for Academic Excellence we honor Ms. Hood and we honor *“the student members of our school community, in sharing the rewards of jobs well done.”* These graduating seniors will soon be Sunset High School alumni whom we hope will continue their education and will be what she described as *“the marvelous alumni who carry the name of Sunset High School into every nook of the universe.”* She would, we think, encourage the prize winners to be of the same mind as Tennyson's Ulysses: *“To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.”*



*Prize Recipients*

2015

K'Anna Jewel Poleon • Humanities

Margarita Hernandez-Sanchez • Mathematics

Alexis Chavez • Natural Sciences

Jacqueline Navarro • Social Sciences

*The Sunset High School Alumni Association*  
*Sunset High School*  
*Dallas, Texas*

Design by Pinsonnault Creative  
Printed by Aus-Tex Printing & Mailing  
Printed in USA