

# callboard

A Publication of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for Alumni, Students and Friends

## Commencement 2010

Trading in traditional caps and gowns for costumes and clown noses, 123 high school graduates and 187 college graduates culminated their careers at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts on May 29, with a pair of commencement ceremonies befitting their alma mater.

At the high school graduation, actor, play-wright and screenwriter **Angus MacLachlan '76/'80 (Visual Arts/Drama)** told the new graduates that the experience they've had as students at the School of the Arts will benefit them for the rest of their lives.



Angus MacLachlan

"You'll know what rehearsing, and risking, and sweating, and failing, and succeeding is in the arts," he said. "That's what this school is about. Should be about. Not success or fame or singing loudly with a lot of melismas on TV. But about

the danger and fear and beauty and entertainment and humor – and skill – that makes art. It's sometimes listening quietly, girding your loins, and jumping. Truly risking. And it never gets easy."

At the ceremony for the college graduates, **Peter Bogdanovich**, the legendary director, actor and film historian who recently completed his first semester on the UNCSA faculty, delivered a commencement address in which he frequently broke into impersonations, sharing the advice he'd received throughout his illustrious career.

From Alfred Hitchcock, he learned not to take a second drink if it's offered. From John Ford, he learned

to say "it's terrific" if asked for his opinion. From Cary Grant, he learned that "nobody loves a lover." But perhaps Bogdanovich's greatest advice came by way of Jimmy Stewart, who tried to describe what makes movies "so memorable and so intoxicating." "What you're doing is giving people little tiny pieces of time that they never forget," Bogdanovich said in a near-perfect Stewart characterization as he turned to the new graduates. "That goes for what you're doing."



Peter Bogdanovich

At each ceremony, when **Chancellor John Maueri** called for the diplomas, a flurry of colorful balloons suddenly rose from the Stevens Center's orchestra pit,

carrying a cardboard cutout of a house – chased by a man with a white beard and dark-rimmed glasses, much like Carl Fredricksen from Disney-Pixar's Oscar-winning animated film *Up*. **Dr. Rick Miller**, dean of university programs at UNCSA, then removed his guise and donned an academic robe, joining high school academic dean **Jill Lane** to call out the names of the graduates.



Dr. Rick Miller as Carl Fredricksen from *Up*

Pictures and more information from the Commencement ceremonies can be found at:  
[www.uncsa.edu/visitorscenter/2010CommencementCol.htm](http://www.uncsa.edu/visitorscenter/2010CommencementCol.htm) and  
[www.uncsa.edu/visitorscenter/2010CommencementHS.htm](http://www.uncsa.edu/visitorscenter/2010CommencementHS.htm).

## A Letter from the Chancellor

Dear Alumni,

It is no secret that the state of North Carolina, like most other states and nations around the world, has been experiencing a significant economic downturn over the last two to three years. Through that time, we have endured many things – funding reductions and reversions, furloughs, hiring freezes, and even layoffs – but, through it all, we have remained focused on the reason we are all here: to serve and educate our students.

Despite the challenges we have faced, we have succeeded in keeping the school's mission and educational core intact; have continued to offer a superlative educational experience to our students; and have not had to cancel a single performance. We have also continued to meet and exceed our fundraising goals. Since 2007, we have created four new endowed professorships, added a total of more than \$4 million to our scholarship endowment, and raised about \$1.5 million towards the Fletcher Opera Institute challenge. During the 2009-10 academic year, we succeeded in raising \$3.1 million in private funding, with renewed and increased individual giving as well as corporate and foundation grants.

Earlier this summer, we were again successful in our plea to minimize the effects of continued cuts to the University of North Carolina system – thanks in no small part to the truly heroic efforts of our administrators, faculty, board members, students and alumni, who worked tirelessly this spring to make our case to both our state legislators and the UNC Board of Governors. Because of their efforts, our school's budget reduction was 33% less than it would have been in an "across-the-board" cut of the system's 16 campuses – an extraordinary feat in and of itself – and we were able to secure \$345,000 in new needs-based financial aid, to offset the impact of

a necessary tuition increase on our students. As a result, UNCSA will again present over 300 performances this upcoming year, as well as maintain the jobs of our dedicated faculty and staff – all while continuing to offer a world-class education at a remarkable value, remaining in the lowest quartile of cost for both in-state and out-of-state students among our peers in higher education.



Chancellor John Mauceri

I look forward to the amazing things we will accomplish in 2010-2011. With your strong support and focused commitment to your alma mater, we will continue to preserve the high standards and meaningful experience that our students deserve, and that the world has come to expect from School of the Arts. I strongly encourage all of you to visit the campus this coming spring, when we will again host Alumni Weekend on May 6-8, during the all-school production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* I sincerely hope that you will come share in our triumphs and enjoy the fruits of our labor, all in the company of your friends and fellow classmates.

Many thanks,  
John Mauceri  
Chancellor

## Play A Part

As alumni, your *participation* in UNCSA's annual giving program goes well beyond the gift you make... in some ways, it is more important *that* you contribute, than *how much* you give.

Any amount that you give goes directly to support our students and our programs. During the 2009-10 academic year, alumni contributions again raised almost \$20,000 in scholarships for our students; over \$48,000 for operating expenses in our five art schools; nearly \$7,500 designated to specific programs, for supplies, touring, and guests artists; and just under \$15,000 for The Whole School Fund, which supports programs across the entire School of the Arts. You might think that small gifts don't matter, but when added up, alumni giving helps us achieve many things we would not be able to do without your help.

Just as important – making just one gift a year, of any amount, helps to increase our annual *alumni participation*

*rate*. The percentage of alumni who give back to their alma mater is regarded by publications like *U.S. News & World Report* as the sole measure of how satisfied alumni are with the training they received, and is a factor in determining their annual rankings of colleges and universities. Alumni participation is also considered by many foundations, corporations, legislators, and other major donors when awarding grants and gifts – with a higher participation rate, comes the opportunity to qualify for funding that would otherwise be unavailable to us.

This is why when we say "*every gift, large or small, really does make a difference*"... we really mean it.

Please play your part in keeping both our training and our reputation strong. Visit our secure and easy online giving form at [www.uncsa.edu/donate](http://www.uncsa.edu/donate), or mail your gift to UNCSA Foundation Inc., 1533 South Main Street, Winston-Salem NC 27127.

## Shadowing *The Smurfs*

This spring, UNCSA School of Filmmaking **Dean Jordan Kerner** created a unique opportunity for 21 third and fourth year film students to work on the set of *The Smurfs* movie, shadowing key creative personnel in the student's area of study and exploring the film industry and arts in New York.

Beginning on March 30 and continuing throughout the rest of the Spring term, film students **Joe Flanders, Megan Glass, Corey Harnish, Priscilla Anany-Williams, Bobby Crain, and Robert Sterling (Directing); Lillian Dawson, Patrick Farrell, Andrew Brzozowski, Robert Ellison, and Daniel Hansen (Editing & Sound); Rachel Starnes (Production Design); Chadd Russell and Gregory Loebell (Cinematography); Keenan Porterfield and Andrew Porter (Screenwriting/Producing); and Fred Espinosa, Josh Dove, Shakim Coleman, Sean Francis, and Alexander Roth (Producing)** all traveled to New York to get hands-on experience on set with the *Smurfs* production. Those they shadowed included director **Raja Gosnell**, editor **Sabrina Plisco**, sound mixers **Howard London** and **James Sabat**, production designer **Bill Boes**, cinematographer **Phil Meheux**, executive producer **Ben Haber**, and Dean Kerner himself, another of the film's producers.



Andrew Porter '10, Keenan Porterfield '11, Raja Gosnell (Director), Rachel Starnes '10, Dean Jordan Kerner (Producer), Joe Flanders '10.



Philip and Amy Blumenthal, Josh Dove '11, Andy Mitchell '09 (Production Assistant), Megan Glass '10, Chadd Russell '10, Dean Jordan Kerner (Producer) and Hannah Minghella (President of Production at Sony Pictures Animation)

The School of Filmmaking wishes to thank those who helped make Dean Kerner's vision a reality: **Chancellor Mauceri, Elaine Pruitt, Dean Wilcox, Suzanne Hilser-Wiles, Erik Salzwedel**, and the rest of the UNCSA Administration; **Sarah Turner** and the **Semans' Art Fund**; members of the **Giannini Society**; the **Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences**; all the creative personnel that the students shadowed; and **Lauren Waggoner, Julia Enescu, Monica Barraza, Hunter Popalis '07 (Producing), Andy Mitchell '09 (Directing)** and everyone else in the cast and crew of *The Smurfs* who took part in this transformative experience for these students.

## Open Dream Ensemble Script Competition

The **Open Dream Ensemble**, a project of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, is starting its sixth season of creating and presenting original musical theatre works for youth, and is **now seeking new original scripts**. The competition is open to all alumni and current students of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

The first round of competition is submission of a synopsis of the script idea or theme (including a list of the principal characters, story arch, and general theme of the play). If you are interested in competing, you must submit your synopsis by **September 17, 2010** to General Manager **Rebecca Nussbaum '97** at **Rebecca@opendreamensemble.com**, with the subject line "Open Dream Ensemble Script Competition."

For more detailed information about the ensemble and the script competition, please visit **www.opendreamensemble.com**.

## Who's New in UNCSA Administration

Two key administrative positions at UNCSA were filled this summer with the appointments of **David P. Nelson** as the new Chief Academic Officer, and **Wade Weast** as the new dean of the School of Music.



David P. Nelson

to serve the school once again. Pruitt will remain in the CAO Office during a transition period. UNCSA's high school, undergraduate and graduate academic programs will report to Nelson.

"We are happy to welcome David Nelson to the UNCSA family," Chancellor John Mauceri said. "David is a theologian, philosopher, scholar and a musician. He had an immediate grasp of the complexities and opportunities the CAO position at UNCSA affords. He will make a great partner in mapping the future course of our school and its academic programs."

"I am grateful for the opportunity given me to serve the students at UNCSA," Nelson said. "This is a special place, and I am honored to work alongside Chancellor Mauceri, the administration, and this fine faculty in the years to come."

Nelson received a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, where he majored in choral conducting and minored in musicology. He received his Ph.D. in Theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2001. In 1997, he received the Culler Theology Award as the outstanding theology student in a master's program at Southeastern. Nelson has taught at Hardin-Simmons; the University of North Texas at Denton, where he was the assistant conductor of the men's chorus; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he has been instructor of music and theology, as well as assistant professor, associate professor, and professor of theology.

**Wade Weast** comes to the School of Music at UNCSA after seven years spent as the director of the School of Music in the College of The Arts at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa. Weast replaces School of Music faculty member Michael Rothkopf, who has served as

interim dean for the past two academic years.

Before joining USF, Weast was at SUNY Fredonia from 1993-2003, where he taught all levels of trumpet and music theory, ear training, and sight singing, and served as the associate director of academic affairs from 1998-2003. He also directed a very large summer camp program during his time at SUNY Fredonia. He has also taught at Mercyhurst College, the University at Buffalo, Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts, the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, and the Sewanee Summer Music Center.

"Wade was the unanimous choice of our search committee and was met with great enthusiasm when he visited campus," Mauceri said. "He is a great fit for the UNCSA School of Music. He has the perfect combination of attributes and skills: he is an accomplished, practicing musician (trumpet and cornet) and an experienced teacher, and has proven himself to be an academic leader. He is dedicated to creating a future of possibilities for his students by inspiring the highest standards of excellence in the practice room, the studio, the classroom, and on the stage."

"I am honored to be chosen as the dean of the School of Music at UNCSA," Weast said. "I look forward to drawing upon my experience to lead the school's amazing faculty and staff in raising the profile of the school. It is positioned to be the destination of choice for talented high school, undergraduate, and graduate student musicians both within the state and nationally."



Wade Weast

Weast holds a doctorate from the Stony Brook University, a Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music (cum laude) from the State University of New York at Fredonia, with additional studies at Columbia University and the Tanglewood Institute. He has performed with the New Haven Symphony, New York City Opera, American Symphony Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, the Buffalo Philharmonic Brass Quintet, and on Broadway. In addition, he has performed with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, New York City Ballet, Natalie Cole, and the rock group YES. Weast has recorded for the National Orchestral Association New Music Project and the New Jersey Composers Guild, and has produced recordings for the International Trumpet Guild. He has researched and presented theories about student-centered learning, peer learning, and mentoring at College Music Society and the International Conference on Arts and Humanities conferences. He has also lectured on preparing college auditions, brass performance, and brass pedagogy. He serves as scholarship competition chair for the International Trumpet Guild.

Both Nelson and Weast began their new jobs in July.

## Mariana Qubein Joins Board of Trustees



Mariana Qubein

**Mariana Qubein** became the newest member of the UNCSA Board of Trustees in May, appointed by Gov. Bev Perdue to serve out the unexpired term of Ralph Womble, slated to end June 30, 2011. Mrs. Qubein will then be eligible to serve two full terms of four years each.

Qubein graduated from High Point University after leaving her homeland of Lebanon, where she studied at the American University of Beirut. She is an active community leader and has served on the boards of Family Services of the Piedmont, the High Point Arts Council, High Point Community Concerts and Westchester Country Day School.

She and her husband, Dr. Nido Qubein, president of High Point University, have four children and are avid supporters of the arts in the Triad and across the state. Since she assumed her role as the first lady of High Point University, she has dedicated most of her time to the interior design of the new buildings and placements of the donated gifts to the University. She is the founder of the botanical gardens and arboretum, which the board of trustees later named The Mariana H. Qubein Arboretum and Botanical Gardens at High Point University. Mrs. Qubein is the recipient of the N.C. Outstanding Urban Forestry Award from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. She helped HPU become one of only five "Tree Campus USA" universities in the state.

Through the Qubein Foundation, she and her family have supported scholarship programs at numerous universities, providing some 700 scholarships over the last three decades. Mrs. Qubein has always had an interest in the arts and grew up as a ballet dancer, pianist and a folk dance instructor while in college.

## New Fighting Pickle Mascot



This past spring, UNCSA conducted a contest to create the new UNCSA Fighting Pickles mascot to represent our school. The competition was open to all UNCSA students, alumni, faculty, staff, and former faculty and staff.

The "PickleTasters Committee" chosen to judge the submissions consisted of **James Pao (Communications & Marketing)**, **Terri Renigar (Communications & Marketing)**, **Genell Hartman (Campus Store)**, **Bill Poole (Admissions)**, **Edwin Martinat**

**'08 (Student Life)** and **Pamela Griffin (Visual Arts Program)**.

A total of 27 entries were received by the deadline, which the committee narrowed down to four finalists. The four finalists were:

- \* **Laura Maier, MFA '12, Costume Design**
- \* **Dina Perez, MFA '11, Costume Design**
- \* **Eben Zboch, HS '11, Visual Arts**
- \* **John DeKemper, HS '11, Visual Arts**

More than 1,000 members of the UNCSA community voted for their favorite design during the week of May

10, and the mascot designed by **Dina Perez** claimed 55 percent of all votes to win the competition. The new Fighting Pickles mascot was unveiled on May 21, 2010, at a special presentation in "The Pickle Jar" of the Hanes Student Commons. (See photos from the unveiling at [www.uncsa.edu/visitorscenter/PickleMascot.htm](http://www.uncsa.edu/visitorscenter/PickleMascot.htm).)

Please join us in congratulating Dina! And watch for the new Fighting Pickles mascot to show up on campus gear starting this fall.



Dina Perez



## Elena Bright Shapiro Benefit Performance

On May 7, the UNCSA community celebrated the life of **Elena Bright Shapiro**, a School of Dance alumna from the Class of 2007, who was killed in a car accident in Raleigh last September. The sold-out benefit performance at the Stevens Center in downtown Winston-Salem supported a scholarship fund established in the late dancer's honor.

"Elena was a young woman possessing great talent as a dancer and exceptional grace as a human being," UNCSA School of Dance **Dean Ethan Stiefel** said. "She will be deeply missed."

The benefit featured Elena's brother, **Sam Shapiro '03** of North Carolina Dance Theatre, in an emotional performance of *Lacrymosa*, a work choreographed by the late **Edward Stierle '86** for the Joffrey Ballet. The benefit also featured Ethan Stiefel and **Gillian Murphy '96**, both principal dancers with American Ballet Theatre, performing *George Balanchine's The Steadfast Tin Soldier*.

The benefit performance also included the rest of the regular Spring Dance program, performed by students of the UNCSA School of Dance. The program featured the world premiere of *Salute*, a work from the critically acclaimed choreographer and principal dancer **Johan Kobborg** of the Royal Ballet of London, and concluded with José Limón's *Concerto Grosso* and Twyla Tharp's *Country Dances*.

Nearly \$50,000 was raised through the benefit, bringing the endowed scholarship fund to \$105,600. The scholarship will be awarded to a ballet dancer in the



Sam Shapiro '03 dancing *Lacrymosa*  
(photo by Drew Davis '06)

School of Dance with exceptional ability and potential as a dancer, and is expected to be awarded for the first time in the 2010-11 school year. For more information, or to make a donation, contact the Office of Advancement at 336-770-3330 or visit [www.uncsa.edu/donate](http://www.uncsa.edu/donate).

## Spring 2010 Alumni Event Tour

UNCSA hosted alumni events in three major cities this spring, with the help of alumni in each region who've made it their mission to bring local alumni together to network and collaborate.



Jeremy Skidmore '00, Randy Carswell '87, Chancellor John Mauzeri, and Shayne Doty '79

### Washington D.C.

A Celebration of Alumni Achievement in Washington, D.C. was held on March 28 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown. The event coincided with the UNCSA Board of Visitors' trip to D.C. to attend a performance of "Porgy and Bess" at the Washington National Opera, conducted by **Chancellor John Mauzeri**. Alumni Achievement Awards were presented to **Randy Carswell '87 (Stage Management)**, **Shayne Doty '79 (Organ Performance)**, and **Jeremy Skidmore '00 (Directing)**. (Bios of the award winners can be found online at [alumni.uncsa.edu/dc](http://alumni.uncsa.edu/dc).) Also introduced at the brunch were members of the steering committee of **UNCSA DC Alumni**, the newest regional alumni network for the school - **Joshua Morgan '09 (Drama)**, **Brian Sutow '09 (Drama)** and **Anne Kohn '10 (Performing Arts Management)**. *Continued on next page.*

## New York City

On the morning of May 2, alumni in the New York tri-state area were invited to join members of the Giannini Society, in town for their annual visit to the city, for brunch at The Michelangelo Hotel.



Mark Graves (Manager of Alumni Relations) and Sarah Colvin '96 (Honorary Trustee)

The brunch was preceded by a small panel of alumni comprised of **Gudbjorg Halla Arnalds '05 (Modern Dance)**, **Nicolas Townsend '08 (Directing)**, and **Emile Blondel '96/'00/'07 (Piano Performance)**, who talked about their experiences with the William R. Kenan, Jr. Fellowships at Lincoln Center Institute. Mark Graves, Alumni Relations Manager, also took the brunch as an opportunity to acquaint those in attendance with the UNCSA NY Alumni steering committee – **Suri Bieler '71 (D&P, Honorary Trustee)**, **Jen Collins '08 (D&P)**, **Mary Colston '06 (Film)**, **Sarah Colvin '96 (Music, Honorary Trustee)**, **Lisa Gold '80 (Music)**, **Gilana Lobel '05 (Film)** and **Felix Ventouras '07 (Music)** – and thank them for the efforts and accomplishments over the last year.

**Many thanks to our wonderful regional alumni networks for their help and support with these events!**

Alumni who live and work in these areas should be sure to reach out to these groups and get involved.

UNCSA DC Alumni – [uncsadc@gmail.com](mailto:uncsadc@gmail.com)

UNCSA New York Alumni – [uncsanewyork@gmail.com](mailto:uncsanewyork@gmail.com)

UNCSA Alumni West – [uncsawest@gmail.com](mailto:uncsawest@gmail.com)

All three groups can also be found on Facebook. **Please join us in thanking them for their great work!**

## Los Angeles

Later that same day, Chancellor Mauceri invited alumni in Los Angeles to join him for brunch at California Canteen. The Chancellor was in L.A. to conduct *A Fine Romance*, the annual gala for the Motion Picture and Television Fund, as well as to attend the 13th Annual New Cinema Showcase of UNCSA student films at Sony Pictures Studios.



Chancellor Mauceri speaks to alumni at California Canteen

The **UNCSA Alumni West** steering committee – **Jennifer Haire '02 (Film)**, **Chandler Parker '02 (Drama)**, **Stewart Carrico '02 (Drama)**, and **Rebecca Green '01 (Film)** – graciously co-hosted the brunch, and also welcomed the visiting students to L.A. that day with a series of alumni mentoring panels at the Grafton hotel: directors **Mark Freiburger '05**, **Chad Hartigan '04**, and **Heath Michaels '99**; screenwriters **Geoff Davey '02**, **Mike Demski '01**, and **Christopher Waild '05**; producers **Mike DeFilippo '00**, **Rebecca Green '01**, and **Paul Skidmore '02**; editors **Matt "Smokey" Cloud '04**, **Charlie Dugan '02**, and **Jeff Seibenick '98**; cinematographers **Kelly Gallamore '03**, **Rob Givens '05**, **Morgan Jenkins '05** and **Chris Owen Jones '04**; production designer **Alyssa Hill '07** and art director **Tim Eckel '91** all generously donated their time to the panels.

The Alumni Notes for this issue of *Callboard* can be found online at [alumni.uncsa.edu/callboard](http://alumni.uncsa.edu/callboard) (choose "Summer 2010 Alumni Notes" from the menu at the left). You can also see past issues of *Callboard* here and at [www.uncsa.edu/alumni/periodicals.htm](http://www.uncsa.edu/alumni/periodicals.htm).

Want to share your news? Here's how:

- Send an email to [dancealumni@uncsa.edu](mailto:dancealumni@uncsa.edu), [dandpalumni@uncsa.edu](mailto:dandpalumni@uncsa.edu), [dramaalumni@uncsa.edu](mailto:dramaalumni@uncsa.edu), [filmalumni@uncsa.edu](mailto:filmalumni@uncsa.edu), or [musicalumni@uncsa.edu](mailto:musicalumni@uncsa.edu). This will deliver your news to both the Alumni Office and a member of the school you attended. (To just email the Alumni Office, use [alumni@uncsa.edu](mailto:alumni@uncsa.edu).)

- Post on our Facebook page entitled, "University of North Carolina School of the Arts Alumni."

- Members of the **Online Community** ([alumni.uncsa.edu](http://alumni.uncsa.edu)) can use the "Class Notes" section to share news. (To join the Community, please send an email to [alumni@uncsa.edu](mailto:alumni@uncsa.edu) with your **full name** while you were a student, your **year of graduation** or years of attendance, and your **school** and **major area of study** – Example: John Smith, 1980, Dance-Ballet.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### Alumni Weekend - May 6-8, 2011

Come reunite with friends and loved ones during the all-school production of *Oklahoma!*

Bookmark [alumni.uncsa.edu/alumniweekend](http://alumni.uncsa.edu/alumniweekend) for updates.

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University of North Carolina  
School of the Arts

Summer 2010

**Callboard** is published by the Office of Alumni at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for alumni, students, and friends.

Please mail alumni updates and address changes to:

UNCSA Office of Alumni  
1533 South Main St.  
Winston-Salem, NC 27127

or telephone (336) 631-1203,

or email [alumni@uncsa.edu](mailto:alumni@uncsa.edu).

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