

E-News

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a volunteer service organization of University of North Carolina School of the Arts

February 2009

January was quite a month for The Associates. The *Behind the Scenes* collaboration with the School of Dance, “The Dancer’s Path to Artistic Realization,” was a real triumph, with a full house and then some. Mozart’s Birthday Party also scored well with the audience. The receptions after both events, with dozens upon dozens of cookies from The Associates for “The Dancer’s Path...” event and six birthday cakes for Mozart’s birthday, were appropriately festive for these stellar performances.

Speaking of *Behind the Scenes* the collaboration with the School of Filmmaking about the filming of the Nyanya project is scheduled for Friday, May 15. At the request of the School of Filmmaking, this is our first Friday night *Behind the Scenes* and should be an interesting trial effort. The committee is discussing another *Behind the Scenes* between now and May, perhaps with the School of Music. Stay tuned.

Another opportunity not to be missed is Design & Production’s portfolio review on May 12. Details to follow.

Our guest speaker for the February meeting was UNCSA Director of Student Financial Aid Jane Kamiab. She gave us a lucid and informative description of the student financial aid picture in view of the current economic situation as well as her role in awarding scholarship monies. Student financial aid is awarded in two ways: one based on merit and the other based on need. It can be a very complicated process - frustrating, creative and rewarding. She describes it as “like a puzzle, with many disparate pieces. She works cooperatively with each School in considering how to award. For our meeting, she asked Suzanne Hilser-Wiles, UNCSA Chief Advancement Office, to join her in speaking about her role in the financial aid process. As they explained it, Hilser-Wiles finds the funds to establish the scholarship, which she does in three ways: an endowment (minimum of \$25,000), annual (one-time, \$2,500), and monies from the general operating funds (all donors; \$450,000 annually). (Funds are required by law to be used as the donor specified; if the criteria is difficult to meet or other complications arise, discussion with the donor can result in a new written agreement that is legally filed.) The board found this discussion very enlightening; it answered many of the questions that have risen in the past few years with so many changes in administration. We are most appreciative of their generosity with their time and insights.

Member-at-large Kay Lord is in the final stages of compiling the database of actors and locations for the School of Filmmaking. Everyone who has volunteered a site for this should send her both interior and exterior photos, as well as a head sheet if interested in taking part in one of the films. The process is now established that Kay will send all information to Stephanie Colopy, head of production at the film school, who will forward pictures and information to students who have specific needs. Kay recently sent out a call for a “kitchen window” setup and received a surprising number of offers. It was agreed that this is a great way to help the school and lots of fun.

Member-at -large Sarah Turner will be making a plea for cookies again for exam treats in March. Get your mixing bowls out.

The committee for the Gerald Freedman tribute on February 25 will be sending out the call for volunteers as the date gets closer. The tented dinner for 300 people is sold out. And you've received the message from Suzanne Hilser-Wiles of Advancement asking for bidders for its on-line auction items, proceeds of which go to the Gerald Freedman Professorship endowment. For information, visit <http://www.uncsa.edu/auction>.

A memorial for Catherine Huber, longtime Associate and board member, was discussed; it was unanimously decided to award a memorial in her honor to the general scholarship fund.

The next meeting of the board is on March 3. All members are invited to attend.

Upcoming February Events

February 17	Brooks White Cello Concert, Watson Hall
February 18	Moliere's "Scapino" opens, Performance Place
February 19	Winter Dance Concert opens, Stevens Center
February 20	"Sunday in the Park With George" opens, Performance Place
February 21	Chamber Music, Watson Hall
February 25	Special Tribute to Gerald Freedman, dinner and performance
February 26	Tom Stoppard's "On the Razzle" opens, Performance Place

For more details about any of the above, go to www.uncsa.edu/performances.