

# E-News

Published monthly by the board of The Associates,  
a volunteer service organization of University of North Carolina School of the Arts

October 2008

The following is a summary of our October 7, 2008, board meeting to keep you up-to-date on The Associates.

**Membership** chairman Sharon Applegate reported that the total number of members in 2007-2008 was 129. Currently, there are 67 households who have not renewed for 2008-2009; renewal letters were sent to those members October 8, with a response deadline of October 22. If we don't hear from you, you'll receive no more correspondence from The Associates. So remember: this may be your last E-News, which, in our opinion, will leave you, sadly, without a lot of interesting inside information about UNCSA as well as the work of The Associates.

**The Associates Present** co-chairmen Judy Watson and Joe Frisina are in discussion with the School of Dance about a possible Nutcracker/"Behind the Scenes" collaboration. Other "Behind the Scenes" possibilities are events with the Schools of Drama and Music, as well as a May 2009 program with the School of Filmmaking about their experiences in Kenya with the Nyanya project. As a special *lagniappe*, a Mozart's Birthday Party is definitely on the calendar for January 27, in cooperation with Larry Dillon and the School of Music. The Associates Present committee is working closely with Giannini liaison Anne Sessions and the Giannini calendar of events so that our "Behind the Scenes" programs aren't in conflict with their events.

**Hospitality's** new member, Anne-Marie Miller, reported that the Fall Membership Kickoff was a major success and attracted approximately 125 people. Several Associates served as hosts and volunteers at the event, and everyone enjoyed meeting and chatting with the students who performed. A special treat was the appearance of Rosemary Harris, who came to see the student performers and mingled with the enthralled students at the reception. As always, the student performances, as well as the commentary by Robert Beseda and Gerald Freedman, exceeded our expectations.

**Helpmates** co-chairman Josie Phillips reported that the huge filing project for the Alumni Office is nearing an end and all press releases; clippings, photos and other bits of paper are united with their proper folders, i.e., one folder for every student who has ever graduated from the school.

**Host Families** representative Tamara Michael reported for co-chairmen Ken and Vicki Davis that 18 students have been with matched with host families, with two more pending. A potluck dinner for students and families will be held off-campus on October 19. Residence Life reports being very happy with the improvements and outcome of the process this year.

**Giannini liaison** Anne Sessions reported on the Giannini Society calendar of events for 2008-2009. A copy of the calendar is in our files to insure that The Associates and Giannini complement rather than conflict with each other in their efforts to gain support for UNCSA.

**Kenan Institute for the Arts liaison** Pat Shore Clark reported that she had talked with Executive Director

Margaret Mertz; the institute is finalizing details on their activities for this year and we will be kept informed. Watch for the date for "Open Dream Ensemble" in the November E-News. A recent "Kenan Conversations" wine & cheese gathering to meet new faculty was well attended by Associates members.

**Tour Guides** members are being recruited by Tim Prout for October 27, November 6 and November 21.

**UNCSA liaison** Michelle Snow reported that a major Advancement project, the Gerald Freedman Tribute, is to be held February 25, 2009, and will consist of dinner, a performance and a dessert reception. The purpose, aside from celebrating Gerald's vast accomplishments, is to raise \$250,000 to establish an endowment for a Gerald Freedman professorship. We will be assisting the Advancement office with mailing the invitations and other activities as requested.

In other news, the ARF project resulted in several Associates donations of animal items and one of our members made a \$50 donation to this Student Activities-sponsored effort.

Tamara reported that The Associates have been asked to participate in a Nutcracker cast feed. Ryan Hill and Brannon Wiles are coordinating activities related to Nutcracker and will confirm a date. Tamara asked member-at-large Greta Gray Webel to coordinate this effort. Expect a call to help with this enjoyable project.

Following the business meeting, the floor was turned over to guest speakers from the School of Dance Ethan Steifel and Ryan Hill, after a glowing introduction by Vice President Carolyn Bailey. Following is an attempt to summarize their thrilling and inspiring remarks.

Mr. Steifel, newly appointed dean and artistic director of the UNCSA School of Dance, began his remarks by noting the excellence of the School of Dance and its reputation within the industry, which he believes provides a great foundation for his vision for taking the School forward. His approach is to provide a more clearly defined idea of what prospective employers can expect of a UNCSA dance student, qualities which include, beyond exceptional talent and training, a dependable work ethic, an ability to focus, creative intuition, and a strong sense of community and not just individual achievement. He plans to do innovative programming, choosing dances that are of benefit to the student and not merely popular pieces. He hopes to collaborate with the Schools of Film and Music on an installation piece during Intensive Arts that will be made available to the community. There are plans for a class in acting for dancers. The UNCSA orchestra will be performing at Winter Dance, a first for both schools. He hopes to produce well-rounded artists who will learn from collaboration, which he considers a key concept. He also intends to promote student performances in venues outside the local environment that send the message that UNCSA is a leader in dance.

Ryan Hill, assistant dean and general manager, occupies a new position whose purpose is to manage the department financially, negotiate contracts, extend the school into the world via outside venues, and insure everyone knows the excellence of UNCSA. Thus far he has produced a new ad campaign for the School of Dance, for which his producing, marketing and advertising background provided experience and expertise. He will also concentrate on raising scholarship money. He and Mr. Steifel are forming a "Deans Council" for those specifically interested in the School of Dance and who are both financially and emotionally invested in the School to brainstorm about high-level fund-raising. This council, envisioned as being an intimate group of 10-12 members, will operate as a casual board, involved only in the creative process and with no bylaws or other strictures. Mr. Hill is also working on the promotion of Nutcracker and the other School of Dance performances, with a focus on changing the model to one of fund-raising and not just experience for the students.

By the end of the presentation, Associates were referring to Ethan and Ryan as the dynamic duo and are

looking forward to being involved with the culture of the School and participating in all School of Dance events at a more collaborative level.

Note: The next meeting of the board is November 4. Ryan Wineinger will be the guest speaker.  
Remember: All members are invited to our monthly meetings. Please come.