

Holding the Mirror Up to Nature

Mary Irwin brought four of her students with her to the October Board Meeting of The Associates. In the best teaching tradition, the Speech and Shakespeare Coach at UNCSA first *told* us about how students are trained to play Shakespeare in their four years here and then *showed* us the products of Studio IV's three years' work here. They performed scenes from two of Shakespeare's plays (*All's Well that Ends Well* and *Measure for Measure*), as the Bard would say, "trippingly."

Ms. Irwin echoed Shakespeare himself when he put into Hamlet's mouth his advice to players (*Hamlet*, III.2.xvii-xxiv). In her distilling of that advice, she talked about how control of four crucial elements that work together make for good performances: head, heart, body, and voice. Understanding (head) is mastered by sitting around a table and working through a text, dissecting it—as one of the students said, "line by line and word by word." Acting without understanding is mere acting, not *being*. Getting into a character's core—what is the world view, what beliefs drive the character—and feeling empathy with the character provide heart.

The last two elements, body and voice, work together to complete the training. The students become comfortable with the iambic pentameter, for example, by studying and reciting Shakespeare's sonnets. Their training in everything from sword play to dancing come into play in the final performances. It does not happen overnight. The performances we see from Studios Three and Four are built on a solid foundation of scholarship, theory, and practice.

Ms. Irwin also talked about the timelessness of Shakespeare. "If we teach them Shakespeare, they will be able to make a McDonald's commercial. If we teach them how to make a McDonald's commercial, they will not be able to do Shakespeare." She introduced the two scenes the students performed by talking about how contemporary Shakespeare is to our lives today.

The applause of The Associates after the program reflected their appreciation and total delight.

October Board Meeting

This newsletter is only one of the emails your membership in The Associates brings you each month. They reflect, besides the work of members, the work of the Associates' Board. Invitations to events (Behind the Scenes, Salon@Six), requests for volunteer help, and notices about special programs like the Mozart Birthday Concert come to you because you are a member of this organization.

Every month President Susan Melville leads the Board through a series of reports from the teams that make the magic happen. These are the reports this month:

Historian Nancy Gwyn is seeking help in identifying people in pictures from the past. If you are a long-time member and think you might be able to identify people, please let her know. (nancygwyn@mac.com)

Behind the Scenes Committee Chairs Mary Allen Martin and Anne Sessions announced that the first Behind the Scenes event for this school year will be on November 3rd at 7:00 in the School of Design and Production.

They expect a big crowd at the event. Associates are encouraged to bring friends who are not yet members. After all, a part of our mission statement is to introduce new people to the marvels of UNCOSA.

Hospitality coordinators Judy Watson and Nola Miller and the hospitality team are planning refreshments for Behind the Scenes. That team works hard. Remember the spread they had at the Kick-off?

Salon@Six Committee Chair Carolyn Bailey announced that their first event will be in early December. The School of Music will be featured. You will receive an invitation in November. When you get the invitation, invite a friend (or friends) who is not an Associate, affirm his/her attendance, respond to the invitation, then, giving the name and contact information of your guest. The purpose of Salon@Six is to introduce new people to the Associates and to UNCOSA. These intimate events take place in members' homes, so space is limited. RSVP as quickly as you can in order to claim a spot!

Carloyn Peddycord, **Nutcracker Feed** Chair, is coordinating our feeding the *Nutcracker* performers and all the support personnel on December 10th. She and her team plan everything from procuring the food to decorating the tables.

Film Liaison Howard Skillington has created a one-page form for Associates to complete if they would be willing for their homes to be used by the film students. The forms ask for a description of the home (age, size, style) and surroundings. The site descriptions would be available to the students, and your contact information would be available *only* if they choose your site. If you would be willing to have your home be a part of this file for the students, contact him. (fluent_druid@yahoo.com)

Helpmates Chair Bob McNair reported that Helpmates contributed 1045 hours to UNCSA during September.

Membership Chair Karen Robertson reported that we are 294 members strong. There are 87 new members, but a third of last year's members have not renewed! Encourage your friends to join. There is a membership form attached.

Host Families co-chairs Anna Goodman and Clare Jordan have paired sixteen students with host families. They have had their fall dinner that gathered the students and their families for an evening to pool resources and ideas—and have a lot of fun as well.

Judy Watson reported for the **Members at Large** that they have collected some really nice gifts for the gift bags for some of the new faculty and staff members. Contributors include Old Salem, Meridian Restaurant, River Birch Lodge, Willow's Bistro, and The Bagel Station.

The next meeting of the Board and Associates Members will be November 1st. School of Filmmaking Dean Susan Ruskin will be our speaker.

SAVE THE DATE

We've all had the experience: we go to performances—drama, dance, music, film—and are moved to tears or laughter. Later, when we are telling our friends about it, our description falls a little flat. What's missing? Why were we so moved?

The answer may well lie in the work of The School of Design and Production. The degree of lighting, the quality of sound, the sets, the wigs, and the costumes joined the artists on stage to make a complete, fulfilling experience.

Join your fellow Associates at **BEHIND THE SCENES** on November 3rd at 7:00 in a tour of the facilities introduced and coordinated by Michael Kelley, Dean of Design and Production. After a brief introduction, we will be divided into smaller groups for a more personal, close-up look at the various areas.

We will see aspects of the design process that go into a performance—set design, lighting, costumes, props, sound, and painting. The conference room will become a gallery for the High School Visual Arts students' work. We will get a taste of what the School of Design and Production offers its students.

You will receive an invitation in just a few days. We hope to see everyone there. Be sure to respond so that we can plan for you.

HELPMATES AT WORK

The report of the number of Helpmate volunteer hours appears every month in the Board Report section of this newsletter. Numbers, even impressive numbers, are still a little cold and do not begin to capture the cheerful *presence* of Associates on campus. This month, Bob McNair, Helpmates Coordinator, has helped flesh out what those numbers actually mean:

We had thirteen Helpmates volunteer for over eighty-eight hours in September to help the **Mail Center** staff handle, process, and deliver mail and packages to the students during the heavy volume period at the beginning of the school year. Several of our Helpmates worked on multiple days. We have one Helpmate, Martha Albertson, who is a regular part time addition at the Mail Center. She volunteers not only through the peak period but every week throughout the school year as well.

Some folks may not be aware that there is no campus bookstore, so all books and supplies, and personal packages from home are delivered through the Mail Center. They handle all USPS, UPS, and FedEx deliveries. It's a very busy place and our Helpmates offer invaluable assistance to Elizabeth Spruill, Mail Center Manager, and her staff.

A team of seven Helpmates and several Foundation Office personnel prepared a mass mailing of over two thousand envelopes for the **Advancement Office**. Each envelope required attaching two address labels, enclosing three inserts, and sealing. This process took two days and needed twenty-six volunteer hours.

Three Helpmates assisted Matthew Donnell, Director of **UNCSA Preparatory Dance Program**, register the new young dance students on orientation day. Two Helpmates worked the check-in desk receiving the required paperwork and delivering the student handbooks. Another Helpmate greeted the students and their parents and directed them to the correct check-in line. One of our new Helpmates even interrupted a busy workday to help out and then return to work.

One Helpmate volunteered for three hours to cover the reception desk at the **Welcome Center** on High School Open House Day while the staff was busy with open house activities.

At the request of the **Admissions Office**, two Helpmates conducted a campus tour for a group of senior citizens from the Shepherd's Center for a total of six hours.

One of our Helpmates, Karen Robertson, is a regular volunteer at the **School of Drama** and has been organizing their library. She volunteered six hours in September.

Another of our Helpmates, Anne Herndon, is a regular volunteer in the **UNCSA Archives**. She worked on a project with Patrice Slattery, UNCSA Archivist, six hours in September.

There are currently four Helpmates who rotate each Wednesday morning throughout the school year to cover the check-in/out desk at the **Connector Building** between Sanford and Moore high school dormitories. This contribution allows the Connector Building staff to attend required meetings. This is the second year that these same four have met the call for this regular assignment. They volunteered a total of twelve hours for this task in September.

There are fifteen Associates who signed up to be on-call drivers for the **QUIP** (quick trip program). This new program is designed to provide off-campus transportation to high school students who need supplies from specialized shops. (The school bus makes regular runs to the mall and places like Target.) QUIP is currently offered only to UNCSA visual arts students, but there are plans to expand it to other high school groups. During the month of September, two Helpmates drove three trips taking students to pick up supplies for a total of three hours.

The Associates are providing, obviously, a lot of help to UNCSA. We make a difference. Here is the secret, though, that these Helpmates know: being on this campus, working with other volunteers, interacting with students, faculty, and staff, and soaking in the creative atmosphere that surrounds everything at UNCSA is *FUN*. Bob McNair's enthusiasm for connecting the campus to the volunteers permeates his whole team. Thank you, Bob, for helping us help.

Exciting news from D&P

The School of Design and Production has again been invited by The White House to decorate for Halloween! There will not be a light show this year. Howard Jones and his students are creating a series of vignettes (with actions and actors) that will be set up along the circular driveway in front of the White House. It is still a work in progress, and we will look forward to what they create. It is a tribute to the school that we have been invited back to bring our Halloween magic to the White House and, by extension, to the country.

FALL CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 1	Board Meeting; 11:30, Fourth Floor Conference Room, Library
Thursday, November 3	Behind the Scenes, School of Design and Production. 7:00 P.M.
Saturday, November 19	Collage ; 7:30, Stevens Center
Tuesday, December 6	Board Meeting; 11:30, Fourth Floor Conference Room, Library

General Information—Important Links

The Associates Website:

<http://www.uncsa.edu/development/volunteeropportunities.htm>

At our website, you will find the Board members listed, the calendar of Associates events and Associates-sponsored events, and other general information.

The Associates Email Address: uncsaassociates@gmail.com

The Performance Calendar Website:

<http://www.uncsa.edu/performances/>

Student Performances Website:

www.uncsa.edu/music/FormShare/StudentRecitals.pdf

Our Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/uncsaassociates>

Newsletter:

beckybrown65@gmail.com

