



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SCHOOL *of the* ARTS

Another Wonderful Year: UNCSA 2011 Highlights



- The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) continued to receive national recognition. Kiplinger's ranked UNCSA 48th best value for public colleges in the nation in 2011, and already this year UNCSA moved up to 41st in the Kiplinger's list for 2012. This is the third year in a row UNCSA made the list, moving up from 61st in 2010. The 2011 story received statewide coverage as News 14 Carolina ran a minute-long news spot every half hour to its subscription base of 1.3 million NC citizens.
- UNCSA received the largest one-time private gift in the school's history: a \$6 million grant from The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, to endow the annual William R. Kenan, Jr. Excellence Awards.
- UNCSA exceeded its 2011 private fundraising goal, as set with UNC General Administration, by 17% in an extremely challenging economic environment. Over \$3 million was raised.
- For the fourth year in a row, UNCSA received a clean financial audit from the State Auditor's Office, making UNCSA the number one school in the UNC system for sustained annual clean audits.
- UNCSA's production of *Oklahoma!* generated \$334,000 in scholarships and was a critical and popular success during its run, April 28-May 8. More than 400 students were involved in the *Oklahoma!* production, which was a faithful re-creation of the original 1943 Broadway production, including the original Agnes de Mille choreography as well as many elements of the stage and costume designs. Nearly 10,000 people saw the show at the school's Roger L. Stevens Center in downtown Winston-Salem. Coverage of the show in North Carolina ranged from numerous Piedmont Triad outlets to Our State magazine to savorNC magazine, and nationally, from playbill.com to broadwayworld.com to theatremania.com. Trade publications such as Live Design and Stage Directions also took note of the extraordinary production.



- In addition, UNCSA's *Oklahoma!* was broadcast on UNC-TV. The broadcast was viewed by approximately 90,000 North Carolinians from Murphy to Manteo. This is an example of a new collaborative initiative with UNC-TV to bring the achievements of the school and its talented students to the entire state as well as a potential worldwide audience. The initiative was spearheaded by Chancellor John Mauceri, who raised \$500,000 (\$100,000 a year for 5 years) from the A.J. Fletcher Foundation for television shows. Additional support was provided by the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts and the William R. Kenan, Jr. Fund for the Arts, which facilitated the hiring of accomplished television director David Stern. UNCSA's 2010 *Nutcracker* was the first UNC-TV broadcast from UNCSA in over a decade and marked the beginning of this new partnership. *The Nutcracker* has been broadcast five times during the holiday seasons of 2010-11 and 2011-12 to an estimated audience of over a half-million North Carolinians.
- American Ballet Theatre (ABT) and UNCSA School of Dance announced plans for a unique and exclusive five-year partnership, that will implement ABT's National Training Curriculum throughout the UNCSA School of Dance preparatory, high school and collegiate divisions and make UNCSA's campus a second home for ABT's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School by becoming an exclusive affiliate school. Private funding for this initiative was secured by the chancellor.
- Under the leadership of Dean Jordan Kerner, UNCSA School of Filmmaking ranked 12th on The Hollywood Reporter's inaugural list of the 25 best film schools in the world of the over 1000 schools reviewed, and 2nd for public universities in the USA, after UCLA which has an operating budget ten times that of our School of Filmmaking.
- Under the leadership of Dean Joseph P. Tilford, UNCSA hosted its third annual Entertainment Innovation Conference with Cirque du Soleil. Several hundred attended a variety of events during the multi-day conference sponsored by the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts. The event advanced UNCSA's unique relationship with Cirque du Soleil and generated new opportunities for further collaboration.
- UNCSA exceeded all retention and graduation goals established by UNC General Administration. Our 4 year graduation rate (2005-2009) was second only to UNC Chapel Hill among the 16 UNC university campuses.
- UNCSA converted to a two-semester academic calendar from its traditional trimester format. In parallel, UNCSA began the process of reinventing its summer programs and initiating its first full summer school. The change to semesters will allow UNCSA to offer a full 10 week summer program (a 100% increase in summer capacity for educational activities) that will include for-credit academic classes, summer workshops and continuing education opportunities. The ability to offer academic summer classes, in combination with online courses, is focused on increasing retention and graduation rates.



- The United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) honored UNCSA college senior Brooke Robbins with W. Oren Parker Undergraduate Scene Design Award, the nation's top award for undergraduate set designers. UNCSA's 9 students accounted for one-third of all students selected from the United States to present at the conference. For the fourth year in a row, UNCSA won the USITT Tech Olympics competition.
- UNCSA Dean of Filmmaking Jordan Kerner completed production of Sony Pictures Entertainment's feature film THE SMURFS, which was the most successful feature film worldwide for eight consecutive weeks. Under Dean Kerner's direction, dozens of students from UNCSA's School of Filmmaking were able to intern on the set in NYC where they "shadowed" key creative personnel, including the director, producer (Dean Kerner), cinematographer, production designer, composer, and more.
- Gerald Freedman, UNCSA Dean of the School of Drama, was honored at the annual Benefit and Cabaret for Sonnet Repertory Theatre (SRT), a nonprofit organization in New York City founded by UNCSA alumnae. The cabaret featured performances by some of Broadway's greatest talents and legends, including Hal Holbrook, Kevin Kline, Brian D'Arcy James, Jennifer Ferrin (an alumna), Penny Fuller, Rebecca Naomi Jones (an alumna), Jeremy Jordan, Patti LuPone, Terrence Mann (an alumnus), Wesley Taylor (an alumnus), Bryce Pinkham, Alfred Uhry, Price Waldman and Emily Young.
- UNCSA Chancellor John Mauceri continued promoting the school and the State of North Carolina through performances, publications, and broadcasts locally, nationally and internationally. The chancellor conducted Shostakovich's *Hamlet* at the Aspen Music Festival (joined by 7 alumni and a faculty member); Walt Disney's *Fantasia* at the Hollywood Bowl; the National Symphony Orchestra (including an alumnus) in the Kennedy Center 9-11 Tribute Concert; and *A Fine Romance*, the Motion Picture and Television Fund celebrity charity event, hosted by Catherine Zeta-Jones.
- UNCSA's 46th Anniversary production of *The Nutcracker* broke all previous records in generating over \$500,000 in revenue— much of which will go directly to scholarships and for refurbishing the production.
- UNCSA hosted the 2011 NC Thespian Festival. 25 NC schools participated including over 350 high school students, drama teachers and chaperones.
- Jeff Nichols, UNC School of the Arts School of Filmmaking alumnus, won the Grand Prix for his film TAKE SHELTER at the 50th annual Critics' Week at the Cannes Film Festival. The Grand Prix is the second-most prestigious prize of the festival.



- René Barbera, an alumnus of the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute at UNCSA, won first prize for opera, first prize for zarzuela (Spanish operetta) and the audience prize at the World Opera Competition, Operalia, which was founded by Plácido Domingo.
- Undergraduate senior School of Music student Leo R. Hurley won the North Carolina Symphony's String Quartet Composition Competition.
- UNCSA won two of seven "Downtown Excellence Awards" from the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership (DWSP). The two awards were for UNCSA's production of *The Nutcracker* and for UNCSA's downtown performing arts center, the Stevens Center.
- Composer and Durham resident Robert Ward, who served as President (and later, Chancellor) of the then-North Carolina School of the Arts from 1967-74, received one of four National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Opera Honors Awards. Current University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) Chancellor John Mauceri presented the award to Ward during an awards ceremony and concert at the Sidney Harman Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.
- UNCSA School of Drama alumnus Joe Mantello was nominated for a Tony Award for best performance by an actor for portraying Ned Weeks in *The Normal Heart*. His production of *Other Desert Cities* was deemed the best drama on Broadway this season. In addition, UNCSA School of Drama alumnus Alex Hoeffler, Class of 2010, appeared in *War Horse*, which won Best Play. Alumnus Tom Hulce produced a "revisal" of *On a Clear Day* for Broadway and alumnus J.T. Rogers' play, *Blood and Gifts*, opened to unanimous rave reviews at Lincoln Center's Mitzi Newhouse Theatre.
- Two alumni won Emmy Awards: Zach Seivers (School of Filmmaking, Class of 2006, Editing & Sound, from Mt. Airy, NC) won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Sound Editing for Nonfiction Programming for his work on *Gettysburg*, and Peter Rogness (School of Design & Production, Class of 1984, Scene Design) won for Outstanding Art Direction for a Miniseries or Movie for his work on *Mildred Pierce* on HBO. Two other UNCSA alumni were nominated for Emmys: Tom Beck (School of Design & Production, Class of 1973, Visual Arts Program) and Christal Schanes (School of Design & Production, Class of 2003, Wig and Makeup Program).
- UNCSA is one of several reasons that make Winston-Salem a great place to retire, according to CNNMoney.com. In its annual listing of "The 25 Best Places to Retire," the website ranks Winston-Salem as number 10, partly due to its active arts scene. The article said: "... The University of North Carolina School of the Arts is one of the most prestigious in the country."



- A studio recording of George and Ira Gershwin's hit 1930 Broadway musical, *Strike up the Band*, conducted by UNCSA Chancellor John Mauceri, was released by PS Classics.
- Under the leadership of Carol Strohecker, the Center for Design Innovation (CDI) received a \$43,493 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop a national Network of Excellence for Science, Engineering, Arts and Design.
- UNCSA will be well-represented at the 2012 Miss America pageant in January, with both a current college student and an alumna competing for the crown.
- School of Dance students presented excerpts of Alwin Nikolais' *Gallery* in New York City as part of Hunter College's "Sharing the Legacy" series, made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts as part of American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.
- School of Filmmaking 2010 graduate Alex Moratto won a Directors Guild of America Jury Prize in the Best Latino Student Filmmaker category for his student film *THE OTHER SIDE*. The student awards are designed to honor, encourage and bring attention to outstanding minority and women directors in film schools and select universities across the country.
- Reader's Digest named UNCSA's Fighting Pickle the 2nd "Most Lovable College Mascot" in the nation.
- The UNCSA Orchestra performed at the inauguration of UNC President Thomas Ross under the leadership of Chancellor John Mauceri.
- Chancellor John Mauceri and Dean of Filmmaking Jordan Kerner again made *The Business Journal of the Triad's* list of the "Most Influential People: Spotighting the Triad's leading decision makers." Also on the list were UNCSA board members Linda Carlisle (Trustees), Don Flow (Trustees) and J.D. Wilson (Visitors).
- Award-winning composer Alan Menken delivered the commencement addresses as well as a revue of some of his most famous works at both the high school and university graduation ceremonies on May 28. Menken composed the music for such classic Disney films as *TANGLED*, *ENCHANTED*, *POCAHONTAS*, *ALADDIN*, *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* and *THE LITTLE MERMAID*. He has won eight Academy Awards (more than any other living composer), 10 Grammy Awards, and seven Golden Globes.
- Chancellor John Mauceri is among the distinguished artists interviewed in a recently released Blu-ray documentary *A PLACE FOR US: WEST SIDE STORY'S LEGACY*. The documentary also features interviews with Stephen Sondheim, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Chita Rivera, Susan Stroman, and Jamie Bernstein (daughter of Leonard Bernstein).



- UNCSA alumnus Jim Lauderdale (School of Drama, 1979, Acting) has been nominated for a third Grammy Award, for Best Bluegrass Album. Also nominated, for Classical Producer of the Year, is Judith Sherman, producer of School of Music faculty-artist Lawrence Dillon’s “Insects & Paper Airplanes – Chamber Music of Lawrence Dillon,” performed by the Daedalus Quartet and pianist Benjamin Hochman.
- Jason DeCristofaro of Asheville, a graduate student in the School of Music, has won the Percussive Arts Society/Yamaha Terry Gibbs Jazz Vibraphone Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a full-time student in an accredited college or university music school, following an international competition which requires a videotaped audition and letter of recommendation. DeCristofaro studies with John R. Beck.

Photos by: Allen Aycock, Steve Davis, Donald Dietz, Matt Murphy, Rosalie O’Connor