



THE ASSOCIATES

## Our Founders Are Honored

Forty years ago, people gathered at the home of Bob and Joyce Remke. They were there to help the young North Carolina School of the Arts organize a group to support the school. The Associates trace their history back to that meeting.

The Associates invited those founders to attend the Fortieth Anniversary Celebration and Annual Membership Kickoff on September 6<sup>th</sup>. While most of those early supporters could not attend, a number did. It was an honor to have them there. After our President Susan Melville thanked The Associates' Historian Nancy Gwyn and UNCSA Archivist Patrice Slattery for their help in tracing our roots, she called the names of the founders who were there: Sarah Lu Bradley, Paul and Nancy Gwyn, Patti Hoffman, Pat and Jim Toole, Thorns and Perry Craven, and Marge Sosnik.

It would be remiss not to mention that Nancy Gwyn is still on The Associates Board serving as our Historian while her husband, Paul, is our trusted photographer. You will see them, too, at *many* performances during the year.

The program listed the early committees and committee members—names of other Winston-Salem leaders from civic, business, cultural, and philanthropic areas as well as staff members from NCSA. Their commitment was expressed in a quote from Leslie Banner's *A Passionate Preference*: "We want the School for the Performing Arts. We want it so

deeply that we shall be glad to invest something more precious than money—our time, our enthusiasm, and our affection—to make it flourish.” Forty years later, The Associates are still doing that.

It was an added tribute to the founders of The Associates that one of the founding fathers of UNCSEA was there to honor them. John Ehle and his wife, Rosemary Harris, joined them down front.

Chancellor Bierman read the letter that former Chancellor Robert Suderberg wrote to John Gates to ask him to be the first president of The Associates, and Howard Skillington stood in for Mr. Gates to read his reply. The warmth and humor in each of the letters captured something of the enthusiasm that often emanates from those early days of the school.

The founders joined the largest gathering The Associates have ever had in enjoying eleven members of the Class of 2021’s audition monologues and songs. Drama faculty member Quin Gordon introduced the students and interviewed them briefly after their performances.

A reception followed the program in the lobby of Performance Place. Once again, The Associates’ Hospitality Team set a beautiful table laden with sweets and savories. Twenty Associates had prepared enough for the crowd of over 230 members, our honored guests, the students, and the staff. It’s an amazing feat.

## The School of Drama Shines

The Associates have been fortunate this September to have had two close encounters with the UNCSEA School of Drama. First, our Board and fifteen Associates who attended the meeting heard Quin Gordon talk about the coming drama season. Quin is a graduate of our School of

Drama (in directing) and has returned as a professor of acting and directing. He is also the person who reads the applications and attends the auditions of all 600+ applicants for the twenty-eight available places in our first-year class. Stop and think about that a moment! Besides being a hard, hard task for him to accomplish, it lets you know that, statistically, our School of Drama is harder to get into than Yale University.

The second encounter we had was at the Annual Membership Kickoff when we heard eleven of those students do the audition pieces they used to become one of the twenty-eight. Of course, the audition was a part of a multilayered package they submitted. From 4.0 GPAs to multiple AP courses to, in some cases, professional acting, they were sifted out of the 600 and are here. Many of you were there to hear them. They, with their classmates, will spend the next two years honing their skills and will surface again during their third year, wowing us with their prowess.

The School of Drama's calendar this year offers us a variety of choices. Quin let us know that those choices were made for the students—for their particular talents and their particular needs. From his talk to the Board, we know that the School of Drama is student-oriented throughout.

*Middletown*, which will be directed by Quin, is the first play this fall. Quin describes it as a story “somewhere between *Our Town* and *Twin Peaks*.” Will Eno (*The Realistic Joneses*) is the playwright. It will be in the small Patron's Theatre October 19-21 at 7:30, and October 22 at 2:00.

*Arms and the Man* is the second production. This George Bernard Shaw play will be directed by Kent Stephens and will be our first look at the third-year class since some of them entertained us at our Kickoff two years ago. It will be in the Catawba Theatre October 26-28 and

November 2-4 at 7:30. There are two Sunday matinees at 2:00 on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Stephen Sondheim's *Company* will be in the Freedman and will be directed by Gus Kaikkonen who led our *Guys and Dolls*. It will be "Being Alive" November 9-11 and 16-18 at 7:30 and on Sunday afternoon, 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00.

*Airline Highway* by Lisa D'Amour is set in the seedy side of New Orleans after Katrina and will be directed by Caroline Kava. Advertised as being for mature audiences only, it will take place in the Patrons Theatre November 16-18 at 7:30 and Sunday afternoon, 19, at 2:00.

The spring line-up will be *OTMA*, *Stage Door*, *The Piano Lesson*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

The phone number for reservations is 336-721-1945.

## BOARD RETREAT

### PROVOST DAVID ENGLISH VISITS

"How do we rope off the seats honoring our founding members?" is just one of the details that was discussed at The Associates Board retreat on August 1<sup>st</sup>. President Susan Melville had assembled green folders that gave the Board focus on both minutiae about a single event and vision for the 2017-2018 year.

The meeting opened with a visit from Provost David English who talked briefly about major staff changes and about the UNC system-wide five-year strategic plan.

There is a new dean for the School of Drama, Scott Zigler. Zigler comes to UNCSA from leading the American Repertory Theater's Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. He has thirty years of experience in theater. On his page of the School of Drama website he writes, "I passionately believe that the young theater artist should be exposed to a broad range of approaches and aesthetics and that every artist must ultimately create her or his own unique methodology, synthesizing a broad array of influences into a unique approach that best serves the individual's own nature, creativity, imagination, and passion." He sounds like a perfect match for our student-focused program.

Karen Beres who has been our Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs will fill that position on a permanent basis.

The strategic plan for the UNC system includes improving graduation rates on all the campuses. While our graduation rate is one of the best in the system, UNCSA is working on providing alternative ways (*e.g.*, on-line courses) for students who leave to take jobs in their profession or for other reasons. Another part of the strategic plan places emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education. Our Schools of Filmmaking and of Design and Production, in particular, address that focus. We have sound stages and virtual reality and animation studios; we have sound design, lighting design, and scenic design. We even offer an MFA in costume technology. From designing costumes to building sets, our students are taught the basics they need. Measure twice, cut once.

After Provost English's presentation, the Board team leaders gave thumbnail sketches about their plans for the year. You will be kept

informed about the special events and on-going projects during the coming months.

## **SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING**

While the major item of business at the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was planning for the Fortieth Anniversary Celebration and Annual Membership Kickoff, other teams had been hard at work. The Board heard from each of the team leaders.

Mary Allen Martin reported that she and her co-chair, Anne Sessions, are working to set the date for the first Behind the Scenes program. Dean Michael Kelley is working with them on organizing a way to move us through the School of Design and Production. He is enthusiastic about having us visit again.

Anna Goodman, Host Families Co-chair, said that they have ten new and six returning students who have asked for a host family. They have been making the matches. She said that they have four more families who are willing to host. If more students decide they'd like a local family, we are ready!

Bob McNair, Helpmates Chair, reported that Helpmates had given 259.5 hours to the school this month, and Board members had given 306.5 hours.

Carolyn Bailey and Pam Short, representing the Salon@Six team, said that eleven people have signed up to host this year. They are sorting through the list and making plans. It is heartening to know so many are willing to host. Thank you.

Mindy Bloom, Linda Bettis, and Carolyn Bailey have worked hard as an *ad hoc* committee to set up our involvement with the Pickle Pantry this year. See the separate article about how you can help.

Karen Robertson announced that, as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, we have 232 Associates who have already renewed or joined for the first time. Thank you for being prompt with your renewals. If you haven't renewed, you can do so by visiting our webpage, [www.uncsa.edu/Associates](http://www.uncsa.edu/Associates) and renew online or download the paper application. The address is on the form if you choose the paper route.

The next meeting of the Board will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 in the conference room on the fourth floor of the library. The speaker will be Dean of Design and Production Michael Kelley. He will begin speaking at 12:30. *ALL Associates are invited to these meeting whether or not you are on the Board. You may come for the entire time or to hear the speaker. Please let us know if you can come so that we will have enough chairs available. ([sumelville@yahoo.com](mailto:sumelville@yahoo.com))*

## The Pickle Pantry—Another Way to Give

The Pickle Pantry is a site where students can go when they run out of their own resources and need a little help. It is stocked by donations. Financial donations may be made by going to the “donor” tab on the UNCSA website and designating “Pickle Pantry” under “other” at the bottom of the list. Those donations help the pantry buy perishables and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Of course, we also contribute items to the Pantry. The Associates collected quite a stash at our Kickoff. We want to continue to support the pantry and the students who need it. An *ad hoc* committee has set up the following plan:

We will have **DRIVE THROUGH THURSDAYS**. On the **third Thursday** of each month, a couple of Helpmates will be stationed outside the **Visitors Center** to pick up the items you bring. You will not have to get out of your car! They will be there from **11 A.M. – 1 P.M.** While anything is welcome, the *ad hoc* committee suggested the following schedule and items:

September 21	Canned foods and juices
October 19	Cereal and shelf-stable milk
November 16	Grab and Go Snacks
December 14	Canned foods and juices
January 18	Frozen foods
February 15	Grab and Go Snacks
March 16	Microwaveable meals
April 20	Cereal and shelf-stable milk

You may also bring items to the monthly Board meetings and to our special events.

Thank you, Mindy Bloom, Carolyn Bailey, and Linda Bettis for setting this up. They wrote, “Our goal is to raise awareness among members of the UNCSA Associates and to increase the number of items collected. This way, we can help more students.”



## Fall Semester Associates Calendar

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| Tuesday, October 3, 11:30   | Associates Board Meeting. Fourth Floor Conference Room, Library                  |
| Thursday, October 19, 11-1  | Pickle Pantry Drop-off, Visitors Center. Cereals and shelf-stable milk suggested |
| Tuesday, November 7, 11:30  | Associates Board Meeting. Fourth Floor Conference Room, Library                  |
| Thursday, November 16, 11-1 | Pickle Pantry Drop-off, Visitors Center. Grab and go snacks suggested            |
| Tuesday, November 28        | High School Exams COOKIE DROP-OFF. Details later                                 |
| Tuesday, December 5, 11:30  | Associates Board Meeting. Fourth Floor Conference Room, Library                  |
| Thursday, December 14       | Pickle Pantry Drop-off, Visitors Center. Canned foods and Juices suggested       |

## General Information—Important Links

The Associates Website: <http://www.uncsa.edu/Associates> At our website, you will find the Board members listed, the calendar of Associates events and Associates-sponsored events, and other general information. You will also find the form to renew your membership

Email Address: [uncsaassociates@gmail.com](mailto:uncsaassociates@gmail.com)

The Performance Calendar Website:  
<http://www.uncsa.edu/performances/>

Our Facebook page:  
<http://www.facebook.com/uncsaassociates>

Newsletter: [uncsaassociates-news@gmail.com](mailto:uncsaassociates-news@gmail.com)