

SIDES

The Newsletter of the Department of Theatre Arts
At Eastern Illinois University

June 2005

Volume IV Number 2

Finally.... They are Building It....

After many false starts and raised hopes, the construction on the Doudna Fine Arts project has begun. Students returned from spring break in mid March to find the site surrounded by construction fences. While all seemed quiet, there was a scurry of activity inside the clinical building and the old Buzzard House. Crews were removing the remainder of asbestos and prepared the buildings for demolition. While this was going on, site prep was taking place to the south and west of the old building. The sculpture studio was demolished and the week before classes ended a crane took the first swing of its concrete ball to take down the "glass wing". By the end of May all demo is scheduled to be complete and final site preparation and excavation can begin.

For the past three years the department has been housed in temporary quarters awaiting the completion of the project. With construction under way we can all look forward to the prize. (See pictures on page 4.)



Theatre Arts Faculty Promoted

The Department of Theatre Arts is pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Jean Wolski and Ms. Karen Eisenhour from Associate to Full Professor. The rank of professor is the highest rank awarded to teaching faculty. Dr. Wolski teaches a wide variety of courses including movement, make up, African theatre studies, and voice. Jean coordinates the Honors program, as well as, the Teacher Certification program. Most recently Jean directed *She Stoops to Conquer* which closed the spring season.

Karen designs costumes for the departmental productions and teaches the costume design and history sequence. She also instructs students in the graphic design courses. Karen was the costume designer for *She Stoops to Conquer* this spring.

Congratualtions to both Full Professors.

Oertling Gets Nod

John T. Oertling, Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts, will assume the chairmanship of the University's Council of Chairs in July. The group is made up of all chairs in the university. It is an opportunity for Department chairs to meet as a group and discuss issues relating to the academic life of

the university. Chairs take the initiative on issues of importance and meet regularly with the provost.

She Stoops Closes a Powerful Spring Season

The three productions of the spring term demonstrated again the strength of the theatre program at EIU. *What I Did Last Summer* (directed by Jerry Eisenhour), *Gross Indecency, the Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (directed by Clarence Blanchette), and *She Stoops to Conquer* (directed by Jean Wolski) made up a spring season that showcased many old faces and the new talent of a strong freshman class. Each of the three shows was well attended and received positive reviews from patrons at the Village Theatre.

The final production *She Stoops...* opened with special Tuesday preview for the EIU Foundation. This special event was attended by donors to the university, several of the academic deans, President Hencken and VP Jill Nelson. Coffee and dessert preceded the play and Dr. Chris Mitchell gave a brief talk on the style and life of Oliver Goldsmith.

Where Are They Now.....

Christopher Ham (1998) – I will be graduating with a Masters in Fine Arts in Stage Design from Southern Methodist University in May 2005. I will be moving to Middletown, VA to be the resident lighting and sound designer for the Wayside Theatre for the next year.

Diane Kasper (1994) – After closing my dance studio, I moved to Chicago and was working in theatre there. I worked for Joffery for a show and did a lot of stage managing for different companies. Then I directed a dance program for a Jewish community center in Skokie till September 11th. After that, I traveled to Israel for three months, came back to Chicago in the middle of winter after sitting in 75 degree weather in Tel Aviv and said that I wasn't going to stay around another winter. So, I moved to Las Vegas and joined IATSE out here...now I'm on the bounce going from venue to venue. Mostly hanging lights for all the conventions that come through, but I have worked on some of the shows in town. The last fun one that I did was a Harry Connick, Jr. Concert as spot light op.

Jena Philips (2001) – I'm in a play right now (Nov. 2004) – it's an original adaptation of *Casablanca* called *Everyone Comes to Rick's*. I'm playing the role of Ilsa. So far it's going well. I do have to keep reminding myself it's a community theatre production, though. I got spoiled at EIU. We're performing Feb 17-20, so we still have plenty of time to iron out the wrinkles.

Brett Kashanitz (1996) – Things are going well for me. I'm still performing about 2 shows a year in between directing shows as well. I am a company member of Circle Theatre in Forest Park, IL. We are a non-equity theatre with our own space and two stages. We have a 6 show season, with 4 additional shows we do with our Emerging Young Artist program that is for students from 10-18. I directed Circle's production of *Steel Magnolia's* last season that was nominated for 4 Joseph Jefferson Citation awards and won 2, and am set to direct *The House of Bernarda Alba* next season. I am currently co-directing our Emerging Young Artist production of *Crazy for You*, and recently appeared as Edward Mason in Circle's production of *Jane Eyre* the musical, which was a Mid-West Premier and was Jeff Recommended and hopefully, will be nominated for several awards which should be announced soon! At this point my next show will be *Thou Shall Not* at Circle which will be first and only other production of this show other than the Broadway run! Should be exciting.

Sauda Jackson (1997) – I'm in New York and continue to perform here. Recently I was in a critically acclaimed show with the international WOW Company.

Laurie Empen (1991) – I was an understudy of Amy Morton – Ensemble Member of Steppenwolf Theatre Co. – in the lead role of Lovey Ranerskaya in *Cherry Orchard*. The show ran through March 5, 2005 and was directed by Tina Landau.

Jerri (Straka) Cash (1967) and **John Cash (1966)** – We both retired from the Illinois public school systems in 2002. We moved to Colorado in 2003, 6 miles north of Denver. I continue to teach at a nearby children prep school and John continues to run his art studio. Our two daughters Melia and Maryjo live in Denver. Melia just had her 1st child, a daughter, Peyden Kailuni on December 1, 2004.

Michael Shehorn (1970) – would be pleased to hear from people. 628 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002-1320 or mshehorn@sequiots.com

Judy Perrin (1971) – For the past twenty years, I have been teaching English and theatre at a small semi-rural high school in Western Indiana. Despite our somewhat rustic location, we have done plays by Shakespeare, Stoppard, Wilder, and of course, Rodgers and Hammerstein. ☺

Earl Halbe (1979) – Key West, FL residents Earl and Elizabeth Halbe sang the roles of "Gastone" and "Annina" in Island Opera Theatre's production of *La Traviata*, March 17-20, 2005.

J. Sain (1975) – Recently performed in the Charleston High School's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Dreamcoat* as Jacob.



Corey Schultz as Joseph and J. Sain as Jacob.

Where Are They Now (cont.)



Mike Papaleo (2000) and **Bryan Grossbauer (1998)**. Check out www.treetheatre.com and the Bob and Rob two-person shows.

Chris Pomeroy (1995) – recently directed *The Game of Love and Chance* by Marivaux for the Reverie Theatre Company Jan. 8 – Feb. 27, 2005 at Breadline Theatre. See more www.reverietheatre.com.

Robert Caisley (1990) – His play *The Lake* was produced at Mill Mountain Theatre, Roanoke, VA as part of the 15th Annual Norfolk Southern Festival of New Works, Jan. 18-23, 2005. His other plays include: *Letters to an Alien*, *Front*, *The 22-Day Adagio*, *Kite's Book*, *Good Clean Fun*, and *Kissing*. His short play, *Santa Fe*, was named as a finalist for this year's Heideman Award from Actor's Theatre of Louisville. Caisley heads up the newly formed MFA in Dramatic Writing Program at the Univ. of Idaho.

Kevin Smith (1987) – Kevin passed away February 17, 2005 due to complications from a heart-related infection. He, his wife and 3 children lived in Portland, OR after having lived in St. Louis for many years. He was respected by his colleagues in making significant strides in revamping downtown areas. He performed in *You Can't Take it With You* (1983) and *Dark of the Moon* (1984) at Eastern.

Where Are They?

We need help re-connecting with these alumni. If you know address or e-mail address for any of the following, we'd be happy to receive it. Send to csdkl@iu.edu or cfjms@iu.edu.

Thanks.

Nicole Bailey (1995)
Cathy Elwell (1968)
Teresa Meves Foley (1995)
Sara MacDonald (1967)
Elizabeth Hall (2000)
Janet Fox Margedant (1978)
Jeana Guerrieri (1990)
Vicki Jackson (1976)
Carol Ann Spoon (1971)
Karla Ries (1986)
Jill Shepherd (1969)
Leah Soderberg (1968)
Steven Rodgers (1973)
Tim Estep (1993)
Jacqueline Smith (1974)
Edward John Olsen (1978)
Cynthia Sanders (1969)
Tina Woolfolk (1991)
Lelan Graham (1972)
Dierdre Schultze (1991)
Erika Goff (1997)
Ann Schenk (1993)
Yvette Coney Jackson (1975)
Michelle Henderson (1972)
Joyce Prescott (1973)
Ana Ortiz Cooper (1991)
Emilie Wood-Beris (1998)
Robert Poe (1991)
Leroy Hook (1973)
Mary Winkleblack (1970)
Melissa Copoulos (1993)
Madeline Buck (1971)
Saovanut Bhuvanti (1973)
Karl Daniel (1984)
Julie Spangler Lewis (1968)
Lynn Lupo (1983)
Terry Dean Kroenung (1980)
Alana Reeves (1967)
Kristine Warner (1974)
Richie Heitz (1992)
Nancy Henderson (1969)

2005 Graduates of Theatre Arts...

Emily Betz
Erin Karson
Aaron Lawson
Casey McLain
Jenni Passig

Congratulations and best of luck with your future plans.

Outing in Chicago

I would like to know if any of our alums, faculty and/or current theatre students would be interested in a Chicago Theatre Outing. I work in the heart of the Theatre District and could easily arrange a get together if there is sufficient interest. Early August would be a good target date as there is enough time to arrange details and people who have children, who are returning to school or are returning to school themselves, would have fewer conflicts at that time.

All those interested could send me an email at juliehannah@comcast.net. Please include your name, preferred e-mail address, phone number, Eastern graduation date and anything else you might think is pertinent. With any luck, we could have a good day or two in Chicago seeing shows and renewing friendships. I will forward details to all interested parties.

Julie (Woosley) Hannah
1980 Theatre Graduate



The fences went up in front of the “Snake House” and closed off 7th St. from there to the south edge of The Union.



Area from the south driveway of The Union to the south edge of the library is fenced off for the project.



And the walls came tumbling down of the glass house of the former art department wing.



What was Buzzard House makes room for the new theatre wing, the health services building (to the left) is next to go.



And the “Snake House” is now just a memory....



The entrance to backstage of the theatre, as you can see, the “Please be quiet” sign is awaiting our return.

December 2004 answer – U.S.A., Feb. 1980, 1st row seated: Donna Shehorn – Director, Julie Woosley, D. Peter Samuel. 2nd row standing: Kathy Lampen, Donna Parrone, Gretchen Righter, Therese Supple, Dwight Parker, Patricia “Cookie” Baucum. 3rd row standing: David Ruff, Merel Ray, Cindi Urbaniak. We had 5 winners!!! Congratulations!!!



Name the Show, the year, and the students and win a prize!!!
Send responses to: cfjms@eiu.edu by July 1, 2005

**2005-2006
Production Schedule**

Fall 2005

Cole – October 14 – 18.

Directed by Jean Wolski with musical talent from EIU’s music department, this musical features the words and music of Cole Porter.

The Little Foxes – November 11 – 15. Lillian Hellman based the characters in *The Little Foxes* on members of her mother’s family, the Newhouses, an Alabama family which became wealthy through exploitative business practices. Members of the Newhouse family threatened to sue Hellman after the play premiered. She did not publicly comment on the Newhouses and their connection to *The Little*

Foxes until the release of her 1973 memoirs, *Pentimento*. *The Little Foxes* will be directed by Clarence Blanchette.

An Evening of Student One Acts, December 2 – 6.

Spring 2006

4th Annual Table Readings, January 31st at The Village Theatre.

The Menaechmi, March 2 – 7, directed by Jerry Eisenhour *The Menaechmi* is about a pair of identical twin brothers who were separated when they were very young. The mass confusion that arises when their paths cross is the basis of this popular Roman comedy, which was written by the famous Roman playwright

Plautus in about 200 B.C. Plautus was a master of comedy. This play has been adopted for Shakespeare’s *A Comedy of Errors* and *The Boys of Syracuse*. We hope you enjoy this play.

Aladdin, April 20 – 21, directed by John Oertling. A group of peddlers decide to stage the play *Aladdin*. After choosing roles and setting the stage, they enact their classic with novel flourishes. Comedy, suspense, and the excitement of *Aladdin* make this an ideal theatrical experience. **Weekday matinees, at the theatre, will be offered to schools.**

For tickets call the week before the show starts – 217) 581-3110.

FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

Clarence P. Blanchette
John & Karen Eisenhour
E.G. & Lucy Gabbard
Glen Gabbard
E.T. Guidotti

Producer - \$175.00
Vaughn & Ruth Jaenike
James & Wanda Johnson
David & Audrey Jorns
Dennis & Deborah Muchmore
John T. Oertling

Kevin J. Reed
James Romanovich
J. Sain
Bill & Carol Strode
David & Jean Wolski

Director - \$125.00

Mary Yarbrough

Associate Director - \$100.00

Scott & Penny Crawford
Jeff & Ann Cross
Blair & Christine Cnota-Lord
Robert & Nancy Hennings
Roann Kopel

Dwain & Pam Naragon
Richard & Phyllis Rogers
Roger & Sherae Stoner
Barbara & Michael Watts

Stage Manager - \$75.00

Jerry & Jacqueline Bennett
Dale & Marilyn Hoots

Crew - \$50.00
Russ & Polly Claeys

Your support is playing an increasingly important role in funding our program and the quality it affords. As appropriations from the state are cut and inflation continues its dizzy spiral, patron support becomes a necessity. Your voluntary donations are necessary to our success in supporting a service to the community, campus and region. Please take a moment to fill out the attached form and return with your pledge or check. Your generosity is appreciated.

Make checks payable to: **Eastern Illinois University** Pledge Amount \$ _____
Mail Checks to: University Theatre, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920-3099

MAILING LIST AND PLEDGE INFORMATION

Name _____ Publish your name in program? _____yes _____no
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Let us hear from you!

We would like to include information about our alums in the newsletter. Take a moment and let us know where you are and what you are doing.

Name _____ Class _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

NEWS ABOUT YOU OR OTHER THEATRE ARTS GRADS:

Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically ____ yes ____ no

MAIL TO: Department of Theatre Arts, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920 or email cfjto@eiu.edu or csdkl@eiu.edu