

Theatre Banquet 2014 Order of Events

- It's been quite a year! Record cold, ten feet of snow, ten great shows!
- We're going to honor a number of students tonight, but I want to take a moment to applaud all of you.
- I hope this year you have found that UMD Theatre is your home – a place for you to grow as a person, and as an artist.

- **As always, I feel it's important to acknowledge the Theatre Faculty.**

What we do would, of course not be possible without them. Please join me with a round of applause for their incredible work this year.

I particularly want recognize our four first-year Practicum Instructors - **Jim Eischen, Kelsie Bias, Kendra Carlson and Sam Shanks**. What a difference they've made in just one year!

I also want to acknowledge new faculty members to the Department. Please help me recognize **Jenna Soleo-Shanks**

And two new faculty from the Department of Music who are with us tonight
Andy Kust and Alice Pierce

I also want to recognize the 2013-2014 School of Fine Arts Outstanding Academic Advisor, **Rebecca Katz-Harwood**. I've been noticing all of her advisees seem to be graduating on time. Just sayin'...

- **We also want to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Theatre Department Staff:**

Mary Jo Aubin, RaeAnn Williams, and Laura Piotrowski,
and especially our new Assistant Technical Director **Sean Dumm**
and our new Executive Administrator **Beth Matson**.

- **We want to recognize student leaders and organizations this past year, and introduce those who be taking these important leadership roles next year.**

(Please stand to be recognized.)

Student Representatives

2013-2014: **Erin Ohland** and **Colleen Lafeber**

2014-2015: **Colleen Lafeber** and **Heather Olson**

UMD Theatre Peer Advisor

The Theatre Peer Advisor for the past two years has been **Brittany Mingo**

I guess Brittany is irreplaceable since we haven't heard yet who will be the Theatre Peer Advisor next year.

2013-2014 Stage 2 Officers

Bailey Boots, President
Erika Sasseville, Vice President
Taylor Jensen, Marketing
Jason Speters, Publicity
Matthew Default, Technical Director
Eric Howe, Assistant Technical Director

2014-2015

Erika Sasseville, President
Corey Peck, Vice President
Taylor Jensen and **Kristen Parizek**, Managing Directors
Jayson Speters and **Dylan Rugh**, Publicity/Marketing Directors
Matt Dufault and **Solveig Bloomquist**, Technical Directors
Josiah Thompson, Member at Large

2013-2014 Officers of UMD's USITT Student Chapter

Dylan Lee, President
Katie Martin, Vice President
Jenna Houck, Secretary
Michael Cochrane, Treasurer
Solveig Bloomquist, Member-at-Large
Eric Howe, Conference Coordinator

2014-2015 Officers

Katie Martin - moves from Vice President to President
Solveig Bloomquist - Vice President
Matt Dufault - Secretary
Heather Olson - Treasurer
Lizzie Streif - Member at Large
Eric Howe - remains as our Conference Coordinator

KCACTF Region V Festival:

We were honored this year to tour our production of *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* to the **KCACTF Region V Festival** in Lincoln, Nebraska. This group demonstrated the kind of excellence UMD aspires to with every play we produce.

Along with the cast, we want to recognize our design team (please stand): **Jenna Houck** (Scenery), **Katie Martin** (Costumes), **Eric Howe** (Lighting), **Michael Cochrane** (Sound), and **Ben Stoddart** (Properties)

Criss Ririe was our Stage manager, **Kelly McLeod**, Assistant stage manager, and **Emily Bullivant**, Assistant Director

KCACTF-Irene Ryan Competition

UMD continues to be very competitive at the regional Irene Ryan Acting Competition. It's rare that all Irene Ryan candidates from a single institution make it to the semi-finals, but it happened this year. Please help me recognize first their amazing partners:

Dan Marta
Joe Cramer
Elise Benson

And our Semi-Finalists:

Emily Fletcher
Carla Weideman
Katelin DeLorenzo
Erin Miller

We had one Finalist:

Amanda Sjodahl

Other KCACTF Awards:

Compleat Female Stage Beauty was also honored at the festival. Receiving a Commendation for Achievement as Composer of Original Music was **Graeme Shields**.

Receiving a Certificate of Merit for her Scenic Design was **Topaz Cooks**.

• Distribute Scholarships

Earlier this week at the School of Fine Arts Awards Banquet, the following scholarships were awarded. (Please stand.)

The Isaac and Rose Gershgol Scholarship

Katie Martin
Jayson Speters

The Kanter Family Scholarship

Joe Cramer
Colleen Lafeber

In addition to these scholarships, the Department of Theatre offers six additional scholarships based on meritorious work for the year. The Department always has more applicants than we have scholarships to award, which makes the selection process difficult, since all applicants are truly deserving. In making these decisions, faculty review all application materials, and discuss each applicant individually before determining our final selections. As I read your name, please come forward to accept our congratulations.

Lois Casmir Birk Memorial Scholarship

The Lois Casmir Birk Memorial Scholarship was established in the Department of Theatre in the year 2000. Lois Birk was a great friend and patron to the Department of Theatre. Due to the generosity of her friends and especially her three sons, the Lois Casmir Birk Memorial Scholarship is intended to aid and honor a student who has made an outstanding contribution to Theatre and shows exceptional promise.

By vote of the faculty of the Department of Theatre, the 2014-2015 recipients of the Lois Casmir Birk Memorial Scholarship are: **Mr. Wesley Darton and Ms. Jenna Mady.**

Marshall Center Award

The Marshall Center Award for Excellence in Theatre was established in 1984 to aid and honor students in the Department of Theatre who have made an outstanding contribution in theatre and show exceptional promise.

By vote of the faculty of the Department of Theatre, the 2014-2015 recipients of the Marshall Center Award for Excellence in Theatre are: **Ms. Elise Benson and Ms. Solveig Bloomquist.**

Erin Wright Memorial Scholarship

In 1997, the students, staff and faculty of the Department of Theatre established a scholarship to honor UMD Theatre major, Erin Wright. This Memorial Scholarship has become a personal way for us to honor our memory of Erin. The name of each scholarship recipient is engraved on a plaque on permanent public display in the Marshall Center lobby.

For 15 years individual gifts have helped this fund grow. Donations have been large and small – but none of us are rich, so mostly small. This year something extraordinary happened when we realized the scholarship fund wasn't large enough to award a full scholarship. When I shared the news, without hesitation the faculty immediately agreed to make contributions so this year's scholarship would be possible. This kind of generosity means this scholarship will be available for countless numbers of future theatre students at UMD.

I've asked Tom Isbell to present this year's Erin Wright Memorial Scholarship award.
(Pascal Pastrana)

UMD Chanhassen Dinner Theatres Alliance Scholarship

Many of you may recall the exciting press conference announcing the UMD Chanhassen Dinner Theatres Alliance two years ago. After two years of hard work and intensive fund raising, the Alliance has paid off in real terms for students in our musical theatre program.

Here to present the first annual UMD Chanhassen Dinner Theatres Alliance Scholarship is Kate Ufema. (**Elise Benson**)

2013-2014 Awards for Artistic Achievement

Each year the Department feels particular students deserve special recognition for superlative artistic contributions they've made to our program. All students are eligible for these awards, which are determined by the vote of the faculty and staff. I would ask each student to come forward to accept our congratulations.

Outstanding Contribution Award for 2013-2014

Each year we see students willing to go well beyond the Department's expectations for participation, and we want to recognize their dedication and commitment. All students are eligible for these awards, which are determined by the vote of the faculty and staff. As I read each name, please come forward.

(Sit down)

• Acknowledge Seniors

We have 36 students graduating this year, the number of total majors in the Department when I came to UMD in 1983! Not all graduating seniors have been able to join us, but the faculty and staff want to thank each of you for the special gifts you've shared with us. Many successes are still ahead of you. We hope you'll keep in touch, and allow us to celebrate with you as your future unfolds.

As you are aware the author of the book *Imagine*, Jonah Leherer, was with us this past April. Many of you were unable to attend his inspiring talk due to other commitments. Since Kate Ufema was so instrumental in getting Mr. Leherer to our campus, I've asked her to read an excerpt from his soon to be published book on love.

(Sit down)

Seniors, the certificate you receive tonight reads: The UMD Department of Theatre wishes to express its deep appreciation for the years of work and dedication that have led to:

- the enrichment of UMD's Department of Theatre,
- to the finale of your baccalaureate career,
- and to the beginning of a life in the theatre.

Break a leg!

These are not in alphabetical order, so don't freak out if I skip over you.

Graduating with Latin Honors: (2)

Cum Laude: Top 15% of their graduating class

Summa Cum Laude: Top 3% of their graduating class

Graduating with Departmental Honors: (3)

Department Honors are the highest award possible given to graduating theatre majors for exceptional achievement. Candidates, nominated by theatre department faculty, receive honors for their distinguished contributions and leadership in the Department of Theatre.

Graduating with both Departmental and Latin Honors: (5)