

usitt

Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

Lead story ›

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101 Things To Do In Charlotte

Charlotte, North Carolina offers more 100 different activities when USITT's Annual Conference & Stage Expo visits in March. [more »](#)



USITT Grants & Fellowships Encourage Creative Investigation

More than \$250,000 from USITT's Grants and Fellowship program has assisted in research and scholarly understanding [more »](#)



Two Committees Named to Assist Development

New committees have been formed to help with the work of development within the organization, both with the goal of enhancing the organization [more »](#)



PQ Offers Opportunity for Students

Students are encouraged to participate fully in a special exhibit as part of the The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space [more »](#)



In Memoriam

Vincent L. Angotti [more »](#)



Member Benefits

Special discounts on shipping are available to USITT members through FedEx, on everything from overnight to freight services. [more »](#)



News From USITT's President

Saving money on everything from insurance to car rentals help members [more »](#)



News From USITT's Executive Director

A recent visit to PLASA shows the strong International involvement of the organization [more »](#)



Retreat Leads to Advances

A meeting of USITT's Commissioners in Syracuse is leading to advances in communication [more »](#)



Costume Commission Leadership Adjusted

Changes in the leadership structure of the Costume Design & Technology Commission will assist with meeting members' needs [more »](#)

Mentors Available for Educators

2011: What's Next ...

Annual Conference
& Stage Expo
with a special focus
on sustainability

March 9-12
Charlotte, North Carolina

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Education Commission mentors are available to offer a helping hand to those new to the teaching process in higher education [more »](#)



A Wiggling Good Time

This year's Costume Symposium went in depth in to wig making and styling with four concurrent sessions at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts [more »](#)



Stage Expo Hours Tweaked

Stage Expo returns to its traditional Thursday through Saturday run for 2011, but with a change from previous hours of operation. [more »](#)



The Last Word [more »](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New Navigation for USITT Website
- Electronic Ballots Available Until January 5
- Lowest Conference Rate Deadline Near
- Poster Sessions Deadline November 15
- Costume Commission Seeks 2012 Session Ideas
- Dust Standard Available for Review
- Still Adding Costume Projects
- PLASA Sees Increased Participation
- Harry Box Appointed Manager of PERA Council

NEWS FROM: AROUND THE INSTITUTE

- USITT at LDI
- Hoffer Wins Fulbright
- A Meeting of the Finkelsteins!
- Irene Corey
- Laura Crow Honored
- The Kennedy Center Seeks Inspirational Teachers
- Lighting Designer Named to University Chair
- Gener Wins Journalist Award
- Michael Patrick Neelon

NEWS FROM: CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

- ZFX To Focus on Flying
- J.R. Clancy Supplies Two Venues and Named Training Provider
- PRG Supports the Singapore Youth Olympic Games
- Creative Stage Lighting Named Towerlift Distributor
- ETC Displays Latest Products, Names Representative

NEWS FROM: SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- Checkers Industrial Products, Inc. Expands Cable Protector Offerings
- New Feature for DMX Tool
- Busy Summer for Sapsis
- Firm Contracts for 'Dancing Water'
- Institute Offers Hands-On Approach
- 'LEEDs' Green Building Movement

NEWS FROM: REGIONAL SECTIONS

- **Southern California:** Job Fair
- **Southwest:** Winter Symposium
- **Ohio Valley:** Conference Breaks Records, Upcoming Events Announced
- **Chesapeake:** Expo & Conference Held
- **Midwest:** Registration Open for Mechanical Design Competition

[Lead story ›](#)

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News & Notices

101 Things to Do in Charlotte

David M. Fillmore Jr.

If you think Charlotte is just another southern city, think again. This is a city on the go with a little something for everyone planning to attend the 51st Annual Conference & Stage Expo from March 9 to 12. Decide to attend the Conference before December 1 and take advantage of Very Early pricing for the 2011 event in the Queen City. Following is a list of 101 things to do in Charlotte in case you bring the family or plan to stay an extra day or so. The list is reorganized into 10 categories, but [the original can be found here](#).

- Adventure
- Nature
- Family Fun
- Theatres
- Museums
- Galleries
- Sports
- Shopping
- Wine & Food
- Extras & Festivals



Discovery Place is just one of the many attractions available to visitors to Charlotte, North Carolina for the 51st Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Learn about more than 100 other potential activities from David Fillmore.

Photo/Courtesy Visit Charlotte

Adventure

1. Experience one of the world's most unique outdoor adventure attractions at the **U.S. National Whitewater Center**. Complete with class III-IV rapids, hiking and biking trails, one of the largest climbing surfaces in the nation, and an 1,100 ft. Mega Zip line, the facility draws everyone from Olympic-caliber athletes to



nature novices. www.usnwc.org

2.

The Dirt Track Racing School offers both racers and racing fans alike the chance to drive on dirt in three different types of racecars. Students can drive an open-wheel Modified, a Late Model and a Sprint Car. Classes do not require any prior racing experience. The Dirt Track Racing School holds its classes just 25 minutes from downtown Charlotte and 45 minutes from Charlotte Motor Speedway at Carolina Speedway in Gastonia, NC. To learn more about the Dirt Track Racing School, visit our website or call 704-728-2969.

3.

Before the forty-niners struck it rich on the West Coast, Charlotte was the site of the nation's first gold rush. Conrad Reed was one of the first, stumbling upon a 17- pound nugget that he sold for a paltry \$3.50 before he realized its true value. Try to score your own treasure by panning for gold at **Reed Gold Mine**. www.reedmine.org

4.

The Richard Petty Driving Experience puts you in the fast lane. Ride shotgun with a professional driver, or train and get behind the wheel yourself, racing at speeds of over 160mph. www.1800bepetty.com

5.

Victory Lane Indoor Karting Center offers a 1/3 mile European-style indoor road course with specialty karts made in Italy by SODI Kart that average speeds of 35mph. www.377fast.com

6.

Take the family to **NASCAR SpeedPark** and renew sibling rivalry on five scaled race tracks. The premier track at NASCAR SpeedPark, Mini-Motor Speedway, features a quarter mile oval and 5/8 scale Sprint style cars. Miniature golf is also available. www.nascarspeedpark.com

7.

Home to sailboats, speedboats, pontoon boats and impressive cruisers, **Lake Norman** is the largest man-made lake in the Carolinas. From spirited tie-up parties bobbing along the shoreline to a selection of dockside watering holes perfect for a leisurely afternoon, this 34-mile long lake can't be beat. www.visitlakenorman.org

8.

The **Carolina Renaissance Festival** brings together six acres packed with purveyors of good eats and spirits each October and November. After eating and drinking, be merry with ten stages of music and comedy shows, jousting, and a lively festival village with hundreds of costumed characters.

www.royalfaires.com

Nature

9.

Get swept away with natural beauty at **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden**, featuring 110 acres of themed gardens, a dozen sparkling fountains, a spectacular Visitor Pavilion, and a striking Orchid Conservatory. www.dsbgo.org

10.

Tour the **Carolina Raptor Center**'s bird hospital and get a sneak peek at what happens behind the scenes, from the patient's initial exam to strengthening their wings in outdoor flight cages. www.carolinaraptorcenter.org

11.

Relax and enjoy the serenity of **Wing Haven**, a unique part of Charlotte since its creation in 1927. The gardens and bird sanctuary, enclosed on all sides by brick walls, encompasses three acres in the heart of Myers Park.

www.winghavengardens.com

12.

When it comes to camping, leave the heavy lifting to the experts at **Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation**. Their Rent-a-Tent sites at McDowell Nature Preserve are assembled for visitors and come with a tent, cots, fire ring, grill, picnic table, and more with a bargain price tag under \$50 per day. www.parkandrec.com

13.

Travel back in time at **Latta Plantation and Nature Preserve**. Once a thriving cotton plantation, the Latta is now a living history farm. Experience what life was like in the North Carolina back country during the 19th century and visit the Latta Nature Preserve for a look at natural beauty in the Carolinas.

www.lattaplantation.org

14.

Twice a year, **The Park** transforms for consumer shows that draw thousands for decorating tips, one-of-a-kind finds, and more. Don't miss the **Southern Christmas Show** each November and the **Southern Spring Home & Garden Show** each March. www.southernshows.com

15.

Giddy up! Take a horseback ride at the **Latta Equestrian Center**. Guided trail rides and individual and group riding lessons are available here.

www.parkandrec.com

16.

Charlotteans are undecided on the best place to see the city skyline. While there's no definitive destination that lays claim to the official title, there are plenty of spots around town worth taking in the view. At the runway overlook at

Charlotte Douglas International Airport, planes take off and land right in front of you, while shady trees, picnic tables and benches are great for admiring Charlotte's skyline in the distance. www.charlotteairport.com

Family Fun

17.

Reflecting an original approach to education, learning and the arts, **ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center** is a 106,000 sq. ft. facility that serves as an unprecedented resource for families. Programs create a synergy between educational drama experiences and the critical skills of reading unlike any in the country. www.imaginon.org

18.

The Intimidator adds to **Carowinds'** menacing roster of roller coasters in 2010. Named for Dale Earnhardt, the looping, 75mph behemoth is the Southeast's tallest, fastest, and longest coaster. Also new to the park, Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang will unveil Planet Snoopy in the park's re-themed kids area. www.carowinds.com

19.

One of the Carolinas' most visited attractions, **Discovery Place** has revamped its wondrous halls to make way for bigger and better science lab stations, a larger aquarium, and a digital 3-D theatre. www.discoveryplace.org

20.

Get up close and personal with giraffes, buffalos, zebras, and more in your own private safari at the **Lazy 5 Ranch** in Mooresville. Travel through the friendly confines of this 3.5-mile zoo in the comfort of your own vehicle or by horse drawn wagon to check out more than 750 animals from six different continents. www.lazy5ranch.com

21.

Beat the heat...or cold at **Ray's Splash Planet**, a 29,000 square foot indoor water park and fitness facility. The water park is loaded with fun features: a double figure eight waterslide, water squirters, a lazy river, and tumble buckets. www.rayssplashplanet.com

Theatres

22.

Experience Broadway blockbusters with the **NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Broadway Lights Series**. 2010 season performances include smash hits like Mary Poppins, Wicked, and Jersey Boys. The Performing Arts Center has six performance spaces: the 2,100-seat Belk Theater; the 1200-seat Knight Theater; the 730-seat McGlohon Theatre; the 444-seat Booth Playhouse, the 182-seat Duke Energy Theatre; and the Stage Door Theater which seats 150. The Center presents the Broadway Lights Series, featuring national touring Broadway productions and a wide range of special attractions. Additionally, the

Center's Education Department and Community Programs Division develop innovative partnerships with schools and community organizations to bring the performing arts to life for people throughout the region. The Center is home to the seasons of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Opera Carolina, North Carolina Dance Theatre, Carolina Voices, the Carolinas Concert Association, Queen City Theatre, Community School of the Arts, and the Light Factory. www.blumenthalcenter.org

23.

For over half a century, **Children's Theatre of Charlotte** has been opening young minds to the wonders of live theatre, encouraging kids to travel as far as their imaginations can carry and teaching valuable life lessons. www.ctcharlotte.org

24.

The **North Carolina Dance Theatre**, now in their 40th season, will reach new heights during the 2010 season with time-honored ballets like Cinderella and the Nutcracker. www.ncdance.org

25.

Rock out with your favorite musical performers at **Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre**, Charlotte's open-air music venue attracting the nation's hottest stars for rocking shows under the stars. www.livenation.com

26.

Nationally-acclaimed conductors Christof Perick and Albert-George Schram lead the **Charlotte Symphony Orchestra** in its popular Classics and Pops series. The engaging Pops series brings together the Charlotte Symphony with special guests such as Kathy Mattea and Bernadette Peters each season. Don't miss a high note each June when Charlotte Symphony Pops in the Park returns for Sunday summer concerts. Themes embrace everything from Italian overtures to movie soundtracks, while the lawn brims with hardcore picnickers who share expansive spreads of fine wines and finger foods. www.charlottesymphony.org

27.

Find inspiration with **NarroWay Productions**. NarroWay offers dynamic Christian musicals and dinner theatre ranging from World War II dramas to Christmas pageants to Western whodunits. www.narroway.net

28.

With top events and performances ranging from rock concerts to monster truck rallies, **Bojangles' Coliseum** has been a Charlotte landmark since 1955. www.bojanglescoliseum.com

29.

Two powerhouse venues in Center City put the 'music' in the **NC Music Factory**. The chandelier and red velvet adorned Fillmore accommodates over 2,000 fans for shows like Blues Traveler and BB King. Next door, the Uptown Amphitheatre holds 5,000 with elevated lawn seating and a backdrop of the city skyline. www.ncmusicfactory.com

30.

A primary venue for NC Dance Theatre (currently celebrating its 40th anniversary!) and Opera Carolina, the **Knight Theater** is an intimate setting for artistic grandeur. www.blumenthalcenter.org

31.

Experience live music, an art gallery, and a latte at **The Evening Muse**. The Muse features original artists in a wide variety of genres.

www.theeveningmuse.com

32.

Ovens Auditorium hosts traveling Broadway musicals, national touring comedy acts and popular musicians. Surrounded by its trademark fountains and rose gardens, Ovens Auditorium is truly among the finest Charlotte landmarks.

www.ovensauditorium.com

33.

At Central Piedmont Community College's **Dale F. Halton Theater**, education meets entertainment. Catch theatre, music and dance productions throughout the year in the Elizabeth neighborhood. www.halton.cpcc.edu

34.

Bravo! **Opera Carolina** is the largest professional opera company in the Carolinas and entertains the region through outstanding operas as well as education and outreach programs. Check out their programming at the new Knight Theater. www.operacarolina.org

Museums

35.

The **Billy Graham Library** combines iconic memorabilia and multimedia technology to transport visitors into the life and faith of the beloved evangelist. A country kitchen and replica of Graham's boyhood home complete this not-to-be-missed experience. www.billygraham.org/library

36.

A breathtaking new facility for the prestigious **Mint Museum** plants roots in Center City, combining the renowned Craft + Design collection with its Contemporary, American, and Romare Bearden collections.

www.mintmuseum.org

37.

Historic Brattonsville, in nearby McConnells, SC, is a 775-acre living history village with 29 historic structures, a battlefield site, and living history programs where docents "relive the past" by hosting a variety of themed days.

www.chmuseums.org

38.

Once the location of the first branch of the United States Mint, the **Mint**

Museum of Art is a rich and diverse resource with noted collections of American and pre-Columbian art, American and European ceramics, and contemporary art and photography. www.mintmuseum.org

39.

An astounding collection of mid- 20th century modern art makes its North American debut at the **Bechtler Museum of Modern Art** South Tryon is a work of art itself filled with gems by notables such as Picasso, Calder, Warhol, and more. www.bechtler.org

40.

One of Charlotte's skinniest landmarks at just 45 feet wide, the **Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture** packs a powerful punch with exhibits hosting traveling and permanent works by prominent African-Americans. Look for a line-up of oratory, concerts, and lectures too. www.ganttcenter.org

41.

Shortly after the Civil War, Charlotte exemplified what the "New South" was to become. **Levine Museum of the New South** documents this rich history through the timeless and award-winning "Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers" exhibit among many others. www.museumofthenewsouth.org

42.

Explore the **Charlotte Museum of History** and the Hezekiah Alexander home site for a glimpse of living history. Docents dressed in period attire guide guests through exhibits chronicling the 18th - 20th centuries. www.charlottemuseum.org

43.

Visit the **Charlotte Nature Museum**, an urban science center in the heart of Freedom Park that exhibits the animals and plants of the Piedmont including an ever-changing Butterfly Garden. www.discoveryplace.org

44.

The Light Factory is a nonprofit arts center dedicated to exhibition and education programs promoting the power of photography and film. The Spirit Square facility offers classes throughout the year in SLR and digital photography as well as filmmaking. www.lightfactory.org

45.

Delve into American history at the 11th U.S. president's boyhood home. The **President James K. Polk State Historic Site** commemorates significant events during his administration including the Mexican-American War and the annexation of California. www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

46.

Injecting some high octane energy into Charlotte's already substantial auto-racing roots, the **NASCAR Hall of Fame** touts a feast for the senses to honor its heroes. Look for interactive exhibits like racing simulators and pit crew experiences in addition to unforgettable tributes to NASCAR's legends. www.nascarhall.com

47.

The **Charlotte Trolley Powerhouse Museum** in South End features exhibits on Charlotte's past as well as a look to the future. Afterward hop aboard the Charlotte Trolley for a two-mile jaunt that provides an overview on the Queen City's history while viewing the area's smart city planning.

www.powerhousemuseum.org

48.

Take in the breathtaking elegance of three historic residences at the **Van Landingham Estate**, the **Morehead Inn**, or the **Duke Mansion**, which all now serve as special event venues and bed & breakfasts.

www.vanlandinghamestate.com, www.moreheadinn.com,
www.dukemansion.com

49.

Board the Catawba Queen, a replica of a Mississippi River Paddle Wheeler or the Lady of the Lake at **Queen's Landing** to watch a romantic sunset or enjoy a dinner cruise on Lake Norman. Got a boat of your own? Tie up at the Floating Dock Bar and cool off with an ice cold beverage. www.queenslanding.com

50.

Visit the **McColl Center for Visual Art**. The Center supports an active artist in residence program and their works can be viewed by the public. The Center also frequently offers lectures and artists forums. www.mccollcenter.org

51.

Explore **Duke Energy's Energy Explorium**, located at McGuire Nuclear Station. The Energy Explorium features hands-on energy information exhibits, a Lake Norman movie, wildflower garden and one mile nature trail. www.duke-energy.com

52.

Let your imagination soar at the **Carolinas Aviation Museum**. Relive the country's proudest moments with exhibits featuring aircraft from war and peacetime. www.carolinasaviation.org

Galleries

53.

The first Friday of each month, venture to historic **South End's Gallery Crawl**, featuring eight galleries with everything from fine art photography to contemporary abstracts. Or check out **NoDa's Gallery Crawl** every first and third Friday of the month with a self-guided gallery tour. **Art and Soul of South End** combines dancing, singing, performances, and lots of visual masterpieces in one of Charlotte's most historic neighborhoods. Browse the local artisans or sample interactive salsa, swing, and hip-hop dance instruction in addition to hands-on sculpting, weaving, and drawing lessons.

www.artandsoulofsouthend.com, www.findyourcenter.com, www.noda.org

54.

Take a tour of Charlotte's public artworks. The **Arts & Science Council of Charlotte** views public art as integral to a community's fabric by recognizing the potential of art to create livable cities and enrich the spirit and pride of its citizens. Stop into the Visitor Info Center for a guide to Center City's public artworks. www.artsandscience.org

55.

Charlotte is called the **city of frescoes**. Rare in the U.S., Charlotte is home to several sites painted by Ben Long, a N.C. native. Frescoes adorn the lobby of the Bank of America Corporate Center, The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, and Transamerica Square. www.artsandscience.org

Sports

56.

Each early May, the **Quail Hollow Championship** returns to the breathtaking grounds of the private 50-year old Quail Hollow Club, attracting the best and brightest talent on the PGA Tour "Money List."

www.quailhollowchampionship.com

57.

Celebrate spring in the Piedmont countryside with the prestigious **Queen's Cup Steeplechase**, the Charlotte area's only horse racing event. Sundress-clad ladies and seersucker-sporting gentlemen can be found enjoying the loads of festivities during the event's six races. www.queenscup.org

58.

Along with the holidays, December brings with it the highly anticipated arrival of college bowl games. And Charlotte's home to a biggie – the **Meineke Car Care Bowl**. Pitting a Big East rival against an ACC challenger, the game kicks off each late December at Bank of America Stadium.

www.meinekecarcarebowl.com

59.

Don't miss the cuts, scrapes, and power plays of minor league hockey! The **ECHL Charlotte Checkers** take to the ice through April at Time Warner Cable Arena. www.gocheckers.com

60.

Don't miss the excitement of the **NBA Charlotte Bobcats** as they host the league's brightest stars at Time Warner Cable Arena. www.bobcats.com

61.

Enjoy America's favorite pastime at Knights Stadium. Catch the **Charlotte Knights**, an affiliate of the Chicago White Sox, as they compete against the best AAA minor-league baseball teams. www.charlotteknights.com

62.

The tackles and touchdowns of the **Dr. Pepper ACC Football Championship**

are headed to Charlotte in 2010 and 2011. Don't miss one of the Southeast's most anticipated match-ups, which will take Bank of America Stadium by storm and bring ACC football fans to their feet. www.accfootballchampionship.com

63.

The **UNC Charlotte 49ers** are sure to grab your "A10tion" as part of the Atlantic 10 Conference. With the James H. Barnhardt Student Activity Center and Dale F. Halton Arena serving as the centerpiece, the 49ers boast some of the best collegiate sports teams and facilities in the nation. www.charlotte49ers.com

64.

Catch the **NFL Carolina Panthers** as they compete at Bank of America Stadium each fall. Noted as one of the best natural turf fields in the NFL, the stadium plays host to die-hard Panther fans as well as some not-to-be missed tackles and touchdowns. www.panthers.com

65.

Bowling just got an upgrade. After picking up a spare, **Strike City** at The EpiCentre has more projection screens and plasmas than you can count and an Italian menu worthy of a taste test. People watch from the high backed leather banquettes before hitting the dance floor. www.strikecitycharlotte.com

66.

Experience NASCAR racing from a unique perspective through PIT Crew U and 5 OFF 5 ON, the coaching divisions of **PIT Instruction & Training**. Training programs get you up close and personal with the fastest 15 seconds in NASCAR. www.5off5on.com

67.

The **CIAA Men and Women's Basketball Tournament** just can't get enough of the Queen City! The excitement of this 64-year old NCAA tourney brings more than 150,000 fans to Time Warner Cable Arena for the dribbles, drives, and dunks on the court and the non-stop celebrations off of it. www.ciaatournament.com

68.

Any way you slice it, Charlotte's got plenty of **golf courses** to choose from. More than 40 public ones to be exact. Whether driving the impressive wetland-shrouded 15th hole of Rocky River Golf Club or teeing off at the championship course at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, you'll find a lot of links to your liking. www.charlottesgotalot.com/attractions

69.

Charlotte Motor Speedway, home to NASCAR's only 600-mile race, hosts the **Coca-Cola 600** each Memorial Day weekend, a week after the NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race. www.charlottemotorspeedway.com

70.

The **NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race** is a spring ritual of speed and daring resulting in yearly additions to the book of NASCAR lore. Catch the excitement

as motorsports history is written at over 180mph each May.

www.charlottespeedway.com

71.

As the chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup heats up, racing action returns to Charlotte Motor Speedway as it hosts the **NASCAR Banking 500 only from Bank of America** in October. The fifth race out of the final ten for the Sprint Championship, this battle promises high-speed action and excitement.

www.charlottespeedway.com

Shopping

72.

Paint the town red at Center City's most coveted entertainment destination, **The EpiCentre**. A bevy of retailers, restaurants, nightlife, and more fill the open-air corridors including the 25,000 square foot event venue called Pavilion, which hosts the "Alive After Five" summer concert music series. www.epicentrec.com

73.

Shop 'til you drop at **Concord Mills**, a bargain hunter's paradise with deals as far as the eye can see. Offering more than 200 stores, Concord Mills also boasts restaurants, a 24-screen AMC Theatre, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World and NASCAR SpeedPark. www.concordmills.com

74.

Find some of the most sought after and luxurious brands around at **SouthPark Mall**. Highlights include department stores like Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus in addition to cult favorites like Juicy Couture, Michael Kors, Burberry, Kate Spade and Louis Vuitton. www.simon.com

75.

Shop at new south Charlotte open-air developments such as **Blakeney** and **Morrison** featuring high end boutiques peppered with designer labels or other coveted luxury goods only found this side of Manhattan.

www.charlottesgotalot.com/shopping

76.

Some of Charlotte's best retail therapy can be found in alfresco and pedestrian-friendly shopping centers with tranquil fountains, tree-lined sidewalks, and inviting eateries. At **Phillip's Place** in South Park for instance, visitors can stumble upon high-end boutiques, hard-to-find labels, and fun finds.

www.charlottesgotalot.com/shopping

Wine & Food

77.

The **Taste of Charlotte** food festival draws more than 150,000 people to Center City Charlotte each June to experience a wide array of family activities, live music and fantastic food from the area's hottest restaurants.

www.tasteofcharlotte.com

78.

Much to the surprise of wine aficionados, North Carolina is home to more than 80 wineries, ranking an impressive tenth in the nation's wine production. The Yadkin Valley's temperate climate lays claim to dozens including the **Swan Creek Wine Trail**, which includes estates like Laurel Gray, Raffaldini, Shadow Springs, and Dobbins Creek. Howl at the Moon at

www.swancreekvineyards.com

79.

The Tuscan-inspired grounds of **Childress Vineyards**, owned by auto racing legend Richard Childress, lay claim to over 65 acres of vineyards producing nine varieties ranging from Malbecs to Chardonnays. Explore the Barrel Cave with a cascading waterfall and wine casks. www.childressvineyards.com

80.

Each September, **Blues, Brews, and BBQ** combines the likes of legendary Tar Heel BBQ from across the state with the rockin', expressive blues that feeds our souls. A 5K Hog Jog through the streets of Center City, awards for the festival's best BBQ, and plenty more tasty eats and cool tunes round out this rip-roarin' good time. www.findyourcenter.com

81.

Charlotte Restaurant Week, a scrumptious sensation that entices thousands to dine like royalty, returns for inviting encores each January and July. Countless upscale establishments boast their best appetizers, entrees, and desserts for the easy-on-the-pocketbook price of just \$30 for three courses. For dates, check www.charlotterestaurantweek.com

82.

No stranger to masterful wine pairings and multiple course masterpieces, the Victorian-era **McNinch House Restaurant** located in Charlotte's historic Fourth Ward is an intimate setting to satisfy even the most well traveled and sophisticated foodies. www.mcninchhouserestaurant.com

83.

Whisky River, a nightlife creation by Dale Earnhardt, Jr. is located in The EpiCentre, one of Charlotte's most popular destinations with over 20 venues sharing one very cool address. Saddle up to a belt-buckle trimmed bar or test the feisty mechanical bull. www.whiskyrivercharlotte.com

84.

Let your hair down and don't miss **Howl at the Moon** in The EpiCentre, where musicians man baby grand pianos and saxophones. A bachelorette party magnet, patrons are pulled up on stage here to help croon high-energy classics by Billy Joel and Journey. www.howlatthemoon.com

85.

For the best barbeque in town take the LYNXBlue line south to **Mac's Speed Shop**. I recommend either the sample platter or their specialty the beef brisket.

They are located at - 2511 South Blvd. - Charlotte, NC 28203 -11 AM to midnight or whenever. www.macspeedshop.com

Extras & Festivals

86.

Ready for a night on the town? Head over to the **Visulite Theatre** for great live music or experience a time-honored Charlotte live music venue, the **Double Door Inn**. www.visulite.com, www.doubledoorinn.com

87.

Indulge in the ultimate destination spa experience at **The Spa at Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge**. The award winning, full-service spa features a variety of natural and organic based treatments using ingredients indigenous to the Carolinas. www.spaballantyne.com

88.

Held each October since 1991, the Public Library of Charlotte's award winning **Novello Festival of Reading** is a celebration of reading and books boasting presentations by bestselling authors, a street festival and other reading-related activities. www.novellofestival.net

89.

Don a derby and your finest green attire for the **Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade** and **Charlotte Goes Green Festival**. Filled with bagpipers, dancers, bands, and vendors with traditional eats like corned beef and cabbage, the happenings in Center City serve up a little something Irish for everyone. www.charlottestpatsday.com

90.

The lush, three-tier lawn on **The Green** lays claim to quirky, novella-themed features, hopscotch paths, and three towering fish fountains. Kids are regular fixtures here, but the park hosts a range of events throughout the year including outdoor Shakespeare performances and wine festivals. www.greenuptown.com

91.

Visit **Plaza-Midwood**, Charlotte's most diverse streetcar-era neighborhood. Its earliest avenues were plotted in 1903 and its newest date from after the Second World War. Buildings range from turn-of-the-century factories and bungalows to the city's most prestigious country club and thriving nightspots. www.plazamidwood.org

92.

Visit Charlotte's historic **South End** neighborhood. Once a hot spot for textile mills in the 1850s, the LYNX light rail line now zooms through, a tell-tale sign that this neighborhood is on the move. Embark on a gallery crawl, hop on the Charlotte Trolley, or sample ample dining and nightlife options. www.historicsouthend.com

93.

NoDa District (North Davidson Street). NoDa is now the home to the City's best collection of galleries and performance venues; some of the funkier full service restaurants including authentic Cajun cooking, Southwest cuisine, a Creative pizza eatery and more. There is a Gallery Crawl twice a month to experience NoDa's unique street scene. Every 1st & 3rd Fridays throughout the year. From 6pm to 9:30pm. Or if you cannot make it to the Gallery Crawl please visit NoDa during regular business hours. Most businesses are open 7 days a week.

www.noda.org

94.

The Mecklenburgers announced their freedom with a proclamation called the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence," forever dissolving the colonists' bonds with Britain. Years later, Charlotte still celebrates annually each May 20 with **MecDec Day**. www.may20thsociety.org

95.

Experience the collection of nationally renowned public artworks that adorn the **Charlotte Convention Center**, or attend a variety of tradeshow and conventions open to the public, including the Charlotte International Car and Mid Atlantic Boat Shows. www.charlotteconventionctr.com

96.

Leave the car behind and hop aboard the **LYNX Blue Line** light rail for easy stops at Charlotte attractions like Levine Museum of the New South and ImaginOn: The Joe and Joan Martin Center or for mouth-watering eateries like Fuel Pizza or The Liberty. www.charmeck.org

97.

Central Piedmont Community College has hosted an annual **Spring Literary Festival** each year for the past 15 years. With writers and visual artists ranging from novelists to landscape painters to international poets and multicultural storytellers, CPCC brings a stunning array of talent to Charlotte. www.cpcc.edu

98.

First Night, a celebration that more than 200 cities participate in, returns each New Year's Eve for a family-friendly celebration along Tryon Street. Culture fills the streets throughout the day with musicians, dancers, actors, artists, and more. Suitable for all ages, the festivities culminate with a firework-filled finale at midnight. www.firstnightcharlotte.org

99.

Celebrating all things Greek, peruse booths at the **Yiasou Greek Festival** packed with cuisine and pastries and jewelry and crafts vendors – not to mention live performances that will have you shouting “Opa!” in no time

100.

Each September, Freedom Park hosts **Festival in the Park**, bringing together more than 100,000 people to the spirited lanes of one Charlotte's most popular green spaces. The arts and crafts event touts more than 150 artists and nearly 1,000 entertainers. There's also a hodgepodge of food vendors to satisfy even

the pickiest eater. www.festivalinthepark.com

101.

One of the best ways to explore the city's growing thoroughfares, the horse-drawn **Charlotte Center City Carriage Tours** "clip-clop" through city streets including Fourth Ward, featuring striking Victorian homes and an impressive tree canopy. www.southernbreezes.com

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News & Notices

USITT Grants & Fellowships Encourage Creative Investigation

Rich Dunham *Co-Chair Grants & Fellowships Committee*



The Art Auctions, held every three years as part of Stage Expo, benefit the USITT Grants & Fellowship program. The next auction is planned for 2012.

Photo/USITT Archive

One of the lesser known member benefits that USITT members can participate in are those associated with the Grants & Fellowships program that are available through USITT. These programs provide funding for individuals who have interests in completing research in an area of specific study that is related to our industry. Deadline for the next round of Fellowships is January 10 and [applications are available online here](#).

Projects may include conducting research into historical or cultural elements of theatrical design and technology, exploration of significant (both known and unknown) theatre artists and crafts people, or research towards the development of a new technology.

USITT is rich in a leadership that has had the vision of providing a mechanism for encouraging research in this relatively small industry that we call entertainment design and technology. Last year, the Grants & Fellowship program marked its 25th year of providing funding for a variety of projects which have been developed by our membership. In the early years of the Institute, Edward F. Kook (one of USITT's founders) mandated that the organization provide assistance to its members by fostering creativity in technical theatre practice. Through his, and the efforts and financial contributions of a number of other individuals, a special fund (the Kook Fund) was created to provide the monetary resources for funding this type of innovative research.



Over the years, more than \$250,000 has been provided to USITT members to support a wide variety of research through individual grants and fellowships. While this funding has primarily provided the means of bringing an individual's research into reality, it also benefits the rest of our membership and the industry as a whole. As a stipulation of receiving funding from USITT, researchers are expected to share their research with the rest of the USITT community through mechanisms such as writing articles for *TD&T* or making panel presentations at our annual conferences.

Several notable projects that have been fulfilled through past recipients of USITT funding include: Lance Brockman's research on historical scene painting and the Twin City Scenic Project, Deborah Bell's research and continued publications regarding the ancient art of mask making, and Robert Gerlach research into the color rendering abilities in using LED's as a light source – which became a significant element of the Selador 7-channel LED lighting system.

The funding provided by the USITT Grants & Fellowships program can also act as stimulus to other granting sources by reinforcing the credibility of a researcher's work. A number of past award winners have had new avenues for research opened and personal development opportunities realized as the funding of these grants provided the seed money that was required to complete these projects.

This program is open to all USITT members and in alternating years offers significant funding to Project Grants or Research Fellowships. The annual awards alternate between Grant Awards on even numbered years and Fellowships on odd numbered years. This year the committee will be considering Fellowship projects. Fellowship applications will be accepted for the 2011 funding cycle beginning in the late fall through the early winter with the deadline for receipt of this year's applications being January 10, 2011.

Anyone interested in the Fellowship program is encouraged to visit the USITT web site where further information and application materials can be found under the Awards & Grants section of the site. Those individuals and corporate members who are interested in contributing to the Kook Fund and continuing to make this important mission of the Institute possible can make tax deductible contributions to the fund by contacting the national office at 800-938-7488, ext. 102 or [making an online contribution](#).

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[New Navigation for USITT Website](#)

In continuing improvements to the way people can move around on www.usitt.org, there are now “flyouts” on the main information bar of the USITT home page. Information updates, currently on only the home page, will now be available on every page. The main navigation bar has also expanded. Those having trouble locating a favorite page are urged to call 800-938-7488 for assistance.

[Electronic Ballots Available Until January 5](#)

Balloting will open in mid-November for USITT's Board of Directors and officers. The organization again is using a secure online voting process, as it has for the past two years. A new company, Vote-Now, will handle USITT's electronic voting. Current members will be notified in the middle of the month and be able to cast ballots until January 5. [Click here to read about current candidates and their position statements.](#)

[Lowest Conference Rate Deadline Near](#)

December 1 is the deadline for the lowest possible registration rates to attend the 2011 Annual Conference & Stage Expo. Visit www.usitt.org/2011 for a complete list of sessions and updated information about major Conference events. Then make the decision to register before rates increase on December 2.



Poster Sessions Deadline November 15

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in either the Costume Design & Technology or Education poster sessions. Submissions are due by November 15 and the process has been streamlined into a simple e-mail. [Read more here.](#)

Costume Commission Seeks 2012 Session Ideas

The Costume Design & Technology Commission is thinking of the USITT 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo which will be held in Long Beach, California. Those with an idea for a session can fill out the form. That's it. Very simple. [Find the form here.](#)

Dust Standard Available for Review

BSR E1.40 - 201x, Recommendations for the Planning of Theatrical Dust Effects is available for public review through November 22.

The draft is written as a recommendation, a document that gives a mixture of guidance "should" statements and mandatory "shall" statements. A great variety of materials might be suitable for dust effects, either as dust lying on props and scenery or as aerosol clouds, so it does not specify exactly what dust must be. However, the standard will help people avoid inappropriate materials, to select those least likely to cause health or safety problems, and to use them with care.

For more information, contact Karl G. Ruling, Technical Standards Manager, ESTA, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005, New York, NY 10001; phone 212-244-1505; standards@esta.org.

Still Adding Projects to Costume Volume

Projects for Teaching Costume Design & Technology has been an on-going project of the Costume Design & Technology Commission for 12 years. Volume 1, published in 1998 and edited by Pat Martin, inspired everyone from the instructor entering the profession to the experienced teacher looking for a new approach.

The Costume Design & Technology Commission continues to solicit ideas for Volume 2. There are two ways to contribute to the project: share ideas that have been successful in the classroom or try some of the projects and provide feedback. To submit a project, e-mail Judy Adamson: jadamson@email.unc.edu to request a submission form. Twice a year, a master list of submissions in the form of "teasers" are sent to everyone who has submitted or expressed interest in the project. The whole project will be sent to those interested in trying them in class.

PLASA Sees Increased Participation

PLASA 2010 closed on a high note with preliminary visitor figures set to show an increase over 2009 and strong international engagement from across the world. Exhibitors across all the show's sectors raved about the quality of business leads and relished the show's vibrant atmosphere. The event, which filled London's Earls Court 1 and 2, drew over 12,000 visitors, while the international attendance continued to be strong with nearly 30 percent of visitors from 99 other countries.

The exhibition had momentum thanks to a strong exhibitor base, a range of new features and special events, and the addition of two major new conferences running alongside for the first time - the sell-out PLASA International Rigging Conference and the AVNetworks 2010 Conference presented by Pro Sound News and Installation Europe.

Exhibitor commitment to next year's event is already strong and PLASA 2011 returns to Earls Court from September 11 to 14. www.plasashow.com

Harry Box Appointed Manager of PERA Council

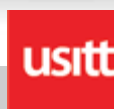
Harry Box was appointed ESTA's PERA Council Manager and will actively reach out to PERA Council Affiliates to update and inform members about ESTA membership benefits. He will work closely with the council to develop new programs to directly promote, improve, and invigorate members' businesses. He will also focus on expanding membership in the film/video sector.

Mr. Box worked in motion picture and television production since 1989. Over his career, he has done substantial work as a lighting technician, gaffer, camera operator, director of photography, and educator. His credits include major motion pictures, many popular network television series, independent feature films, telefilms, documentaries, music videos, commercials, and industrials.

His book, *The Set Lighting Technician's Handbook* (now in its fourth edition), is a reference for lighting technicians in motion picture and television work. Mr. Box has taught university classes in cinematography and lighting technology. He is a member of the Society of Camera Operators and the International Cinematographers Guild (Local 600).

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Two Committees Named to Assist Development

Dennis Dorn, *Development Chair*

USITT is entering a new era of fundraising. Two new ad hoc committees have been appointed by President Joe Aldridge, each with the common mission of continuing USITT's efforts to enhance the benefits of membership to each and every member. Development Chair Dennis Dorn is overseeing the efforts of both committees: the USITT Fellows Fund Committee and the USITT Development Committee.

Constituents of the USITT Fellows Fund Committee are members:

- Richard Arnold
- Fred Foster
- Tim Kelly, chair
- Sylvia Hillyard Pannell
- Elynmarie Kazle Zimmerman

USITT Development Committee members are:

- Bill Byrnes
- Daniel Culhane
- David Rodger
- Mark Stanley
- Carolyn Satter
- Bill Teague
- Sherry Wagner-Henry
- Kim Williamson
- Stephanie Young

Ex officio members will be: President Aldridge, Fellows chair Randy Earle, and Executive Director David Grindle

USITT is a significant influence and activity for a lot of people in the entertainment industry. For many of us it has provided opportunities as active professionals to showcase our work. Furthermore, USITT has furnished a means to celebrate the accomplishments of promising student members and to introduce them and their work to the industry and membership.



Raising money to help support these ventures and to encourage and disseminate research among members is already an established practice within the Institute. Thanks to the efforts of Larry Hill and Dick Durst who headed the "USITT at 50" campaign, much has been accomplished. Before that campaign, and to a large extent this remains true, much of the Institute's non-operational activity has been achieved through the use of what are euphemistically called "pass-through accounts." Our emphasis now is to transform our funds more fully, i.e. making them endowments in the true sense of the word, so that the opportunities of the past will remain available and even enhanced in the future.

A brief informal joint meeting was held at the end of the recent Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas to introduce members and establish initial procedures. In the months that follow the committees will meet electronically and plan to meet at the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Charlotte in March 2011. By that point, the plan is to have specific strategies and initial development tools in place.

The members of the two new committees have taken on a great responsibility because their own careers and friendships have grown through USITT. They are committed to continuing and growing what is currently available to all. Be sure to thank them for their generosity and be sure to be generous yourself when receiving Institute appeals. Our future depends on you.

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PQ Offers Opportunity for Students

Alexandra Bonds *VP-International Activities*

The Student Exhibit traveling to the 2011 Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is offering a unique experience for student designers. Designed, overseen, and hosted entirely by students, the exhibit will include a gallery of digital frames displaying the juried design work from 90 students in 28 schools across the country.

It will embody the title and theme, *Emerge*, by having on-site participation and demonstrations by American student designers. Student contributors will be placed into pairs. Each team will be given a brief piece of text upon which they will collaborate and create a piece of design art, a bash model, a sculpture, a collage, etc. Their creation will become part of the exhibit itself. The entire exhibit will morph and evolve over the 10 days of the PQ, so that a viewer might return just a few hours later and see an entirely new creation.

The Student Curators are placing the accent on the initial spark of creation, focusing on the communal and collaborative basis upon which all theatre artists build. Emerging designers will foster emerging designs. The organizers seek American student designers in all areas -- scenic, costume, lighting, sound, projections, etc. -- who are planning on making the trip to Prague and would like to participate in this exhibit. For more information, go to the website www.pqusastudent.com and access the USITT submission site. The deadline to apply is April 1.



Funding opportunities may also be possible through the USITT Student International Travel Award. [Click here for more information on that award.](#) Deadline for applying for that award is December 8.

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In Memoriam: Vincent L. Angotti

Vincent L. Angotti, familiar to many USITT members because he and his wife, Patricia, ran the THEatre Conference Employment Service at USITT's Annual Conference for several years, as well as the THEatre JOBLIST and the THEatre CAPLIST, died September 22, 2010 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was 69.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in theatre from St. Louis University in 1962 and advanced degrees in theatre from the University of Kansas (MA 1965; PhD 1967).

For the next 35 years he was a teacher/administrator holding positions at Florida State University, the University of South Dakota, Auburn University, and the University of Evansville in Indiana. He served his profession holding leadership positions in the American Theatre Association, the University and College Theatre Association, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, the Mid-America Theatre Association and the International Council of Fine Arts Deans.

USITT Past President Richard Durst said "Vincent was my department head at my first teaching job out of graduate school at the University of South Dakota. One of the most brilliant, if not temperamental, directors I ever worked with."

Vincent loved to travel, drink fine wine and eat good food. He enjoyed riding his bicycle, was an avid birder and made the world's best chocolate chip cookies. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Patricia (Willman) Angotti of Indianapolis, a sister Christine (Angotti) Hoffman of Shawnee Mission, Kansas, his dear friend and caregiver Bruce Webb of Indy, and an overwhelming number of nieces and nephews.

He was a victim of Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia. He donated his brain to Indiana University for research purposes. Memorial donations may be directed to the Nature Conservancy in Indiana. Online condolences may be sent to ts@evansville.edu.



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Member Benefits

Shipping and copies, two of the great expenses of theatre technicians just got cheaper with membership in USITT.

FedEx, FedEx Ground, and FedEx Office are all now offering discounts to members of USITT.

You can also save on shipping Freight through their network of Freight shippers. Members can

save almost 30% on shipping with FedEx, the official shipping company of USITT.



To take advantage of this discount, you must register with the company that manages FedEx discount programs, Siriani & Associates. They will set up a FedEx account number, or associate a current account with USITT discount rates, and you are ready to go. There is no cost, no minimum to ship, and no contract to sign.



Call 800-554-0005 to sign up or [click here](#).

Member benefits are best when they are with the companies you use. If you have ideas for new member benefits, e-mail USITT's Executive Director, David Grindle, at david@office.usitt.org.

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USITT at LDI

USITT staff members were able to tell many people about the organization at LDI 2010, thanks to the highly visible USITT booth, featuring lighting and banners hung from the Steeldeck truss. We thank Philip Parsons of Steeldeck for his outstanding support which made this possible.



Congratulations to USITT Fellow Bill Sapsis on receiving the Eva Swan award and Contributing Member J.R. Clancy for a Rock Our World Award from ESTA during their dinner held in conjunction with LDI. Congratulations also to many members, including MDG and ETC, for their awards at LDI.

More information about the LDI 2010 will be included in the December issue of *Sightlines*.

Hoffer on Fulbright Trip

Heidi Hoffer is spending the year as a Fulbright Traditional Scholar at University of the Witwatersrand, School of the Arts, Johannesburg, South Africa. She is professor of theatre and resident designer at Oklahoma State University.



A Meeting of the Finkelsteins!

We received an update from Richard Finkelstein, known to many for his photography at the Annual Conference, Prague Quadrennial, and regional events, including photos of the recent Chesapeake Regional Section meeting. We have asked about the “other” Richard Finkelstein in the theatre world. He tells us “Alas I don't have a face-to-face photo but I have now met him.” That Richard Finkelstein, Shakespeare scholar and dean of the host venue, introduced the keynote speaker for the section.

Said Richard, the photographer and head of design at James Madison University, “Before even the internet, while I was teaching in the SUNY system, I surmised I had a twin because I kept receiving ghost retirement benefit forms for a Richard Finkelstein at another SUNY institution. Then in early summer my Google Alert chimed that “Richard Finkelstein was newly appointed as a Dean at the University of Mary Washington”. I emailed Richard Finkelstein to welcome him to Virginia and to suggest that as we are following each other from state to state, the next one of us that moves should make the move to Hawaii.

“By the way, there is a third Richard Finkelstein, the CEO of Universal Studios! Us other two have yet to meet him.”

Irene Corey

Irene Corey, noted designer and winner of the USITT Award in 2007, died Wednesday, October 13, 2010. Ms. Corey's long and distinguished career in costume design was reprised in a special exhibit at Stage Expo in 2007. A more complete tribute will appear in the December issue of *Sightlines*. Condolences may be sent to her niece, Suzanne Lockridge, c/o the Irene Corey Design Studio, 5304 Junius, Dallas, TX, 75214

Laura Crow Honored by Alumni

Laura Crow, head of OISTAT's Costume Working Group, was honored for Faculty Excellence in Research in the Humanities and Social sciences by the University of Connecticut at the Annual Alumni Association Awards Celebration.

The Kennedy Center Seeks Inspirational Teachers

Know someone who is an inspirational teacher? The Kennedy Center has announced the establishment of the Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards to spotlight some of the United States' most inspirational teachers and recognize them for their contributions. The awards were created in honor of Mr. Sondheim's 80th birthday and were initiated and funded through the support of Freddie and Myrna Gershon.

Each year, the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards will solicit nominations for stories about teachers and professors who made a significant difference in lives.

On March 22, Mr. Sondheim's birthday, a select number of these teachers will each receive the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award, a cash prize of \$10,000. Awardees will also be showcased, along with the people they inspired, on the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards website.

[Visit the Kennedy Center website for complete program guidelines.](#)

[Lighting Designer Named to University Chair](#)

Jill Mulholland, project coordinator for International Association of Lighting Designer's Education Trust, has been named the Baker Chair for the Winter Term at the University of Oregon. The Frederick Charles Baker Chair is a position of merit that brings distinguished faculty to the University of Oregon or recognizes the work of current UO professors in the field of lighting design.

The Baker Fund was established by an endowment gift to the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon in 1986 as a memorial to Frederick Charles Baker (1887-1981), a distinguished designer and manufacturer of lighting fixtures. The primary resource available to the community is the Baker Lighting Laboratory.

[Gener Wins Journalist Award](#)

Congratulations to Randy Gener of American Theatre magazine and a member of the USITT/USA PQ 2011 Committee on his recent honor. Mr. Gener was named Journalist of the Year by the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association for his work as a writer, editor, critic, playwright, and visual artist. The NLGJA's Excellence in Journalism Awards were established in 1993.

Award judges noted "Some of the best journalism is being done outside of traditional newsrooms and by people covering niche areas. Mr. Gener's writing on theatre, especially as it interacts with LGBT lives, is beautifully done, knowledgeable, and almost lyrical in its language."

[Michael Patrick Neelon](#)

USITT regrets to inform members of the death of Michael Patrick Neelon on September 11, 2010. He was 59. Mr. Neelon was designer and technical director at Holy Name High School and designer and technical director at Padua Franciscan High School. He had previously been designer and technical director at Notre Dame College. Survivors include two sisters, five brothers, and nieces and nephews.

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ZFX to Focus on Flying

ZFX, Inc.–Flying Effects will offer two Flying First Class Workshops December 16 to 19 and January 6 to 9 at its development facility in Louisville, Kentucky. The workshop will give participants a thorough understanding of both the performance and operational aspects of flying. Safety always being the number one priority, all participants' progress will be measured throughout the process to ensure proper technique in advancement to new levels of flying.



For more information, visit www.zxflying.com

J.R. Clancy Supplies Two Venues and Named Training Provider

J. R. Clancy, Inc., has been selected to supply the automated rigging for the Parker Arts, Culture and Events (PACE) Center in Parker, Colo. and supplied stage rigging for the Teatro Bradesco in the Bourbon Mall, San Paulo, Brazil. In addition, J. R. Clancy was approved to become an official training provider in rigging, as designated by the Entertainment Technician Certification Program.

More information about J. R. Clancy's custom work for theatres and concert halls is available at www.jrclancy.com, or by calling 800-836-1885. Information on the ETCP certification program can be obtained from etcp.esta.org.

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PRG Supports Singapore Youth Olympic Games

Marina Bay, in the heart of Singapore, was the location for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games, which took place from August 14 to 26. Creative director Ivan Heng, show producer Vernon Teo, and the artistic team that included lighting designer Koert Vermeulen of ACT Lighting Design, presented the ceremonies, which took place on the world's largest floating platform stage with the Singapore skyline as the backdrop. **Production Resource Group (PRG)** supplied the lighting and rigging equipment and technical services. For more information on PRG, visit www.prg.com.



Photo/Alphonsus Chern

Creative Stage Lighting Named Towerlift Distributor

Creative Stage Lighting was appointed the exclusive distributor of the VMB Towerlift range of products in North America. The New York-based company will offer sales, service, and support for the full range of VMB lift products including the Classic, Pro, TL, GS, and PIRAM series of lifts and towers.

ETC Displays Latest Products, Names Representative

The **Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)** booth at LDI 2010 in Las Vegas was busy as ETC showed off its latest product evolutions: an outdoor Source Four lighting fixture and a powerful Selador LED luminaire. ETC also named Seattle-based Pacific Lighting Systems, Inc., as its representative agency for the Pacific Northwest region of the United States handling sales and service functions, effective September 3. ETC product and contact information is available at www.etcconnect.com.



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[Checkers Industrial Products, Inc. Expands Cable Protector Offerings](#)

Checkers Industrial Products, Inc. has expanded its line of Guard Dog Cable Protectors to include eight new, low profile designs, four of which can have optional rubber pads added to them for increased traction. Guard Dog Low Profile is the industry's widest variety of compact, heavy duty, top-loading cable protectors.



[New Feature for DMX Tool](#)

After more than two years in development, **ENTTEC** has enhanced its signature DMX networking tool, the Datagate, by adding a Web-based, user-friendly graphical interface, and more. The newly released Datagate Mk2 is the most powerful Ethernet-DMX node on the market!

A leader in lighting control technology, ENTTEC created the Datagate Mk2 to improve the Datagate's existing functionality as a hub/splitter, merger, and Ethernet-to-DMX gateway, and expand its capabilities.

The Datagate Mk2 is on display in the showrooms of its headquarters in Melbourne, Australia, and at its new North American office and factory ENTTEC Americas, LLC which opened outside Durham, North Carolina in August.

For more information, go to www.enttec.com or contact Jeremy Kumin, general manager of ENTTEC Americas, LLC, at jkumin@enttec.com or 888-454-5922 (voice and fax).



Busy Summer for Sapsis

Like the temperatures this summer, the number of jobs completed by **Sapsis Rigging, Inc.** between Memorial Day and Labor Day set record highs. In addition to an unprecedented number of sales, there were eight full theatre renovations, three new construction projects, five fall protection system installations, four major special events projects, and 26 inspections.

The projects ranged from a new J-guide installation to a fall arrest system that included over 25 horizontal lifelines.

Firm Contracts for 'Dancing Water'

Sharks puppeteered by SCUBA divers, heart-stopping high dives, motorcycle stunts symbolizing time travel, pagodas and boats that emerge from submarine theatre wings, and 77 performance artists from 18 countries around the world; Franco Dragone's newest spectacular has been five years in the planning. The House of Dancing Water in Macau opened its doors September 17 to an eagerly-awaiting public.

The Dancing Water Theater is a 270-degree theater-in-the-round, with a central stage diameter of about 20 meters. The theatre houses around 260 automated fountains that spurt water up to 18 meters in the air, and a total of 11 hydraulic stage lifts and vomitory lifts that enable an artistic flow in performance from aquatic to conventional stage. Contracted by **Theatre Projects, Stage Technologies** provided a 141-axis whole house control and engineering system for the purpose-built venue.

Institute Offers Hands-On Approach

Anyone looking for a broad spectrum of experience will find it in Las Vegas. Starting with shows like *Jubilee*, developed nearly three decades ago and still running today, right up to *Kà*, Cirque du Soleil's biggest show which astounds audiences with its amazing mechanics and effects, entertainment technology has been defined by the Vegas model. **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV)** is dedicated to teaching by doing. All of the instructors at SILV are individuals who believe in the hands-on approach. They are also all working professionals who know what is important and are dedicated to sharing their experiences with the students. This summer's offerings include eight, week-long classes and, for the first time, seven special weekend classes to choose from.



LEEDs Green Building Movement

Leviton/NSI/Colortran's global headquarters is the first commercial interior on Long Island, New York to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification. In a ceremony held at the company's Melville headquarters, USGBC-LI (United States Green Building Council-Long Island) Chapter Chairman Vince Capogna presented Leviton CEO Donald J. Hendler with a LEED certification plaque to recognize the building's compliance with the LEED green building standard. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the USGBC-LI's monthly educational program, which focused on how the building was designed to comply with the LEED sustainability standard.

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The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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News From USITT's President:

Members, Take Advantage!

Joe Aldridge *President*

One of my primary reasons for accepting the nomination and subsequent election to this office was to protect and improve the benefits afforded to our members.

When David Grindle was hired as Executive Director, he and I had a conversation -- he wanted to know what my priorities were and how he could assist in accomplishing them. My reply

was that I wanted to improve the quality of membership benefits. While we enjoy the opportunity to gather and network during Conference activities, how many of us have really taken advantage of the **Hertz Car Rental** discount that has been available to us for as long as I have been a member and probably longer?

I have done a little research and learned that, at one time, members had access to insurance through USITT. Apparently there weren't enough members who took advantage of the opportunity to make it worthwhile to maintain as a member benefit, so it was terminated. That has now changed, with several different types of insurance available through **Fractured Atlas**.

Are you aware that as a member of USITT, no matter what level, you have access to a number of discounts from a variety of sources? Have you paid attention to the fact that, since June, three substantial discounts have been negotiated on your behalf?

If you visit the **Members Only** section of the USITT website, you will find the most current list of discounts available to you. You will find that you are eligible for discounts for books and multi-media; car rentals; employment services; equipment and supplies; magazines and publications; and seminars and classes.

Just recently discounts were negotiated for our members with **Sally Beauty Supply**, **Fractured Atlas**, and **FedEx**. The FedEx agreement should be especially beneficial to those members who

work as freelance designers and need to ship materials across the country. The enrollment process for the FedEx program is relatively painless. It took me less than five minutes and I was done. You can expect final confirmation within



seven to ten working days after initial enrollment.

We are continuously researching new opportunities for our members to save money and hope to have more in the near future. If you have ideas or knowledge of businesses that might be willing to negotiate discounts or benefits for the membership, contact me at joe.aldridge@unlv.edu or David Grindle at david@office.usitt.org.



Thirteen weeks as President, and beginning to feel really comfortable!

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- [Midwest: Registration Open for Mechanical Design Competition »](#)

Southern California: Job Fair

Members of the Southern California Regional Section (and those from neighboring sections) are encouraged to save the date for the next annual Job Fair and Student Design Competition Saturday, January 22, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Whittier College in Whittier, California. Faculty and other theatre professionals, along with students, are welcome to attend at no charge. Potential employers and representatives from graduate and undergraduate programs are invited to participate in the job and career fair. Student designers and stage managers for theatre and dance productions are encouraged to submit their work for the design competition. For more information about the event, contact Section Co-Chairs Donna Parsons (stagemama@aol.com) or Jim Taylor (jptaylor@pomona.edu). For information about the venue, contact Brian Reed (breed@whittier.edu).

Southwest: Winter Symposium

The Southwest Regional Section Winter Symposium will be held January 15 to 16 in San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio College will host the master classes, and tours of both the McNay Art Museum, Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts, and SeaWorld San Antonio will be featured.

The Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts, which includes close to 9,500 objects, emphasizes scene and costume designs for European and American theatre from the 16th century to the present.

SeaWorld San Antonio will host a day



of backstage tours and discussions with department heads, exploring the challenges of theme park entertainment. SeaWorld San Antonio, with 250 acres, is the largest of the SeaWorld parks.

Students are encouraged to enter the Student Design Competition and Exhibition. This is an adjudicated exhibit; past prizes have included: USITT Conference registration and travel sponsored by Schuler-Shook; Cirque du Soleil show tickets; Fisher Technical one week Navigator Seminar; Meyer Sound Lab one week Audio Seminar; Vari-Lite one week Moving Lights Seminar; SILV Summer Program tuition, and WYSIWYG Educational Version. There is a \$10 entry fee.

Master classes in Rock & Roll Lighting (Design and Programming); Casting and Molding for Costume Crafts and Props; Scene Painting: Wood Graining Techniques; Costume Mixed Medium Rendering Class; and Digital Scenic Rendering Class are scheduled.

Interviews and portfolio reviews with representatives from SeaWorld, Cirque du Soleil and other regional vendors will be offered.

Cost for the weekend is \$35 for student members and \$45 for individual members. The first 24 people registered for each of the three Tobin Collection Tours will receive a tour of the collection archive. An online registration form is available at www.usitt-sw.org. The registration form and payment must be submitted by December 1 to confirm registration.

The O'Brien Hotel and the La Quinta San Antonio Convention Center Hotel, both of which are just outside the Riverwalk, are Symposium hotels. Both offer free parking, free high speed internet, and free breakfasts. [See usitt-sw.org](http://www.usitt-sw.org) for more information.

Ohio Valley: Conference Breaks Records, Upcoming Events Announced

Over 100 participants and presenters descended on Capital University in Columbus, Ohio September 25 to make the Ohio Valley Regional Section, conference an attendance record-breaker. An extraordinary and



near record-breaking number of nominated entries for the Peggy Ezekiel Design Exhibit were received. [Visit the Ohio Valley website](#) for a list of the winners.

OVS extends a special thanks to Jeff Gress and Capital University for hosting the day, events. Many thanks are extended to the Ezekiel Committee, adjudicators, student volunteers, and Board Members who efficiently coordinated an impressive 40-entry design exhibit. OVS was fortunate to have so many presenters share their expertise over a wide range of topics with the membership.

Future events were announced for the OVS section. Nominations are open for OVS Board positions. To nominate someone, contact Eric Rouse at ejr127@psu.edu. Nominations will be taken through the next membership meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. The voting process will begin at that meeting and will finish electronically for those unable to attend the National Conference & Stage Expo.

Mark your calendar now for a Behind the Scenes Tour of the New LEED-certified Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio for Saturday, May 21. Watch the website for more details about time and event hotel discount. The Fall OVS 2011 Conference will be held at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania on September 24. Suggestions for sessions at the next Fall Conference or for future events can be sent to Tammy Honesty (thonesty@cinci.rr.com) or via Facebook USITT/Ohio Valley Section Group Page.



Travis DeCastro, Kevin Paulson, and Michael Karns (senior BFA Stage Management Students from Penn State) present a session on Stage Management Skills.



Board Member at Large, Brian Ruggaber, adjudicates the Peggy Ezekiel Design Exhibit



Tristan Cupp (Zoot Theatre) and Mary McClung (West Virginia University) present a session on *Puppets!*

Photos/Tammy Honesty

Chesapeake: Expo & Conference Held

The Chesapeake Regional Section held its annual Expo and Conference workshops on September 18 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This year's conference included workshops in all areas of technical production, professional level development workshops, a vendor floor open to the Section, and a Nano Reach, No Riders Boat Regatta -- a low cost, high involvement, high fun event to raise funds for Behind the Scenes.

Steve Shelley delivering the keynote.



Kevin Curry conducting a workshop on alternative set construction.



Noble Blades Combat Troupe conducting a stage combat workshop.



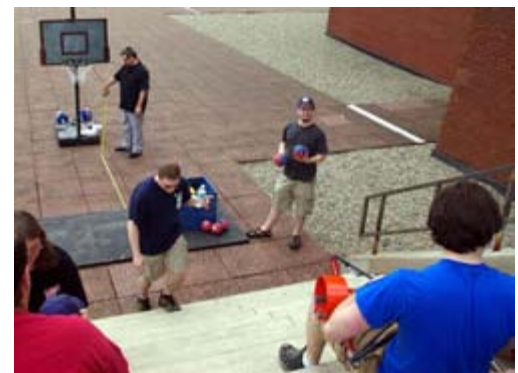
Jennifer Adams of Shenandoah University at the 2010 Chesapeake Section Expo.

Photos/R. Finkelstein

Midwest: Registration Open for Mechanical Design Competition

The Fifth Annual Midwest Regional Section's Mechanical Design Competition (MMDC) shootout will take place on Saturday, May 7 at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois. Registration for this year's competition has already started and is open to college theatre majors of all ages and skill levels, including undergraduate and graduate students.

Students are given the parameters for a mechanical device to design, document, and prototype. Then they bring their prototypes to the shootout on May 7 where they are put through the paces to determine which is the best design. Register to find out the design. After registration an e-mail packet will be sent that includes the project description and specific rules for this year's competition. For more information about this year's competition, including how to register, go to www.usittmidwest.org and choose Midwest Mechanical Design Competition from the right hand column.



This design, by Scott Wolfson of Indiana, uses the bounce of the basketball, punching the ball forward.

This year the overall winner will receive an acrylic trophy and a full conference pass to the 2012 USITT Conference & Stage Expo. The competition is broken into a number of categories so everyone has a chance to win.

The Midwest Aesthetic Design Competition will take place along side the Mechanical Design. Watch the shootout, join in on a workshop, and show off a design to compete for a full-conference pass to the 2012 USITT Conference & Stage Expo. Look for details, coming this winter.

Fresh Air and Basketball Shooters -- Definitely a Winning Combination

On a rainy Saturday in early May, basketball shooters reigned at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts during the Fourth Annual Midwest Regional Section Mechanical Design Competition, sponsored by the USITT Midwest Section. The 2009 shootout showcased nine remarkably varied designs from University of Illinois and Indiana University students. Adam Weil successfully defended his title taking the USITT Midwest Section Best Design Award and the \$100 prize.



Illinois rookie Linda Esperance assembles her classic slingshot design. Note the height adjustment.



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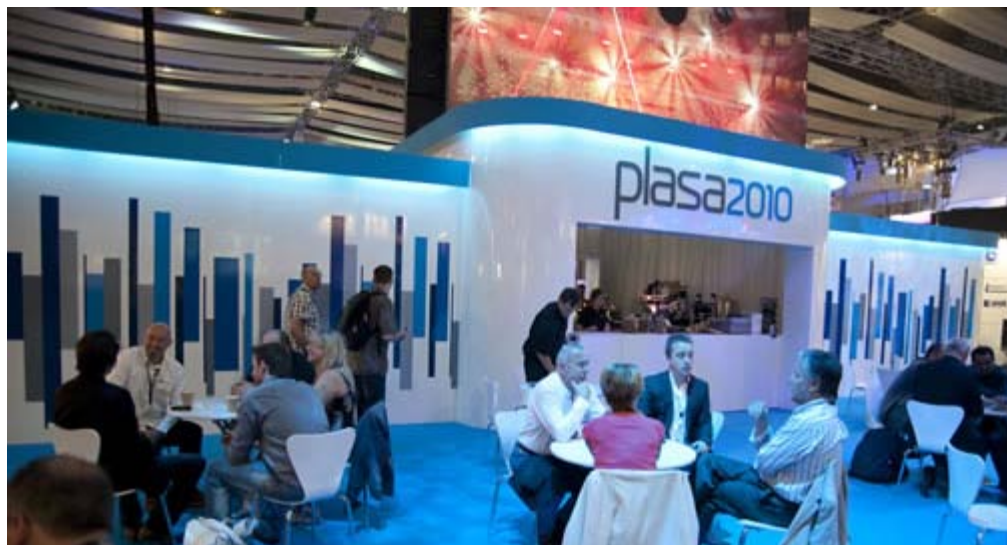
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News From USITT's Executive Director:

PLASA and Prague are Just Part of the Package

David Grindle *Executive Director*



The PLASA trade show floor has many different places to sit, enjoy new technology or catch up with old friends.

Photo/ Chris Toulmin

USITT has an extremely strong international component. So what does that give the average member? As I paid my dues each year, I had often pondered our international involvement, and in September I was able to see a bit of it first hand at the PLASA (Professional Light and Sound Association) trade show in London.

USITT is one of many ways that industry can bring new products to the United States. Through our Stage Expo, we are able to offer an affordable outlet to present a new product that may never have been seen in the United States.

That is how one European company, Global Design Solutions, started in the United States. They partnered with a company, and showed their products through a distributor already at Stage Expo. Now, four years later, they are developing a robust U.S. market and, by using Contributing member A.C.T Lighting, are expanding their distribution.

Attending PLASA opened my eyes to some of the ways we can work with our



cohorts overseas. I spent quite some time in conversation with Andrew de Rosa, Chief Executive of the Association of British Theatre Technicians. (ABTT was founded by USITT Fellow Richard Pilbrow and others). We were able to share some of the programming each organization does for its membership and discuss ways to share information more quickly so that innovation and skills in one country are more easily shared in the other.

At the trade show, I'm sure someone was showing an incandescent fixture, but frankly I don't remember them. LED was everywhere with new ways to control it, dim it, and operate it wirelessly. There were new systems in development for remote power units as well as LED floors that could have changing looks yet were sturdy. Much of this is in use in television and nightclub entertainment, but the live performance capabilities are infinite.

USITT's International component is known for Prague Quadrennial, in 2011 renamed the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design & Space but still known by the shorthand of PQ. That connection, and the amazing international designers and technicians it brings to the Conference, coupled with our support of OISTAT and its commissions and working groups broaden our horizons.

Those functions of our international mission bring a vibrant voice to our members and share our voice with the world. In new and exciting ways, we are one avenue to bring the best of the world together. New products to and from the U.S. can be shared through USITT; U.S. teaching methods (considered among the best in the world) are shared.

For goodness sake, we can even come to an agreement on whether it is a Band-aid or plaster, scheme or plan, truck or lorry. Whatever it may be, the world gets smaller as technology speeds up. Our International work is an important component of our mission, and one that has some impact on us all.

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Commissions

Retreat Leads to Advances**Kim Williamson** *VP-Commissions*

USITT's Commissioners had an opportunity to visit the National Office in Syracuse during the recent Commissioner's Retreat.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

With a generous welcome from USITT Executive Director David Grindle and Public Relations & Marketing Manager Barbara Ellen Lucas, 18 Commissioners representing all 10 commissions met at the national office in Syracuse to retreat in name, but advance in practice for a full day of interaction and planning for the future of the Commissions.

Mr. Grindle started the day with his enthusiastic support of the Commissions as the heart of USITT. His assertion that the commissions are where the members are most involved through projects, conference programming, and direct engagement was substantiated by his response to commissioners' concerns and questions addressing several topics. Points of concern included the lack of an easily recognizable link on the website and the logistics of individual commission list-serves. Throughout the ongoing discussion and interaction, timelines were identified for implementing changes to the website. Look for the new *Commissions* drop-down menu and other changes designed to provide better communication within commissions and among their constituents.

Continuing through the morning, Ms. Lucas presented a new format for *Sightlines* combined with an appeal to put each commission out there for the world to see. Day-to-day activities, projects, and information can have immediate impact and gain visibility through articles of any length and almost any subject.

Visual branding of the Commissions started the afternoon conversation with

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animated discussion of how to best present the picture of each commission in all of its communications whether print or digital. Ideas generated in this discussion will be developed into in a new graphic at each Commission link and for all print communication.

Each Commissioner contributed ideas and expertise later in the day, discussing topics that shape the commissions individually and collectively.

Participants were charged to think big in how to reach outward to other organizations through project partnerships, communication initiatives through conference webcasts and streaming, and identifying funding sources to support travel for Institute members as well as partners. The intention is to reveal USITT to the rest of the entertainment world. In each and every group, the great imaginations and the good work of the Commissions became evident.

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Commissions

Costume Commission Leadership Adjusted

Donna Meester *Costume Design & Technology Commissioner*

As always, the Costume Design & Technology Commission is working to ensure that all of its members' interests are addressed. Two groups within the membership have been growing at a rapid rate, and it is now time to develop special areas for each.

The area of Make-up, Hair, and Wigs has been steadily growing and another Vice-Commissioner was added to the Commission. Martha Ruskai will serve as Vice-Commissioner for Make-up, Hair and Wigs, with Heather Fleming as her assistant.

The number of student members in the Commission is multiplying quickly. Requests have been coming from these students to present workshops and sessions. Because the slate of sessions for each conference is determined a year in advance, students are often not able to present. One costume session at the conference will be reserved for the Student Leadership Initiative. Students will be able to apply before the conference to present their work at this session. Rafael Jaen will direct this project.

Mr. Jaen relinquished his position as director for the portfolio reviews to his assistant, Steven Stines. Esther Van Eek will assist Mr. Stines.

Student Leadership Initiatives will showcase projects that feature imagination and fresh approach to design technology, management and organization innovation, and digital and social media uses.

More information will be posted soon; to be included in an e-mail list, contact rafael_jaen@emerson.edu

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Commissions

Mentors Available for Educators

Anne Medlock *Education Commission*

A program offered by the Education Commission pairs tenured faculty with educators who encounter bumps in the road to flawless teaching and navigation in the realms of higher education.

“Too often we find that educators feel they are alone with an issue or difficulty,” said Sarah Myers, Education Commissioner. The Education Mentoring Project has been around for several years and is designed to ease that isolated feeling. Mentors provide guidance to junior faculty concerning everything from university meetings and design work to suggestions for balancing personal life with university responsibilities.

The program has been successful in actively recruiting mentors and is able to quickly connect junior faculty members in many areas to someone within their specific discipline.

All educators are welcome to participate as either a mentor or novice, but novices are especially encouraged to apply. To participate in the program, e-mail Anne Medlock at amedlock@wtamu.edu with name, university, and area of design. The mentor/novice relationship often develops and extends beyond a specific question into a long-term information exchange, a process which is fostered by the easy give and take of the mentoring process.

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Commissions

A Wiggling Good Time

William Gordon Henshaw *Costume Design & Technology Commission*

USITT's 2010 Costume Symposium on Wig Making and Styling began August 4, with 29 excited members meeting at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in beautiful Winston-Salem, North Carolina. A welcome reception was held in the Performance Place where participants gathered for refreshments and an opportunity to meet and interact with each other and the talented leaders of the four tracks in wig styling, wig fronting, facial hair, and full wig foundations.

On Thursday, August 5 all participants were introduced to the four instructors; Allison Lowery, Kelly A. Yurko, Mark Boley, and Martha Ruskai, and the graduate students of UNCSA who were assisting with the symposium; Leanne Catena, and Kaite Durkee and Ming-Yen Ho.

The opening session included a history of wigs and wig making by Martha Ruskai as well as a demonstration of how to prep an actor's head for wearing a wig plus how to make a head wrap tracing of an actor's head for making a wig.



Wig Fronting

 by Valerie Lynn Vanderkolk

Kelly A. Yurko, Associate Professor of Makeup and Wig Design at University of Cincinnati, instructed the Wig Fronting track. Attendees enjoyed an intimate class and were able to learn or re-learn ventilating, practice taking head wraps and measurements from each other for the wigs fronts, and try two different wig fronting techniques to add a natural hair line to a hard-front factory-made wig.

Styling Wigs

 by Martha Cooper

The wig styling segment of the three-day symposium was described by participants as awesome! Those who

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chose this track worked diligently, experiencing various techniques in styling synthetic wigs to achieve various methods for creating waves, curls, and unique historic hairstyles. Allison Lowery, instructor of the styling section, willingly shared her knowledge and experience in working with synthetic wigs while assisting and encouraging each student to create a historically-based styled wig final project. Under her patient guidance and expertise, all of the participants expanded their current level of skill while also having a very enjoyable experience.



Wig Foundations by William Gordon Henshaw

The small group in the wig foundation track were all excited to learn the wig from the ground up, so to speak. Instruction included how the parts of the wig work together, and the many different types of construction and the varied types of materials that can go into making a wig foundation. The group started with putting down galloon ribbon and then putting net over it, which is the strongest part of the wig. Participants then put on the points and secured this to the block and draped the next layer of lace over this to form the back of the wig.

The last part of the foundation is the fronting lace which is very delicate and forms the part that is the hairline and the attachment for the wig to the actor's face. With the foundation finished, the group tackled ventilation or sewing on of the weft to make the wig.

Facial Hair by William Gordon Henshaw

Mark Boley lead the Facial Hair track, presenting a variety of interesting ideas and techniques which the group discussed. Among the demonstrations was how to do a beard tracing of the face and transfer that to the block. Also included was instruction on how to make the beard and moustaches and how to curl and trim them. Participants showed off several of their projects that showed how they ventilated and then curled and styled their pieces.

All workshop participants benefitted greatly from the donations provided by Krylon Professional Makeup and discounts from Demoe Brothers and Wig America which were arranged by Claudio Longo of Kryolan to enhance the experience.

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Conference & Stage Expo:

Stage Expo Hours Tweaked

Helen Willard - Stage Expo Sales Manager



Exhibitors found having the Stage Expo day start a bit later, and special time dedicated only to exhibits allowed them to provide information to many different people.

Photo/Casey Kearns

Stage Expo 2011 will return to the usual Thursday through Saturday schedule, with the show hours a hybrid of the traditional schedule and the special 50th Anniversary show hours used in Kansas City. Stage Expo 2011 will open on Thursday, March 10 at 11 a.m. after morning section meetings have been followed by one programming time slot. There will be Stage Expo Only Time from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 5:30 p.m., with the exhibit hall closing at 5:30 p.m.

Friday's Stage Expo schedule is the same as Thursday's, with the show open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and including another three and a half hours of Stage Expo Only Time, when no program sessions are scheduled. In Kansas City, many exhibitors appreciated having time to check in with the office, make phone calls, and answer e-mails before Stage Expo opened on weekday mornings.

On Saturday, Stage Expo will be open 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. This allows plenty of time for attendees to take a last look at products before the 2011 show closes. This schedule also gives exhibitors the opportunity to strike their booths Saturday afternoon in time to attend the closing night celebration or begin their journey home.

Questions or comments are appreciated, and may be directed to Helen Willard, Stage Expo Sales Manager, at hpwillard@aol.com.



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For more information about Stage Expo 2011 exhibitors, visit the [Stage Expo Web Page](#) to see the layout and a current list of exhibitors. Click on a highlighted booth to find contact information and a brief description for each exhibitor. Links are provided to exhibitors' websites.

A limited number of Commercial tables for small companies meeting criteria, and Non-Commercial tables for colleges, universities, and other non-profit organizations are available. Companies or organizations who members would like to see at Stage Expo 2011 in Charlotte but who are not listed as exhibitors, can be suggested by sending an e-mail with contact information to hpwillard@aol.com.

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We again thank Michael Devine, of Devine Design Group in Savannah, Georgia, for sharing his insight into theatre. Mr. Devine plans to publish a collection of his cartoons on theatre this fall.

Look for other drawings from his pen in future issues of *Sightlines*.

Copyright Michael Devine