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Balloting Begins for 2013

Electing members of the Board of Directors who will take office July 1, 2013 begins October 30, and each member vote is important.

[more »](#)


Providing Fellowship Support

Every other year USITT offers members the opportunity to apply for up to \$15,000 in Fellowship support. Deadline is January 10 so plan now. [more »](#)



EIC a Flying Success

Creativity and innovative technology and techniques were just part of the Entertainment Innovation Conference in North Carolina. [more »](#)



Share Techniques Virtually

The Costume Design & Technology's Virtual Poster session makes it easy to be a part of the 2013 Annual Conference. [more »](#)



USITT's President – Making Connections

Important changes in USITT's website and international travel to network with colleagues all help keep us better connected. [more »](#)



Executive Director

Supporting safety at all levels is important, but the Rigging Safety Initiative provides a way to ensure the well-being of a central segment of our community. [more »](#)



Give me a Sign

Not everything can be created on a computer, and this Professional Development Workshop on making signs on virtually anything will show the way. [more »](#)



Why Stage Expo?

Wenger is already planning what it will highlight at its booth in Milwaukee at the company's 32nd Stage Expo. [more »](#)



Travel is Easy to Milwaukee

The airports are convenient, and USITT is offering a discount on air travel with Delta, so getting to Milwaukee next March should be a snap. [more »](#)



Making the Switch

The Education Commission session on transitioning from a two year to a four year school is a must for both students and those who assist them. [more »](#)

The Last Word — in Wichita



Members of the Heart of America Regional Section has the pleasure of a day of touring and information in Kanas. Experience what they were able to see. [more »](#)

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- **Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.:** Meyer Receives Gottelier Award
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- **Irwin Seating Company:** Offers New Seating Options
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News & Notices

2013 Elections Start October 30

Sherry Wagner-Henry *USITT Secretary, Nominations Committee Chair*

Electronic voting for 2013 Board of Directors positions will begin October 30. Current members will be notified by e-mail when voting opens and will be able to cast ballots until December 10. The ballot will include a brief biography and a position statement for each candidate. [Click here to read about current candidates and their position statements.](#)

Members who do not have access to electronic communication will receive paper ballots.

The USITT Nominations Committee presents the following slate for the 2013 election cycle.

Six directors are to be elected from among Paul Brunner, Jimmie Byrd, Brent "Mickey" Henry, Tayneshia Jefferson, Michael Katz, Elynmarie Kazle, Raymond Kent, William Kenyon, Paul Vincent, Robert Scales, Kim Scott, and Kimb Williamson.

Those elected Directors will serve three-year terms beginning July 1, 2013.

Because of the effort to sync up board of director terms and officer terms, according to the Bylaws changes of 2010, there are no officer positions open for election this cycle.

Thanks to the 2012 Nominations Committee for recruiting candidates and stewarding applications through the nominations process. This is a time-intensive procedure that involves a great deal of thoughtful observation and ingenuity.

The committee strives to ensure that the future leadership of the Institute is well-populated with candidates from all categories of membership, all areas of expertise, and all areas of geographic location, as well as experience with the organization, and other important approaches of diverse thinking and representation.



An equal measure of thanks goes out to the candidates themselves, who have been made aware of the important work required of them if elected to these positions.

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Book Hotels Online for USITT Rates

The online hotel registration process for USITT's 2013 visit to Milwaukee for the 53rd Annual Conference & Stage Expo is now open.

People who make reservations through the site will receive the lower rate negotiated by USITT for those staying at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, the Hyatt Downtown, and the Doubletree.

All are either adjacent or only a block from the Delta Center (formerly the Frontier Airline Center) where many activities will be held.

To book online, [click here](#).

For more information on the amenities of the hotels, [click here](#).

Study Tour to Highlight Italy's Artists

Come join the next USITT Study Tour of the beautiful and historic country of Italy! USITT Board member Alessia Carpoca, a native of Italy, will help you experience the true character of Italy through a tour designed specifically for people interested in fine food, incredible architecture and theatre. This tour will grant you access to parts of Italy you may never find on your own. From meeting with native Italian theatre artists to walking tours through historic sites and towns, the two week tour is designed to stimulate all senses.

This unique and affordable tour will reveal Italy's complex past through visits to amazing historical sites, while savoring a wonderfully varied cuisine influenced by the many cultures that have been a part of this country's rich history. In addition, there are activities designed specifically for theatre professionals including a visit to La Scala Theatre and shops in Milan.

In Rome, enjoy a tour of the Rome Opera Theatre which boasts a costume

collection of over 30,000 pieces as well as the most impressive scene painting shop in the world (which also has a beautiful view of the Maximum Circus)! In Verona, a performance in the Arena is part of the itinerary. Meetings with many leading Italian designers and professors are planned throughout the tour.

Ms. Carpoca notes "I am really excited to show you the beauty and rich splendor that is my home country and cannot wait for the summer to come."

For further information, visit the [USITT web page](#).

Or contact Ms. Carpoca at: alessia.carpoca@umontana.edu

To Reprise Prague Quadrennial Exhibit at La MaMa

USITT's National Exhibit from the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is being restaged for a new showing December 6 to 16 in New York City's La MaMa La Galleria. at 6 East 1st Street, between Bowery and Second Avenue in New York City. The showing is presented by USITT in association with La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club and Carnegie Mellon University.

The USITT-USA exhibit of stage design, *FROM THE EDGE*, represented the USA as the national pavilion during the 2011 Prague Quadrennial in the Czech Republic. The American exhibit was sponsored by USITT. Considered the Olympics of theater design, PQ is the world's largest arts event in the field of performance design and scenography. Conceived and led by artistic director Susan Tsu, the *FROM THE EDGE* team of curators Christopher Barecca (scenic design), Linda Cho (costume design), Allen Hahn (lighting design) and Don Tindall (sound design) — along with editor/critic Randy Gener (curatorial advisor) — were intent on creating a theatrical installation that forced the world to re-examine or revise its hard-to-budge assumptions of the American theater landscape.

Selected works from the exhibit and a model of the structure which contained them in Prague will be on display for this limited run in New York City.

PLASA Elections Underway

PLASA Members worldwide have begun voting in the Association's yearly elections. The month-long ballot will decide places on PLASA's European and North American Regional Boards, together with a single seat on its over-arching Governing Body.

There are five positions up for election on the North American Regional Board. Scott Hoyt of Heartland Scenic Studio is standing for the position of Treasurer, Mike Gormley of Blue Planet Lighting and David Schraffenberger of Production Advantage are standing for the position of Dealer Representative, Tracey Cosgrove of Rosco Laboratories and Julie Sanders of Leprecon are standing for the position of Manufacturer representative, Shane Lacey of George Lacey Sales and Jules Lauve (incumbent) of Theatre Projects Consultants are standing for the position of Professional Services representative, and Marc Stephens of MPS Studios Dallas and Steven Way (incumbent) of ALPS/Advanced Lighting & Production Services are standing for the position of

Rental Company representative.

John McGraw (incumbent), an Individual member, and Pio Nahum of Clay Paky have put their names forward for the single 'at large' position available on the main Governing Body, the Board which has oversight of the two Regional Boards and sets the overall strategic direction of the Association.

The results will be announced in early November, ahead of the new members of the Boards taking up their positions in the New Year.

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News & Notices

Seek Fellowship Applications

Richard Dunham *Chair, Grants & Fellowship Committee*

With the approach of winter and the coming holidays it is the time of the year when the Grants & Fellowship Committee solicits applications for the next round of awards. Since the upcoming year is an odd-numbered year, the Committee will consider Fellowship Awards and applications. The deadline for applications is January 10.

Those interested in a particular area of study with a coherent theme that will result in significant excellence in scholarship or creative activity can find out more information [here](#). USITT typically funds several fellowships each cycle up to \$15,000. All active USITT members should have received a mailing in October outlining the application and review process for this year's awards. Any member (including students) who has been active for at least the previous calendar year can submit a proposal.

The Grants & Fellowships programs provide funding for individuals who have interests in completing research in any given area of specialized study related to design/technical areas of the entertainment industry. This may come through 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. This year, the Committee will focus on proposals that strive to provide advanced research on the specific interests of applicants.

Nearly \$300,000 has been distributed to USITT members for funding and has provided for a wide variety of research. While this funding has provided the means of bringing an individual's research into reality, it also benefits the rest of the membership and the industry since funding requires researchers to share their research with the rest of the membership and professional community.

This is typically done through writing articles for TD&T and making panel presentations at the national conferences. For over 25 years, the Institute has provided grants and fellowships through the Edward F. Kook Fund, which was created with the express purpose of providing assistance to members who are fostering creativity in technical theatre practice. Recent recipients have researched such diverse topics as the history of Broadway Costume Houses (Triffin Morris), advanced study of theatre designers like Desmond Heely (Rick Donnelly), exploration of Bollywood and the Indian film industry's costume houses (Cheri Vasek and Deepsikha Chatterjee), and the color rendering abilities of LEDs as a light source –which became a significant element of the

Selador LED lighting system (Robert Gerlach).

The Kook Fund and money from the USITT annual operating budget is supplemented by the Triennial Art Auction and garage sale, and money collected during the New Products Showcase. Individuals and corporate members interested in making tax deductible contributions to the Kook Fund may contact the national office at 800-938-7488, ext. 106 or visit [here](#).

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2012

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News & Notices

First National Entertainment Innovation Conference a Flying Success



Bettina Bolzer Bowles, head of wardrobe on Michael Jackson's Immortal World Tour talks to participants at the 2012 EIC.

Photo/ Lloyd Aaron Photography

From computer-controlled high-flying stunts with [ZFX Flying Effects](#) to the inside scoop on Broadway show production with Ken Davenport of [Davenport Theatrical Enterprises](#), the first [North American Entertainment Innovation Conference](#) at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) drew nearly 400 professionals and students to Winston-Salem, North Carolina September 6 to 8. They experienced the latest innovations in entertainment with hands-on sessions and insider workshops.

"The Entertainment Innovation Conference was one of the most impressive industry conferences I've attended," said [Trevor O'Donnell](#), arts marketing guru and author of *Marketing the Arts to Death: How Lazy Language is Killing Culture*. "The emphasis on innovation was inspiring; and the close, personal interaction between young artists, technicians and managers and some of the top professionals in the industry

was truly impressive. I was honored to have been invited, and I can't wait to come back."

Attendees came from as far away as Oregon, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Florida to work side-by-side with award-winning designers and leaders in the fields of global entertainment, Broadway, Walt Disney, and theatrical design. The conference was sponsored by the **USITT** and featured workshops with **Cirque du Soleil**, its technical partners, and some of the most respected professionals in the entertainment industry.

"Cirque du Soleil is proud to be a partner in the Entertainment Innovation Conference," said Kim Scott, director of Show Support, Resident Shows Division. "With the support of our technical partners, such as Meyer Sound, Stage Technologies and M.A.C., we are able to enhance the programming offered at this conference."

During more than 60 workshops, presentations and interactive sessions, attendees received hands-on training in production, lighting, sound, automation, projections, wig and make-up, and costuming. Sessions included presentations by Cirque du Soleil staff and technical partners; innovative processes showcased by members of **Tectonic Theatre Project**; hands-on activities with **Meyer Sound** and **Tony Meola**, award-winning Broadway sound designer; brainstorming with Mr. O'Donnell; behind-the-scenes insights from Ken Davenport, famed producer (*Godspell*, *Chinglish*, *Oleanna*); design phase review for themed entertainment by Michael J. Kelley,



A demonstration by VariLite.

Photo/ Lloyd Aaron Photography



Tony Meola and equipment from Meyer Sound

Photo/ Siobhan Olson

senior producer and art director at [Walt Disney Imagineering](#); a view of the world of the evolving business of stage technologies and the world of commercial shop operations on Broadway by [PRG](#); a demonstration by ZFX Flying Effects of manual and automated technologies for performer flying; a discussion of entertainment automation on cruise ships by [Stage Technologies](#); a hands-on demonstration of new technologies for automated lighting by [Vari*Lite](#); make-up inspiration and demonstrations by [Victor Cembellin](#), senior makeup artist with [M.A.C Cosmetics](#) (make-up supplier to Cirque du Soleil Touring Shows); and a series of workshops by [Rosco](#) to demonstrate innovations in paint and coating technologies for costuming.

“This conference was a true demonstration of the power of arts and innovation. It was a world-class experience where innovative ideas were shared in all areas of entertainment, from the management to the performance,” said Joe Tilford, dean of the UNCSA School of Design and Production and one of the co-founders of the Conference. “We’ve set the foundation for this conference to become the future go-to event for hands-on training for anyone working in the entertainment industries.”

Visit eic.uncsa.edu for the latest news, photos and updates about the next Entertainment Innovation Conference.



ZFX Flying Effects automated performer flying

Photo/ Siobhan Olson



Participants at the 2012 EIC experiment with paints and finishes with Rosco.

Photo/ Lloyd Aaron Photography

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Need Submissions for Virtual Exhibit

Unable to attend the USITT Annual Conference this year? Want to let colleagues know what current projects were in the works over the past year?

The Costume Design & Technology Commission's *Virtual Exhibit* offers members a chance to share their work with other members across the country. Members are interested in seeing and sharing the work of colleagues. The Commission recognizes that everyone is pressed for time when it comes to preparing displays and exhibitions.

USITT members who have a recent production that they are especially proud of, renderings that capture a personal style, or a design solution that was particularly effective are invited to enter their work. This year's *Virtual Exhibit* will be presented concurrent with the poster session.

Each applicant should send four to seven images of recent work demonstrating design and techniques. Include a brief biography (50 to 75 words) and a short description of each image (25 words or less).

The deadline for submission is March 1. Images and supporting information must be sent electronically to Howard Vincent Kurtz, hkurtz@gmu.edu.





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The Last Word:

Tour of a Bygone, but Progressive, Era

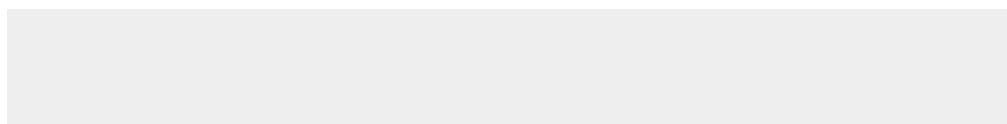


Heart of America group gets a tour of Wichita Scottish Rite Masonic Center stage and scenery.

Photos/Mark Putman

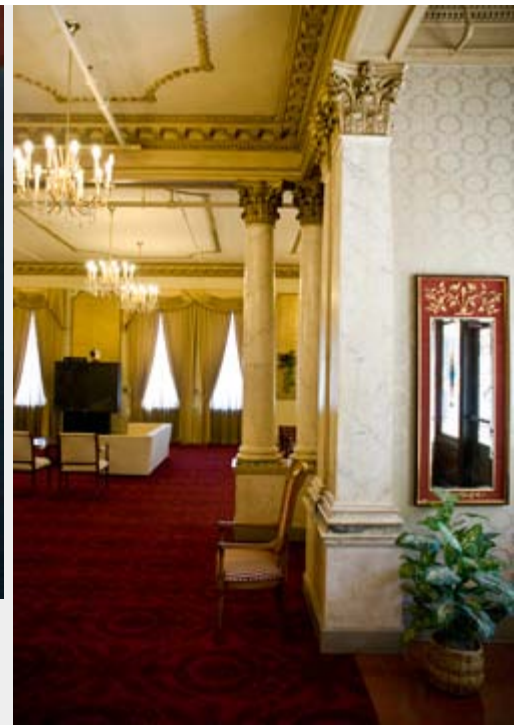
Heart of America Regional Section had a very successful fall event in Wichita, Kansas, September 8. Twenty participants were treated to a scenery and back stage tour of the Wichita Scottish Rite Masonic Center. The morning tour included parts of the original 1887 YMCA building designed by architects Proudfoot and Bird. The YMCA building was bought in 1898 by the Scottish Rite organization, and an addition was completed in 1908 which featured a 300-seat auditorium with scenery by Sosman and Landis of Chicago. This same scenery was featured at the National Conference in Wichita in 1993.

Event participants split in the afternoon for either a hands-on painting demonstration of Faux Stained Glass led by Rachel Downs or two presentations by her husband Michael Downs. Photos of both events are available on Heart of America's website.

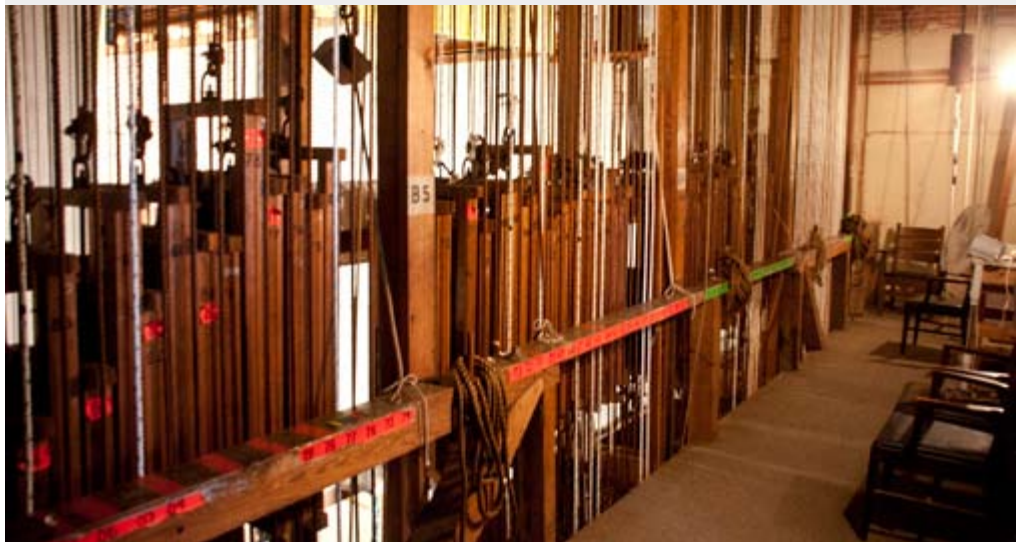




Wichita designer Michael Downs presents "Getting Noticed: The New Sandwich Board."



These faux marble painted columns are shown looking east inside the south entrance to original YMCA building. Stained glass entry doors can be seen reflected in the mirror to the right. The building's curved turret is beyond the round columns to the right.



A view of operating rail at Wichita Scottish Rite Masonic Center. The scenery is never changed; hence there is no need for traditional rope brakes, and linesets are on six-inch centers. Larger spaces are for three color strip lights.



Rachel Downs discusses the process of making faux stained glass window scenic pieces. Examples of other stained glass pieces can be seen in the background.

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Congrats to Bill Byrnes

Former USITT President Bill Byrnes, associate provost and adjunct professor of arts administration at Southern Utah University, contributed a chapter to a new book entitled *Arts Leadership International Case Studies*, edited by Professor Jo Caust. Professor Caust teaches at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and is a consultant in arts management. The book will be available in November through [Tilde University Press](#), in Australia.

Bill's chapter, "The Utah Shakespeare Festival: An evolving arts leadership partnership," covers the impact of the recent hiring of co-artistic directors Brian Vaughn and David Ivers and the evolution of the leadership and management structure of the Festival, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. Bill noted, "I was really pleased to be asked to contribute to this book and to have the opportunity to share with an international audience some of the changes underway at the Festival that are building on the leadership legacy of founder Fred C. Adams." Byrnes served on the Festival's Board of Governors when he was Dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts at SUU from 2004 to 2009.

Mr. Byrnes's current projects include working on the fifth edition of his book *Management and the Arts*, which is used as a text in arts management courses around the world.

Save on Holiday Shipping

Worried about spending a fortune getting packages there on time over

the busy holiday period? Join the [USITT Freight Savings Plan](#) and take advantage of the savings. USITT members can save up to 27 percent on select FedEx Express shipping (includes a 5 percent electronic shipping discount) and up to 15 percent on select FedEx Ground shipping. For more information about the USITT Freight Savings Plan, call Siriani at 1-800-554-0005.



Use the 2012 FedEx [holiday shipping website](#) to help plan early. It has the latest updates to the FedEx holiday schedule, holiday shipping news (including exceptions to the FedEx money-back guarantee), and last days to ship for timely holiday delivery.

[SUNY - Purchase Grads Rake in Awards](#)

One market niche where jobs are plentiful for qualified recent college graduates lies behind the scenes of such attention-getting events as the Super Bowl half-time show, the stage of Broadway's 2012 Tony Award winning *Peter and the Star Catcher*, as backdrop to the influential Clinton Global Initiative Conference, or on the set design for TV's *The Daily Show*.

Eighty-six percent of theatre designer and technology specialist graduates from SUNY-Purchase's BFA program find rewarding work. Dozens of these graduates go on to be nominated for, and often win Tonys, Emmys, Drama Desk, Oscars, and other prestigious awards. This year, Jeff Croiter, a 1993 graduate, won the Tony for Best Lighting Design of a Play, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (two other Purchase grads were also nominated); and David Grill, a 1986 graduate and now assistant professor and co-coordinator at Purchase, was nominated for an Emmy for lighting the Super Bowl XLVI Halftime Show, which featured Madonna.

Part of the Purchase College School of the Arts' Conservatory of Theatre Arts, the program boasts graduates who have amassed seven Tony Awards and 17 nominations (mostly for lighting design); one Daytime Emmy and 11 nominations (mostly for art direction/set decoration); one Emmy Award and four nominations (mostly for outstanding art direction); four Drama Desk Awards and 19 nominations; and many other national design awards.

For more information about the College, visit www.purchase.edu.

[Riders Announce 10th Ride Around Great Lakes](#)

The 10th annual Long Reach Long Riders charity motorcycle ride, dubbed "Ten Great Years and Five Great Lakes" by organizers, is scheduled to begin on June 28. During the eight-day trip, the riders will have an opportunity to visit, and stick their toes into, all five of the Great Lakes as well as ride some of the

best bike roads in the area.

In 2004, the Long Reach Long Riders began riding for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and The ESTA Foundations' Behind the Scenes program. The group of entertainment industry professionals has raised more than \$350,000.

Funding Aids Technician Exchange

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Oregon is one of five organizations to receive funding through the MetLife Foundation and Theatre Communication Group's *A-ha! Program: Think It, Do It*, which supports the creative thinking and action of TCG Member Theatres. The goal is to affect the larger theatre community. Five theatres were awarded grants totaling \$225,000 to either research and develop new ideas or experiment and implement innovative concepts.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival will develop an artisan exchange of production skills and resources with three to five other theatres. Three to five OSF craftspeople will work eight to 12 weeks at those theatres and will, in turn host, three to five artisans to assume parallel jobs at OSF.

For more information about the program and previous recipients, visit:

www.tcg.org/grants/aha/aha_recipients.cfm.

Huntington Releases Update of Industry Standard Text

Author, educator, and industry veteran John Huntington has released *Show Networks and Control Systems*, the completely updated and revised edition of his industry standard reference text previously titled *Control Systems for Live Entertainment*.

The book includes an in-depth examination of the control and networking technology used in lighting, lasers, sound, stage machinery, animatronics, special effects, and pyrotechnics used in concerts, theme parks, theatre, themed retail, cruise ships, museums, interactive performing arts, and special events.

Mr. Huntington is now posting supplemental video lectures for each chapter on his website. The book retails for \$50 and is available through the website at

www.controlgeek.net.

Prism Projection Debuts New LED Lighting Products at PLASA and IBC

Prism Projection is expanding its RevEAL line of LED products with the debut of three new luminaires—Profile Jr., Studio.3 Fresnel, and Studio.UV Fresnel. With its largest product launch to date, Prism debuted the fixtures in Europe at both the PLASA 2012 show in London and IBC 2012 in Amsterdam.

Prism Projection has won numerous awards over the past few years for its line of products that offer all the energy saving and environmental benefits of LED lighting without compromise compared to conventional sources.

For more information about Prism Projection, Inc. and its RevEAL series products, go to www.prismprojection.com.

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Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc.: Meyer Receives Gottelier Award

Meyer Sound co-founder and CEO John Meyer received the 2012 Gottelier Award at the PLASA Show Awards Ceremony in London on September 10. Industry professionals vote on the award which recognizes exceptional individuals and innovators who enable entertainment technology practitioners to push the boundaries of event production, presentation, and installation.



The Gottelier Award is named in honor of Tony Gottelier, a well-respected industry innovator and writer.

John Meyer's career in professional audio spans over 40 years, but the majority of his technological achievements and advances have taken place since founding Meyer Sound in 1979 with his wife, Helen Meyer. In receiving the award, Mr. Meyer acknowledged the importance of collaboration and credited his team for their contributions. He launched his career in professional audio in the 1960s by developing custom loudspeaker systems used by the rock luminaries of the San Francisco Bay Area such as the Steve Miller Band,

Creedence Clearwater Revival, and the Grateful Dead. After embarking on extensive research into audio transducer linearity at the Institute for Advanced Musical Studies in Montreux, Switzerland, he and Mrs. Meyer returned to the Bay Area in 1979 to establish Meyer Sound. He was made a Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society in 1985, and was awarded the AES Silver Medal in 2007. He and Helen received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Sound from USITT in 2008 .

Creative Stage Lighting: Offering Free Kinesys LibraCELL Units

Creative Stage Lighting will provide Kinesys LibraCELL units at no extra charge for all jobs taking place outdoors on temporary roof systems.

LibraCELL load measuring units, when used in a Kinesys Libra System, provide real-time load measuring results for production rigs. Built into the load cell is a highly visible LED display allowing users to view the live load being placed on the shackle as well as input a tare value and switch between kg and lbs via an easy to use menu system.

Creative Stage Lighting will also provide LibraCELL units for touring productions during rehearsal times at no additional charge. For more information please call (518) 251-3302 x223.

ETC: Announce LDI Student Sponsorship Recipients

Six talented students were able to go backstage, experience the latest technology, and meet with other professionals as part of **ETC's** LDI Student Sponsorship program. The students, taking part in the program's lucky 13th year at 2012 LDI October 19 to 21 in Las Vegas, Nevada, were also paired with industry luminaries who mentor the students as they move into the working world, offering advice and encourage.

Currently a third-year graduate student at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Timothy Hart earned a bachelor of fine arts in 2009 from Missouri State University in theatre design and technology with a minor in interior design. This summer, Mr. Hart was a lighting designer at Stagedoor Manor in Sheldrake, New York. He also garnered top awards at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in the graduate lighting design category.

This year's international LDI student sponsorship recipient is David Johnson from Lanchester County, Durham, United Kingdom. From 2008 to 2010, he studied chemistry at the University of Birmingham in Edgbaston, England, and is currently pursuing a bachelor of science in lighting design and live event technology from the University of Glamorgan in Wales.

Jill Klecha is a senior undergraduate student at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, working toward a bachelor of fine arts in theater design and technology with a focus in lighting design. She is a production intern at the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia and a work-study electrician at The University of the Arts.

In his final year at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Chazz Malott is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in engineering in computer science. For three years, he has worked as an electrician both at his university and at Michigan's Hartland Performing Arts Center.

Daphne Mir is studying at the California Institute of the Arts and anticipates a bachelor of fine arts degree in lighting design at the end of the school year. Her lighting design for *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* at California's Hunger Artists Theater was nominated for a Broadway World Award in 2011.

Greg Starbird is a second-year MFA lighting design student at the University of Houston, where he is a TA for lighting and sound technology and oversees the undergraduate lighting crew. He earned a bachelor of arts in philosophy and drama from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, in 2011.



ETC: Introduces 120V Dimmer

The more than three million Source Four fixtures shining brightly throughout the world just got a new companion. **ETC** is expanding its dimming and power control line with the introduction of the Source Four Dimmer, which can be attached to any conventional Source Four to provide per-fixture distributed dimming in 120V markets.

The 120V Source Four Dimmer officially debuted at the LDI tradeshow in Las Vegas, Nevada. More information about the Source Four Dimmer and ES750 Dimmer can be found at www.etcconnect.com/product.overview.aspx?id=22115.

Rosco: Form Joint Venture

Rosco recently formed a joint venture partnership with The Black Tank, an advanced engineering group located

north of Boston, Massachusetts, to design, develop and distribute LED lighting fixtures to the entertainment and architecture markets.



The immediate result of this partnership was seen at the opening of the IBC Exhibition in Amsterdam and at the PLASA Show in London where Rosco is debuting Miro Cube, its new line of wash lights based on Black Tank's successful Brick Blaster fixtures.

For more information on Rosco Miro Cube luminaires, go to www.rosco.com.

Rose Brand: Seeks Scholarship Applicants, Offers CAD and PDF Drawing Formats

The 2013 **Rose Brand** Scholarship Application is now available on the company's Facebook page. The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to a student in scenic design. A Rose Brand credit for \$2,500 will be given to the student's school to help enhance the theater program.

Graduate and undergraduate students can apply by November 28. The application includes answering a number of questions, providing a faculty recommendation, and submitting photographs and descriptions of projects.

Visit Rose Brand's Facebook page at bit.ly/rosebrand-scholarship for more.

Rose Brand now has CAD and PDF formatted drawings of its Stretch Shapes products so that designers can easily incorporate the products into their plans. The drawings are easily accessible at bit.ly/STRETCHSHAPES-CAD-PDF.

J.R. Clancy: Unveils Rigging Control System

J. R. Clancy reimagines rigging control systems with SceneControl 5000 series. At the LDI show in Las Vegas, **J. R. Clancy, Inc.** unveiled a series of new rigging control systems that will address the entire range of performance venues—from the most complex flexible performing arts space, sporting complex or Broadway show to the stages of high schools and colleges.



Clancy has partnered with Niscon, Inc., creators of the Raynok Motion Control System, to develop the SceneControl 5000 Stage Automation Control System to bring unprecedented capability and flexibility to Clancy's bestselling SceneControl brand.

More information about J. R. Clancy is available at www.jrclancy.com, or by calling 800-836-1885.

PRG: Restructures German Companies

Production Resource Group, L.L.C., (PRG) has simplified its corporate structure in by combining PRG and SHOWTEC into one company. All SHOWTEC companies and PRG GmbH have been merged with their parent company, Production Resource Group AG.

As part of his continuing overall European management services and responsibility for PRG in Europe, Stephan Paridaen will provide general management services in Germany. Former Managing Director of PRG GmbH Carsten Zwerg and Johannes Wahl will lead PRG's production department. Ralf Richrath, a former SHOWTEC managing director and co-owner, will be responsible for warehouse/operations; and Horst Siefen, who headed VLD within the SHOWTEC Group, will be responsible for the asset management. Jana Wohlien will oversee the integration management of the PRG companies, and Lars Schwarz will be responsible for the finance department.

The sales and account management will be under the leadership of Udo Willburger, who has worked for PRG more than 20 years. Morten Carlsson, former managing director of PRG GmbH and founder of the former Procon group, will be responsible for marketing and business development. Wilfried Schiefer, founder and former managing director of SHOWTEC, will contribute his market experience as a consultant.

For more information on PRG, visit www.prg.com.

Daktronics: Accommodates High School's Rigging Order Requirements

Daktronics designed and manufactured 16 Vortek Classic hoists with E Series control system for the Lanier High School theatre renovation project in Austin, Texas.

Originally, the school purchased six custom Classic hoists to be built and shipped in five working days. As the project progressed, the school added 10 units with hopes that all could ship at the same time. Five days after the order was submitted, the hoists with an E Series controller were shipped.



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News From **Lea Asbell-Swanger**, *USITT President*

Making Worldwide Connections



Stage Expo Manager Ron Procopio, President Lea Asbell-Swanger, and Executive Director David Grindle, were on hand at PLASA to answer questions and network with colleagues.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

In September, I had the opportunity to join several members of the USITT staff (David Grindle, Barbara Lucas, and Ron Procopio) at PLASA in London. Just as PLASA has a booth at our Stage Expo, we have one at theirs.

This was my first trip abroad on behalf of USITT and my first visit to London although I've passed through Heathrow on a couple of occasions. I must congratulate David for managing to have all four of us arrive at that airport within an hour of each other even though we came from three different US states and one foreign country! The Paralympic Games were finishing up the week we arrived, so there was still a great deal of national pride in all things athletic. Several sessions at PLASA were dedicated to showcasing the contributions of numerous PLASA members to Olympic events as well as the Queen's Jubilee.

Some may wonder what USITT gains from attending such an event, and I'll admit some of it is a little hard to quantify in the moment, but it really comes down to connections that lead to opportunities for our membership.

There are a number of USITT members that are also PLASA members, and it was helpful to be able to spend some time with them without being completely wrapped up in our own event. There were also many visitors to our booth that had heard of USITT but didn't really understand what it was about. Some that had no notion of USITT at all.

I am very proud to report that David, Barbara, and Ron can all clearly articulate who we are and what we do as well as how USITT could be supportive and beneficial to those in our industry no matter where they live. The best part was that each engagement was collaborative; it was about the potential for the exchange of information and ideas.

For example, David had preceded his time at PLASA with a visit to Dusseldorf, Germany, to meet with the leadership of the German Technical Theatre Association (DTHG) at the invitation of the vice president of that association who attended our conference in Long Beach. While we were at PLASA, the president of DTHG, Karl-Heinz Mittelstädt, and executive director, Huber Eckart visited our booth. Besides David being able to show off his German speaking skills, the conversation led to the possibility of sharing translated articles between our respective journals.

As is always the case with ideas and opportunities, nothing will come of either without additional effort, but suffice it to say, at the end of a very short three days, I felt as energized with future possibilities as I do after our conference.

Not long after our return home, the new and improved USITT website was launched. I hope by now you have taken some time to explore it, and if not, please do. Once again, we have been able to make this improvement in great part because of the excellent work of the staff. Monica Merritt, Director of Member Services, was the driving force behind this upgrade. It is because of her diligence that it was a very smooth transition. Some might say that her efforts were *brilliant!* (Sorry, couldn't resist a final nod to all our colleagues in the United Kingdom who made us welcome during our PLASA visit.)



We'd like to hear your comments on this story.

Please e-mail Lea at Lea.Asbell-Swanger@usitt.org.

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

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- **IATSE:** Ratifies Three-Year Contract

Clearwing Productions: Joins Ranks of Sustaining, Booth to be Front and Center

Clearwing Productions has increased its level of support to that of a Sustaining member of the organization. Clearwing is an expert source for audio, video, and lighting technology. It provides the finest designers and technicians, state-of-the-art equipment, and impeccable assistance with productions, sales, service, and systems integration.

The Phoenix-based company will be front and center when Stage Expo 2013 opens in Milwaukee because Clearwing has also selected a booth right inside the doors of the exhibition hall.

To learn more, visit www.clearwing.com.

George Washington University: Upgrades with Stage Expo Contract

The **George Washington University** upgraded to Sustaining with its Stage Expo contract. Visit the [Department of Theatre and Dance website](#) for more information.

iWeiss: iWeiss Moves

"From Broadway to your way," for over three decades **iWeiss** has provided quality draperies and rigging solutions to the entertainment industry. New space will help the company offer clients in theatre, education, construction, and special events more efficient service for a broad range of projects and challenges.

With its recent move to a modern, energy efficient facility in New Jersey, the company lowered its overhead while doubling its space for greater production efficiency. It now has a large lay-out floor, hanging space, plenty of room for inventory, and steel shop equipped to handle the fabrication of ViaLift and ViaWinch alongside other rigging projects.

Whether looking for an Austrian curtain or border, a pipe grid or pipe clamp, motorized rigging or sand bag, customers find it at iWeiss with its motto -- it's really all about the customer.

L-ACOUSTICS: Products on Tour (and on Tour...)

On the cusp of dropping off of the radar for a full year's hiatus, Peter Gabriel treated fans in select North American cities to a brief tour celebrating the 25th anniversary of his renowned multiplatinum album, *So*. Reunited with the band from the original tour--bassist Tony Levin, guitarist David Rhodes, drummer Manu Kache, and keyboardist David Sancious--Gabriel was joined by a newer performer -- Firehouse Productions' **L-ACOUSTICS K1** system.



Based in Red Hook, New York, information on Firehouse Productions can be found at www.firehouseproductions.com.

Following an enthusiastic response to its new ARCS WIDE and ARCS FOCUS systems, which debuted at the Prolight + Sound trade show in March in Frankfurt, L-ACOUSTICS launched a busy global demo schedule in mid-September.

In addition to highlighting Constant Curvature products like the award-winning ARCS WIDE and ARCS FOCUS, the demos will cover L-ACOUSTICS' Coaxial (P and XT Series) and Variable Curvature (KARA and KIVA) systems and technologies.

Vectorworks: Announces Product Release, Collaborative Partnership

Nemetschek **Vectorworks, Inc.** released the 2013 version of its award-winning Vectorworks line of design software, including: Vectorworks Designer, Architect,

Landmark, Spotlight, Fundamentals, and Renderworks.

The Vectorworks 2013 product line contains more than 80 improvements including new commands and tools. Performance in many areas of the program has also been improved, and examples of this include wall network manipulation, hidden line rendering, changes to Vectorworks Spotlight lighting devices, and 2D navigation of Vectorworks scenes.

Check with local distributor for availability. Visit www.vectorworks.net/2013 to learn more about the product line.

Vectorworks also formed a partnership with [Integrated Environmental Solutions \(IES\)](#), a provider of integrated performance analysis software and consulting services for sustainable building design and operation to collaborate on Vectorworks Architect and IES Virtual Environment software (IESVE).

Irwin Seating Company: Offers New Seating Options

Irwin Seating Company has announced an innovative line of fixed seating for its clients. In partnership with Blue Cube (GB) Ltd, Irwin Seating introduced Solara and Integra beam-mount chairs this past summer at its national sales meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Installations for Solara and Integra include the home for the 2010 World Cup, Soccercity Football Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the famous Wembley Stadium in London. In addition, Blue Cube has installed Solara and Integra chairs in many of the venues used for this year's Olympic Games, including 80,000 chairs at the Olympic Stadium, 6,000 chairs at the Velodrome, and 28,000 chairs at Lord's Cricket Ground, MCC.

In addition to Solara and Integra, Irwin Seating Company has introduced the Solo Worksurface line of lecture room furniture (also in partnership with Blue Cube) and refined models for its popular Citation and Millennium chairs. For more information, visit www.irwinseating.com.

Musson Theatrical: Launches New Website

Musson Theatrical has launched a new, more user-friendly, website. Visit www.musson.com for information about sales, rentals, production services, system design, and integration, as well as for online shopping.

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas: Schedules 2013 Season

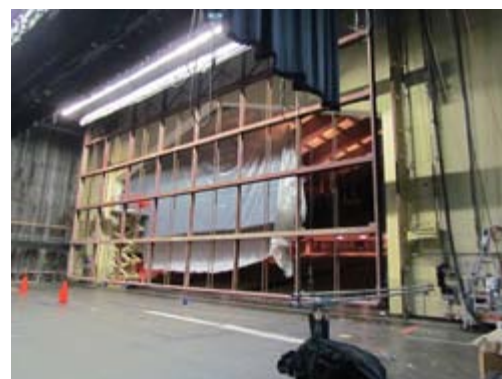
Maintaining the **Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (SILV)** core value of in-process curriculum, 2013 will include the institute's full, high tech, eight-week program and three double week offerings: Foam Art - Block to Finish, Moulage Make-up and Prosthetics, and SFX - Pyro Plus. In all of these classes, the hands-on approach will incorporate cutting edge materials, processes, and outside industry innovations.

For course descriptions and applications, visit stagecraftinstitute.com.

Sapsis Rigging Inc.: Sapsis Rigging improves school safety with fire curtain upgrades

When the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, made renovations involving their theatre fire curtains this summer, they called on the expertise of **Sapsis Rigging, Inc.**

The fire curtain in Founders Hall at the Hershey School is a framed unit weighing in at just over 21,000 pounds. It was more than 50 years old and needed to be brought up to current building codes and ANSI standards. The project included replacing the asbestos cover on both sides of the frame and installing a new winch and control system.



At Phi Beta Kappa Hall at the College of William and Mary, an emergency masonry repair provided an opportunity to replace the motorized winch and control system for the existing fire curtain.

More information on Sapsis Rigging, Inc, is available at www.sapsis-rigging.com.

IATSE: Ratifies Three-Year Contract

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts (IATSE) and Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) recently ratified a new Area Standards Agreement. The agreement covers 8,000 IATSE members working in feature film and television production in most areas of the United States outside of the Los Angeles and New York regions. The IATSE and AMPTP reached a tentative agreement on a new contract on August 24, and the agreement was ratified by the IATSE General Executive Board.

The new contract, which will run through July 31, 2015, includes annual wage increases and an increase in health plan contributions in each year of the agreement.

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News From **David Grindle**, *USITT Executive Director*

Giving Thanks for Safety

THANK YOU!

USITT has just closed the fourth round of applications for the Rigging Safety Initiative, and the success of this program continues to grow. More than 35 inspections have been done in 18 states.

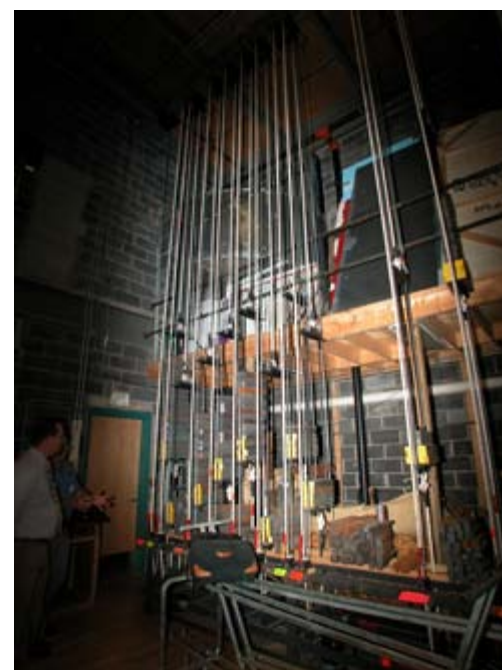
Those inspections are followed by the equally important basic safe operations training at each school. Think about the number of students who cross those high school stages each school year, and realize we are affecting the safety of thousands.

Many individuals have given financial support to the Rigging Safety Initiative. These gifts encourage us as we work towards funding every application. While we are a long way from that reality, we can certainly continue to strive for it.

Along with individuals, we've had three corporations in the past year step forward with support. ETC, Shepard Exposition Services, and H&H Specialties have all made gifts. Their commitments to the Rigging Safety Initiative is more than \$25,000. This kind of commitment from the industry, along with the founding support of J.R. Clancy shows the importance safety in our schools holds.

"The Rigging Safety Initiative is one of the most important things USITT has undertaken since the creation of DMX-512." That statement, made by one of our members, says a great deal about this organization and its desire to fill a need. As school budgets get trimmed each year, the arts are often on the edge of that knife. This includes facilities, not just programming. This reality makes the importance of programs such as this one more and more evident.

I recently fielded a phone call from a high school staff member saying, "I need



High school theatres come in all shapes and sizes, and with a huge variety of equipment and needs.

Photo/Barbara E.R. Lucas

someone to evaluate my theatre; it's not safe, and I heard you guys can do something about that." While not wholly true, I explained that we can be a conduit to vital resources. Within a matter of moments, I was able to use the online directory to find the members closest to her zip code that provided inspections. She said she had the ear of the school administration and needed to move quickly. Because I was able to give her multiple options, all within 25 miles of her school, she could do just that.

USITT uses its name and reputation to increase awareness of technical theatre safety across the United States and the world. Our work to provide training and support for safety is getting noticed. It shines a light on both the problem and the solution, initiated by USITT. This is all because of the strength of our members --individuals and corporations -- who make things happen by supporting the Institute.

Thanks to those companies and individuals who continue to make Rigging Safety a priority. Thanks to all our donors who make each of our programs successful through their financial support. With gifts of all size and members who support the Institute by promoting its work and programs, we continue on our path as a vibrant organization.



We'd like to hear your comments on this story.

Please e-mail David at david@office.usitt.org.

Follow me on Twitter — #USITTExec

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Conference & Stage Expo

Sign Painting: a timeless art and a professional development opportunity

Gregg Allyn Buck *Scene Design & Technology Commission*

Not too many years ago, fledgling painters assailed lettering and signage with hours of layout utilizing drafting tools. Then along came large format printers, which gave an easy pounce in *any* font imaginable or make the sign. A time-saving device so ubiquitous, the printers have virtually made sign-painting skills extinct. Except for when there is no large format printer, it's out of ink, or it would just be easy to whip out a quick little sign that has to be painted on corrugated steel. Do printers work on corrugated steel?

For those who have leaned heavily on technology to solve problems and would either like to brush up lettering skills or learn new ones, the Scene Design & Technology Commission, in partnership with Cobalt Studios and Rosco, will offer a one-day Professional Development Workshop *Timeless Signs* at the Milwaukee 2013 Conference & Stage Expo.

The PDW will be held at the Skylight Opera House with Rachel Keebler, owner and master painter at Cobalt Studios. Over the years, she has developed and perfected her own method painting and teaching others how to paint signage easily, painlessly, and without the support of a large format printer.

A simple, freehand approach uses a variety of techniques with quality results on various substrates like corrugated steel, plywood, brick, and muslin. The class will mix and match projects allowing participants the opportunity to witness many different styles and approaches. Students will have the opportunity to paint more than one sample.



Photo/Rachel Keebler

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Conference & Stage Expo

Wenger Looks Forward to 32nd Conference Year

Gregg Nelson *Senior Market Manager, Wenger Corporation*

Enhanced programming continues to broaden the appeal of the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo for exhibitors and attendees alike. The sessions are attracting more people, including key players from all aspects of the theatrical community. When people want to see the industry's top decision-makers, the USITT conference is a can't-miss opportunity.

The Wenger team appreciates visiting with consulting firms from the United States and around the globe. It's a valuable chance to share products and capabilities for new construction, renovation, and special projects, and to better understand customers' needs.



The Milwaukee conference will be Wenger's 32nd year at USITT. The strong customer response and valuable industry exposure the company receives makes Wenger look forward to USITT every year.

At the 2013 Stage Expo, Wenger will showcase its newest staging solution – StageTek. It represents a dramatic leap forward in technology and performance when compared with other stages on the market. Intended for performance stages or seated risers, StageTek features the company's strongest stage decks.



These decks are 15 percent lighter and incorporate grips that improve handling. Wenger representatives look forward to the opportunity to show clients its setup which is easy, fast and intuitive. The company is sure visitors to their booth will be impressed when they learn it offers approximately 20 percent faster setup than Z-frame systems.

Meeting face-to-face with end-users at USITT will allow Wenger to show off StageTek's plug-and-play legs which provide quick height adjustments, offering maximum flexibility.

Since much of what Wenger manufactures is project-specific, the company doesn't attend USITT expecting to sell a lot of products. Instead, it wants to educate the industry about Wenger's extensive capabilities and catalog. Many

attendees are looking for the resources, expertise, and innovation Wenger offers.

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Sightlines

The monthly newsletter for USITT members

November 2012

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Conference & Stage Expo

Destination Milwaukee – The best of a large city – the ease of a hometown

Pam Rehberg *Milwaukee Promotions*



The post-security area at the Milwaukee Airport. Going through security, you get all discombobulated. In Milwaukee, they are nice enough to provide a "recombobulation" area.

Photo/David Krajec

Just 90 miles north of Chicago, on the shores of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee is the largest city in Wisconsin and is a combination of the best of a large city with the ease of a hometown. Known for its lakeside and ethnic festivals and huge breweries, Milwaukee is reshaping its image, transforming industrial areas into restaurants, galleries, and performance venues. Part of the reshaping has included the transportation infrastructure, making it easier than ever to arrive in Milwaukee for the 2013 Annual Conference & Stage Expo.

For those who wish to fly, USITT has partnered with Delta Air Lines for discounts from destinations both in North America and around the world, and the discounts are good for those flying into Milwaukee, O'Hare, or Midway airports. Find links and codes [here](#) or under Event Information and then under Hotel and Travel Information at www.usitt.org/2013.



Air travelers who arrive at Mitchell International airport (MKE) will note it is home to Southwest, Frontier, and Air Tran airlines. Mitchell is truly an easy in, easy out airport. Lines are short and the terminal is just 15 minutes south of downtown. An advantage of flying into Milwaukee's Mitchell Field is the opportunity to visit Renaissance Books, an excellent independent used

bookseller that leases space in the main terminal. Only in Milwaukee can someone grab a custard, browse the shelves for a hidden treasure, and shop the Harley Davidson store -- all before leaving the airport.

For those whose connections take them first to Chicago, the options are O'Hare airport (ORD), very busy, or Midway (MDW), the farthest airport. There is excellent ground transportation on Amtrak and Coach USA bus lines that offer daily and hourly service connecting all three airports.

Milwaukee has a nifty new downtown train station, actually an "intermodal," which also serves connecting bus routes. Officially opened in late fall 2007, it's convenient, clean, and easily accessible. This will be the landing spot for any train or bus travel. Located at the south end of downtown, at 433 W. St. Paul, it is a six-block walk north to the Delta Center, formerly the Frontier Airlines Center.

It is easy to navigate to and around downtown Milwaukee. The area is positioned with Lake Michigan to the east; the east-west freeway I-94 divides it to the south. The freeway is a visual divider from downtown to an area known as the "third ward." The third ward is truly an area reborn and revitalized. It is within walking distance from the Delta Center.

For detailed information on all transportation options, there are two excellent websites. The first, [How to Get Around Milwaukee Without a Car](#) is the best collection of all things transportation, showing detailed schedules and providers. The second, [Visit Milwaukee](#) includes a downloadable guide of restaurants, transportation, and interactive maps.

Join us in Milwaukee to enjoy a city with a hometown charm.

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Conference & Stage Expo

Organizing College Transfer Session, Seeks Past Poster Sessions

Jonathan Allender-Zivic *Education Commission*

The Education Commission's projects include preparation for the Milwaukee 2012 Annual Conference & Stage Expo and those which will benefit the Commission and Institute in the future.

Each year, students from community colleges navigate the sometimes treacherous waters of transferring to four-year institutions. Each year, faculty members attempt to assist students in this process. And each year the wheel gets reinvented. Creating articulation agreements between two- and four-year institutions can make the process easier as well as create positive, supportive, and mutually beneficial relationships between programs and departments. A conference session is being organized to explore the opportunities available in creating dynamic pathways that support the students' success and provide models of educational steppingstones for clear and consistent connectivity while maintaining academic freedom.

The Commission is also looking for digital copies of posters presented at past poster sessions to create an online digital archive. E-mail submissions to David Navalinsky dnavalinsky@gmail.com.

It's not too late to submit an abstract for this year's posters session. Submissions are due November 15. [Click here for details.](#)

Updates on the Commssion's programming and projects are available by joining its [Google group](#).

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Image Courtesy/Jonathan Allender-Zivic

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