

## Department of Theatre and Dance – Theatre Program College of Arts and Letters

The Department of Theatre and Dance supports the missions of the University and the College by providing a solid conceptual and practical foundation for majors which enables them to master at least one disciplinary area of theatre or dance studies while cultivating a broad appreciation for the liberal arts, an ability to think critically, and a sense of the historic and aesthetic values which have traditionally informed the study of theatre and dance. The Theatre Program received full accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Theatre in 2009.

The department trains students for advanced study or professional work through its Bachelor of Fine Arts programs, prepares students to pursue careers in secondary education through the Bachelor of Science in Education program, offers a Bachelor of Arts degree combining a liberal arts education with an emphasis in theatre studies, and enables Masters students to prepare for advanced graduate studies in theatre or to enhance their careers as high school drama teachers. The department integrates intellectual and academic study with active participation in a variety of production experiences. The department's stage productions are well attended by university students and the community at large and over 7000 people attended shows last year. The performances received good reviews in the local press.

One of the most noted and highly acclaimed programs of the department is the summer Tent Theatre. The department succeeded in taking Tent Theatre to a professional company standing for the first time during the summer of 2008. Operating under an Equity U/RTA contract, our students were able to work closely with professional actors and stage managers, and earned EMC points toward their equity cards. Tent Theatre has become increasingly integrated into the department's educational efforts over the years, providing an extension of the academic production season and a unique laboratory training experience for theatre students. Within the next few years, when the summer practicum component of the online MA goes into effect, Tent will also become an integral component in the Master's program. Tent Theatre's productions are well attended and in 2009 over 10,000 people attended performances last year. Tent Theatre had a 97% full rate for summer 2009.

Currently the department has 223 major up from 208 in 2008. According to university numbers, there are 16 BFA Musical Theatre Majors (this number actually reflects only half of the number of Musical Theatre majors, since the other half are credited to the Music Department), 55 BFA Acting majors, 34 BFA Design/Technology/Stage Management majors, 53 BSED majors and 29 BA Theatre majors. 18 Musical Theatre and 17 BFA acting majors have been admitted for the fall 2010. Our alumni are quite successful. For example, there are currently 5 alumni appearing on Broadway in New York, one musical theatre alumnus just had a musical he wrote open at Playwright's Horizon in New York and another alumnus just had his screenplay selected to go into production with a \$35 million dollar budget. The BSEd program is the largest program in the department and continues to thrive. Many high school theatre teachers including all in Greene County are graduates of our program. Currently our MA program in theatre has eight (8) active graduate students. Our Delaware productivity numbers have risen dramatically over the last several years increasing to 127.06 in 2008, up from 93.60 in 2005.

During the regular academic year, the department employs fifteen (15) full-time faculty, eight (8) staff, and fourteen (5) graduate assistants. In addition to its academic programs, every summer the department operates Tent Theatre, the region's only critically acclaimed equity professional theatre. In 2010, the Tent Theatre will employ over 75 performers, directors, designers, and crew. This number includes seven (7) equity performers and five (5) guest artists.

Carey Adams, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Arts and Letters

## Department of Theatre and Dance Program Review Update

Action Step	Action Taken	Outcomes	Future Steps
<p><i>Work with the University administration to secure and renovate space for a movement and rehearsal studio, a design/tech studio, and costume storage in the Art Annex.</i></p>	<p>Plans were developed and funding appropriated for renovation.</p>	<p>The space and facilities issues that have historically plagued the department have been resolved. The east wing of the Art Annex, the building adjacent to Craig Hall, has been renovated and assigned to the Department of Theatre and Dance to address the instructional, rehearsal and production needs of the department. The first floor was completely renovated by relocating beams, installing new lighting and creating new spaces in the building. Presently, the room is a large open rehearsal hall that is 65' X 55', 3900 s.f. with a 40' X 44', 1760 s.f. sprung dance floor that was installed for use in movement, acting, combat and dance classes as well as rehearsals. The rehearsal hall features mirrors, new lighting and upgraded HVAC. The first floor also includes new, additional support spaces including a 24' X 30', 720 s.f. classroom, a dressing room, a faculty dressing room and two storage spaces. The second floor of the Annex has also been turned over to the Department. This new space houses two design studios (each approximately 15' X 36' and 540 s.f.), a traditional classroom (approximately 15' x 24', 350 s.f.) and an additional 700 square feet of costume storage. All design classes will now be taught in this new space.</p>	<p>Some issues still need to be resolved. Funds ran short and we were unable to refinish the floors on the first and second floor. There are some acoustical and HVAC issues that have yet to be resolved. The department head is working with Design and Construction to find economically feasible solutions to these issues.</p> <p>We will need to locate funds to furnish all the spaces with appropriate seating, tables and desks.</p> <p>Additional space in the Annex is being renovated and equipped to serve as a lighting lab.</p>

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<i>Complete the hiring of an assistant professor of acting, and assistant professor of dance (specializing in tap and jazz techniques essential for the musical theatre program), and a scene shop coordinator to assist in the building of sets for all of the department's productions.</i>	An assistant professor of acting and an assistant professor of dance who specialized in tap and jazz were employed. Likewise, an appropriately trained scene shop coordinator was hired.	All began their positions in August 2009 and have begun to make contributions to their respective programs. All three have been very active in our academic and production program.	We are now fully staffed in the scene shop and in our BFA Dance and Acting programs. I do not anticipate requesting new faculty or staff lines in the near future for these programs.
Action Step	Action Taken	Outcomes	Future Steps
<i>Complete the on-line transition of the MA program and institute the summer practicum associated with Tent Theatre.</i>	In 2009-10, the department offered two (2) on-line graduate course and 8 traditional courses. In the Fall semester 2010 there will be two on-line offerings and five (5) traditional offerings for graduate students. One grad student is enrolled exclusively on-line and the rest are enrolled in both types of classes.	A majority of the classes for the on-line MA have been developed or are in the final stages of development. By the end of the spring semester 2011 there should be sufficient classes to complete the coursework on-line. The first summer practicum student will enroll in the Summer 2010.	To date, enrollments in the on-line program have not met expectations. Future enrollments must be carefully monitored to ensure program viability. An aggressive recruiting campaign to enroll high school theatre teachers will be launched in the fall semester, 2010.
Action Step	Action Taken	Outcomes	Future Steps
<i>Maintain Tent Theatre's Equity standing and offer theatre and dance majors a professional theatrical experience by working on campus with this 48- year old summer stock theatre.</i>	Tent Theatre has maintained its Equity standing this year. A revised contract with Equity was approved and implemented.	We have increased the number of equity performers in 2010 and there will be a total of 7 equity performers as well as an equity stage manager for all shows. New opportunities were provided to incoming students by creating an internship program in Sumer 2010.  For the first time Actor's Equity auditions were held in New York City.	Continue the excellence of the Tent Theatre program and broaden participation by expanding the size of the company, increasing sponsorship support and expanding the internship program. Continue to audition in New York for performers.

Action Step	Action Taken	Outcomes	Future Steps
<p><i>Increase effective targeted recruitment opportunities and build department structures to retain talented students once they enter our programs.</i></p>	<p>The first steps of a new comprehensive and coordinated recruiting plan were developed. This plan included visits to area high schools and auditions.</p> <p>MSU Auditions were held in St. Louis, Kansas City, and Springfield.</p> <p>Faculty auditioned students in Kansas and Arkansas at local auditions.</p> <p>A Tent Theatre internship plan for HS students was instituted.</p> <p>A student advisory board was empanelled and met with the chair on a regular basis. A student caucus was held for all theatre and dance students.</p>	<p>Faculty visited 18 performances at area schools. The geographic range was large and included schools in Lee's Summit, Chillicothe, Eldorado Springs and Monett. Subsequently recruiting letters were sent to senior and junior students and faculty introducing them to the benefits our Theatre and Dance Programs</p> <p>The department faculty members were active participants in major conferences such as the Thespian conferences in Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas and a dance conference in St. Louis.</p> <p>Over 100 students attended local auditions for our Musical Theatre, Acting and Dance Programs. 35 have been accepted into the Acting and Musical Theatre classes of 2014.</p> <p>The lighting designer has worked with HS theatre faculty in area schools like El Dorado springs and Republic as they learn new theatre equipment such as light boards.</p> <p>Tent Theatre will have 8 interns participating as cast members and crew for <i>Guys and Dolls</i>.</p> <p>The student advisory board was a big success and allowed students input into department processes and provided them with complete knowledge of department changes and discussions.</p> <p>Student caucuses were held and over 200 students attended each session. General information and discussion about the department was conducted.</p>	<p>Continue to visit HS performances and improving contact with area teachers and students</p> <p>Develop a summer Technical Theatre course for HS teachers and students.</p> <p>Possibly develop a student technical corps .</p> <p>Develop an effective assessment plans that will provide an evaluation of all our academic, co-curricular and associated programs. This will lead to the development of quality strategic plans that will allow us to address future changes and development of our programs.</p> <p>Continue to expand the intern program and seek permanent funding for the program.</p> <p>The all student caucuses and Advisory board meetings will continue. The head will attempt to develop a regular schedule of these meeting as student schedules allow.</p>

	Support industry showcases for graduating students in Musical theatre and Acting.	Very successful industry showcases were held in New York and Los Angeles. The New York Showcase featured 8 performers and the LA showcase featured 12 BFA performers. Both showcases were well attended and received by industry professionals and alumni. The New York showcase also featured sessions on living and working in NYC hosted by 8 theatre alumni.	Continue showcases in LA and New York.  Expand Alumni events in both locations including sponsorship of an Alumni Cabaret in New York venue.  Create a permanent, steady fiscal plan to pay for and support the showcases.  Develop plans to Establish an industry review of portfolios and possible internships for technical students in major theatre centers such as New York.
<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Future Steps</b>
<i>Seek out high-profile coverage of and support for production activities within the department</i>	We have sought new partnerships and support with various groups throughout the community. The managing director has pursued additional sponsors for productions of the regular academic season and Tent Theatre	<p>Renewed partnerships have been developed with Juanita K. Hammoms Hall and will result in including <i>White Christmas</i> as part of Winterfest 2010.</p> <p>We continue to be one of the charter members and provided leadership for the Springfield Theatre Alliance. Including the development of a discount (D-tix) program similar to the NY TKTS Broadway program and a reward program for theatre artist who volunteer at regional theatres.</p> <p>Sponsorship for Tent in 2010 continues to be strong despite a depressed economy. Several sponsors increased the amount their contributions this year.</p> <p>The Kansas City <i>Talent on Tour</i> program was a very high profile event that raised our department and college visibility in the region.</p>	<p>Sustain present partnerships and sponsorships while seeking additional partnerships and sponsorships for all productions.</p> <p>Investigate more opportunities for high profile events like <i>Talent on Tour</i>.</p>

Action Step	Action Taken	Outcomes	Future Steps
<p><i>Implement a series of strategic events designed to raise the statewide profile of the Theatre and Dance Department over an extended period</i></p> <p>2010 – double the number of high school students attending the Performing Arts Institute. The PAI is a one-week intensive theatre and dance summer program that brings talented high school students to MSU from all across Missouri.</p> <p>2011 – Host the annual Missouri Thespian Conference. Though this effort will required a huge commitment of time, energy and resources (student labor, performance venues, and some cash), it will bring all of Missouri’s high school speech and theatre programs to campus and allow everyone to witness first hand the excellence of Missouri State’s Theatre and Dance program. This effort will require the commitment not only of the entire department, but</p>	<p>A major step taken this year was the development and implementation of the Kansas City <i>Talent on Tour</i> program held in conjunction with our auditions. In-school visits to area high schools, a college fair, an art exhibit and an evening performance by Music, Theatre and Dance students were all part of this successful event.</p> <p>We did not accomplish this goal in 2010. PAI has been suspended for the summer of 2010.</p> <p>Arrangements have been made to host the 2011 Missouri Thespian conference on our Campus. Moreover, MSU will host the 2012 Thespian conference.</p>	<p>Heightened awareness of COAL programs and improved relations with students and faculty in area high schools. We visited schools and visited with faculty that we had not previously met.</p> <p>Higher visibility for our departments and programs in the KC area</p> <p>Better relations and contact with our alumni in the KC area</p> <p>Enhanced ability to ‘tell our story’ to area schools and students.</p> <p>Increased cooperation among various campus constituencies including admission and alumni</p> <p>Unfortunately, pre-enrollment dropped noticeably and we were unable to ensure sufficient enrollment to maintain the program. The Funds for this program were used to develop and expand the Tent High School internship program.</p> <p>We have participated in the conference as an exhibitors and scholarship reviewers for the past few years. This year the Department Head and several faculty members attended the conference as workshop leaders and participants. The Head spoke with troupe sponsors and convinced them that Missouri State and Springfield were the ideal location to host the event. As a result of these efforts, the conference will be housed on our campus</p>	<p>Continue to develop and refine the Talent on Tour program working with alumni and admissions</p> <p>Presenting the talent on tour program in other venues such as St. Louis and in association with 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday</p> <p>In Fall, 2011, the department will have to discuss the role of PAI in our programs and reassess if we want to continue. If we do, then an aggressive and comprehensive recruiting campaign must be conducted, a deadline set to determine if we want to continue the program or apply the resources elsewhere.</p> <p>Plans are underway to host the conference. Pre conference meetings have been held with the Thespian Director and the role and scope of MSU’s commitment has been defined. All campus facilities have been scheduled to ensure there are enough rooms for performances, workshops and auditions.</p> <p>The department is planning to perform</p>

<p>also of the college and the university administration since it will require considerable resources to host the Missouri Thespian Conference, including arranging for space in Hammons' Hall for the Performing Arts, the Gillioz Theatre, and possible coordination for upwards of 2000 visitors with the Springfield Visitor's and Conventions Bureau.</p> <p>2012 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tent Theatre. This event holds some significant opportunities for fund raising events targeted toward both Tent and the Department. We should be able to bring back to campus a cadre of former alumni who have performed in Tent over the years, including John Goodman, Tess Harper, and perhaps even Kathleen Turner. This reunion will offer a couple of additional opportunities for the department, including state wide press coverage, and a chance to shoot a series of updated interviews with famous former alumni who are currently featured in the department's THE 101 general education telecourse. The 50<sup>th</sup> Tent Reunion will also offer a chance to introduce a whole new generation of talented faculty members to our alumni and give is am an opportunity to spread the gospel of program excellence to our supporters.</p> <p>2013-2014 – Kick off a capital campaign to help fund a new Theatre and Dance Building. This building is currently listed as one of the University's legislative capital improvement requests for 2014.</p>	<p>Preliminary discussions have been held with various constituencies regarding the celebration that will need to be held in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Tent Theatre.</p> <p>Nothing has been done to address this goal.</p>	<p>on January 6,7,8 2011. We will employ the enthusiastic efforts of faculty, students and staff of the department, college and university as well as organizations and members of the community at large to host more than 2000 high school students and faculty at this premier high school event.</p>	<p><i>White Christmas</i> to open the conference Throughout the summer the Department Head working with the Thespian director will plan the personnel and fiscal resources needed for the conference.</p> <p>In the fall we will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a planning committee consisting of faculty, alumni and Tent staff to plan</li> <li>• Begin development of the 50 for 50 campaign</li> <li>• Plan and write text for the 50 year retrospective DVD</li> <li>• Plan to develop the book for the 50 years of Tent</li> <li>• Invite participants to be part of the Reunion</li> </ul>
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<b>NAST Accreditation Issues Requiring Action</b>			
<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Future Steps</b>
<i>“...Indeed, space is so limited in Craig Hall that the majority of costume and scenic storage has to be located off-campus.”</i>	Additional costume Storage Space has been located in the Annex	Some costumes have been moved and others will be moved to storage areas in the Annex.	We will continue to work with university personnel to locate suitable storage areas for costumes and scenery
<i>“Ensure the department has adequate office, classroom, studio and performance space in which to work that are well equipped and appropriate to the size and scope of the different program that are offered.”</i>	The Annex was renovated and additional office spaces were located.	With the renovation of the Art Annex, the renovation of office spaces in Craig, the department now has adequate office, studio, instructional and performance space. All are appropriate to the size and scope of the different programs housed in the department.  With one exception, all faculty and staff are now housed in Craig Hall.	We will locate appropriate office space for the incoming faculty member, and rearrange office areas to bring the lone staff member to Craig Hall so that all faculty and staff are housed in the same building.
<i>“Successfully conclude the search for a new department head.”</i>	A search was completed and a new Department Head was Hired	Dr. Robert Willenbrink joined the Department on July 1. 2009	