Playbill

2007 vol. xxx

Alpha Psi Omega          Delta Psi Omega

History

Chapters in Action       Scholarship Winners
HISTORY OF ALPHA AND DELTA PSI OMEGA

The organization, development, and growth of Alpha and Delta Psi Omega is a result of the wide-spread interest of colleges and universities of America in dramatic arts in the early twentieth century. By 1920 most colleges had some kind of a dramatic club that was staging annual play productions for students and the local community. The little theatre movement and dramatic workshop idea made its appearance about that time and greatly stimulated the importance of the college drama and the worthwhile nature of the programs presented. This was especially true in western colleges, and by 1920 several national honor fraternities to recognize and reward student participation in play production had been organized.

Alpha Psi Omega, the first of these societies to be founded in the East, was organized at Fairmont State College in Fairmont, West Virginia on August 12, 1925. The college theatre idea had begun to manifest itself in Fairmont about 1921, and, in 1923, a faculty director was employed, and an organization, called the Masquers, was instituted to present an annual program of four or five major productions for students and the public. In 1924, the Masquers began to consider membership in some national honor society in dramatics as a means of rewarding its most faithful and loyal workers. Plans for forming such a national organization were seriously studied by a committee, composed of Elinor B. Watson, Robert Sloan, and Paul F. Opp, faculty director of dramatics at Fairmont. A proposed national constitution was drawn up, and, on August 12, 1925, those members of the Masquers who met the qualifications of the honor society approved the constitution and adopted the name, Alpha Psi Omega. It was decided that each chapter was to be called a "cast", and Fairmont became Alpha Cast. The interest of Marshall College in Huntington, West Virginia assured the immediate national character of Alpha Psi Omega with the establishment of Beta Cast. A member of Beta Cast suggested the name Playbill, for the national magazine.

During the course of the next year, eighteen new chapters were admitted, and twenty chapters were on the roll at the time of the meeting of the first national convention, at the Palmer House in Chicago on December 27-28, 1926. National conventions, called Grand Rehearsals, are held every five years.

Alpha Psi Omega has sponsored the formation of honor societies in high schools and junior colleges, thus encouraging dramatic production at every step in a student's career, from the preparatory school to college graduation. Delta Psi Omega was organized among the junior colleges in 1929, and now has a membership of more than 350 chapters. The Alpha Psi Omega Grand Rehearsal meeting at St. Louis in 1936 voted to recognize Delta Psi Omega as an affiliated junior college division.

Alpha Psi Omega has enjoyed continuous national growth, and with over 550 chapters is the largest national honor society in America. Membership in Alpha Psi Omega is granted only to fully accredited institutions with a four-year curriculum in theatre and drama leading to a degree.

The business of Alpha and Delta Psi Omega is supervised by national officers. Such names as Paul Opp, Yetta Mitchell, Donald Garner, Jerry Henderson, and James Fisher are familiar to longtime member casts as officers in earlier years. Current officers are Teresa Choate (President), Frankie Day (Vice President), and Bret Jones (National Business Manager and Editor of Playbill).
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Webmaster

Joel Lord

E-mail: webmaster@alphapsiomega.org
Ever since I decided to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre Arts I knew that graduate school would be in my future. It is now my senior year and it is time for me to choose a graduate school to attend. The main reason I want to attend graduate school in Theatre is to earn an MFA degree in Theatre Management. This is a degree that I feel really fits my character. I love to work and with this degree I will be able to work for the University’s Theatre department while I attend graduate school. By working while I attend school I will learn a lot of hands on experience; experiences that cannot be taught through text books.

Once I earn my MFA degree I plan to work in a Theatre as a manager. The responsibilities I will obtain will include marketing, budget planning, house managing, grant writing and a plethora of other duties that are included in such a career. The sky is the limit in where this degree may take me in life. I could be working at a theatre on Broadway or in Los Angeles or perhaps even at a University. I may be working in a large city or a small rural town. Wherever I go I know I will be fulfilling my passion for Theatre. What I plan to do with this degree is bring artists together and provide a venue for them to perform in.

With the help of a scholarship I can more easily accomplish my dream of becoming a Theatre Manager.

(edited from Mr. Keil’s essay)
I don’t know if it’s the result of nature or nurture, but for as long as my family can remember, I’ve been fascinated by musicals, everything from *The Sound of Music* to *West Side Story*. When I was little, I watched the videos again and again, and when I was older, I bought one cast recording after another. This constant in my life gives me great comfort, and with it come purpose and certainty that it would be a mistake to devote my life to anything else.

I want to write musicals: musicals that will awaken people; that will pull them in and not let them go. Musical that will surprise, enchant, awaken, challenge, and open people’s hearts and minds. I don’t think we ever stop needing these experiences and musicals are wonderful at giving them to us.

As a theatre professional, creativity in opportunities is essential. For example, this year I have used APO to start a lecture series, bringing theatre professionals in to talk about their craft. So far, we have enjoyed the company of Duncan Sheik, composer of the smash hit Broadway musical, *Spring Awakening*, and Cherry Jones, two-time Tony-winning actress who is touring the country in the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Doubt*.

If I am awarded this scholarship, I will donate the money to Santa Clara’s chapter of APO to support the lecture series.

*(edited from Mr. Arnold’s essay)*
Bethany College
Bethany, West Virginia
Beta Gamma Cast

Theatre Season: *Dark Lady of the Sonnets*, *Lysistrata*, *Triumph of Love*, *Private Eyes*

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**Dark Lady Of The Sonnets**
Pictured: Elizabeth Brewer, Glenn Wright, Ryan Darrow; Directed by Luke Hardt; Set Construction: Brian Huggins; Costumes: Leah

**Lysistrata**
Pictured; Onstage: Laura Garelle, Johanna Valenti, Bethany Louis, Brittny Celata, Katie Orwig  Off stage: Kelson Jerral, Peter Brager, Rich Ivaun, Charles Wilfong, Tom Nelson, Andrew Eskelund; Directed by Luke Hardt; Set Construction: Brian Huggins; Costumes: Leah Muhlheim

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**Private Eyes**
Pictured: Adam Longshore, Megan Riggs, Keven Widener, Leah Muhlheim; Directed by Luke Hardt; Set Construction: Brian Huggins

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Faculty Sponsor: Luke Hardt
Other Faculty: Brian Huggins

Officers:
President: Ryan Darrow
Vice President: Katie Orwig
Secretary: Kari Jo Tiede
Treasurer: Christina Deems
Parliamentarian: Megan Riggs
Blinn College
Brenham, Texas
DPO Chapter: #295

Spirits of the Forest. Ensemble actors as The Tribe
Director: Bradley A. Niles
Technical Director: Kevin Patrick

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Andy Burian
Director: Bradley A. Niles
Technical Director: Kevin Patrick

Theatre Season:
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
ALiCE!
The MAD® Show
An Evening of Student Performances

Theatre Arts Faculty: Bradley A. Niles, Kevin Patrick

The Mad® Show. Jordan Morille, Ron Foreman
Director: Bradley A. Niles
Technical Director: Kevin Patrick

ALiCE! Tina Herring, Tabi Keeling
Director: Bradley A. Niles
Technical Director: Kevin Patrick

Officers: Blake Browder, President; Tabi Keeling, Vice-president; Tina Herring, Business Manager; Dustin Sturm, Historian
Theatre Season:
* Taming of the Shrew
* Once Upon a Mattress
* Dead Man Walking

*Dead Man Walking*
Director: Dr. Mira Wiegmann
Set Design: Robert Olson
Converse College
Spartanburg, South Carolina
Pi Pi Chapter

Language of Angels - l-r: Chevelle Walsh, Michael Bowen, Rafe Andrews

Belles - l-r: Melissa Pesaro, Korey Khan

WIT – l-r: Juanita Murphy, Brittani Hare

Smell of the Kill – l-r: Rebecca Rawls (seated), Kristin Baehr, Carah Randall

Chapter Officers: John Bald – Faculty Sponsor
Brandy Wyont – President; Kristin Baehr – Vice-President; Jenny Howard – Secretary/ Business Manager
Theatre Season
Belles by Mark Dunn
Language of Angels by Naomi Iizuka
WIT by Margaret Edson
The Smell of the Kill by Michelle Lowe
The Guile of Lucy Strada by Arthur Master

Department Staff
John Bald – Chair
Mary Nicholson
Brent Glenn
East Central University
Ada, Oklahoma
Beta Zeta Chapter

Theatre Season:
The Field
Bargains
Accomplice
The Thieving Painters

The Thieving Painters
Clay Wesley
Director: Dr. Bret Jones
Lights: Adam Randell
Costumes: Kassie Ingle, Catie Caton

The Field
L-R: Chris Hicks, Catie Caton, Amanda Tarver, Crystal Johnson, Kelli Lowe
Director: Dr. Bret Jones
Costumes: Catie Caton
Set: Geoffrey Tritten

Bargains: Kelli Lowe, Lucretia Nixon

The Thieving Painters
Jonnathon Hicks, Chris Hicks

Officers:
President: Catie Caton
Vice-president: Ruth Richardson
Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Tarver
Sponsors: Dr. Bret Jones, Theo Peshehonoff
Megan Cumby, Rebekah Morgan, Christian Lawrence, Cynda House, Jessica Crain and Stephen Hanna in *A Golden Fleecing*.

Rebekah Morgan, Levi Cain, and Jessica Crain in *An Inspector Calls*, directed by Evelyn James, scenic and costume design by Mary S. Lewis.

Matt Virgel, Joshua Ross, Michael Johnson in *Balcony Scene* from *An Evening of Student Directed One Act Plays*, directed and designed by Daniel Toole.

Theater Season: *Jaguar Capers, An Inspector Calls, An Evening of Student Directed One Act Plays, and A Golden Fleecing*.

Cast Officers: President-Daniel Toole, Vice President-Jessica Crain, Business Manager-Derrick Ellis

Faculty Sponsors: Mary S. Lewis & Evelyn James
Kean University
Union, New Jersey
Chapter: Alpha Gamma Gamma

Theatre Season:
Urinetown: The Musical, Hamlet, Vagina Monologues, Three Days of Rain, Two Rooms, And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank

Urinetown: The Musical
Pictured: L-R Jules, Jorgensen, Ron Mancini, Christina Boston, Karina Muñoz, Dust in Ballard, Danielle Barchetto, Johnny Vazquez, Matthew Ruff, Andrew Hess, Megan Bussiere
Director: E. Teresa Choate
Costume Designer: Karen Lee Hart
Scenic and Lighting Designer: Nadine Charlsen

Vagina Monologues
Pictured: L-R Annie Fletcher, Ilana Yitzhaki
Director: Rachel Evans
Costume Designer: Alexis Foster
Lighting Designer: Eric Woodring

Two Rooms
Pictured: L-R Joseph Amacker, Lacey Jones
Director: Holly Logue
Costume Designer: Karen Lee Hart
Scenic and Lighting Designer:

Three Days of Rain
Pictured: L-R J. Ernest Glenn, Jeff Ronan
Director: Heather Stiliano
Costume and Scenic Designer: Heather Stiliano
Lighting Designer: Timothy Regan
McNeese State University
Lake Charles, Louisiana
Pi Gamma Chapter

*Copenhagen.* Bradley Troll, Georgette Verdin, Chad Reeves. Director: John

*Anton in Show Business.* Deborah Lowrey, Shani Harris, Boddie Melville. Director: Lewis Whitlock III

*How I Learned to Drive.* Leslie Robinsin, Kirk Bush. Director: Charles McNeely III

*Das Barbecu.* Deborah Lowrey, Billy Mowbray, Shawna Temple, Clay Hebert. Director: Lewis Whitlock III

Theatre Season:
*Copenhagen*
*Anton in Show Business*
*How I Learned to Drive*
*Das Barbecu*
*The Vagina Monologues*

Faculty/Staff: John Abeglen, Charles McNeely III, Lewis Whitlock III, Joy Pace,

Officers—President: Alexis Gentry; Vice-president: Jill Tate; Secretary-Treasurer: Lindsey Moreland; Archivist: Deborah Lowrey; Senator: Tula Gorden; Parliamentarian: Erin Burdick; Faculty sponsor: Charles McNeely III; Alumna sponsor: Anita Tritico.
McPherson College
McPherson, KS
Chapter: Theta Epsilon

Faculty Co-Sponsors:
Dr. Rick Tyler & Professor Jd. Bowman

Officers 2006-2007:
Alex Tyler, President
Mark Tobias, Vice-President
Joel Grosbach, Business Manager

Theatre Season:
Frozen
Arsenic & Old Lace
This Isn’t What I Ordered: A Night of One Acts
A Madrigal Holiday Feast
Urinetown, the musical!
Speak Truth to Power
Communicating Doors
No Exit

Arsenic and Old Lace. Eric Sader, Sarah-Lambert Cook, Mary Hughes, Brandt Busse. Director: Jd. Bowman; Scenic

Faculty Co-Sponsors: Dr. Rick Tyler & Professor Jd. Bowman

Officers 2006-2007:
Alex Tyler, President
Mark Tobias, Vice-President
Joel Grosbach, Business Manager

Arsenic and Old Lace. Mary Hughes, Alex Tyler, Mark Tobias.
Millikin University
Decatur, Illinois
Chapter: Omega Xi

End of the Year

Officers:
President-Brenna Bradbury
Vice President-BJ Warren
Treasurer-Derek Bertelsen
Historian-Abbey Elliott

No caption.
Mississippi College
Clinton, Mississippi
Chapter: Pi Chi

Phyllis W. Seawright, faculty sponsor.
Other faculty: Web Drake, Randy Jolly.

Officers: Jacob Kirchner, President; Mariann Wammack, Vice-Pres.; Maggie Burks, Secretary; Christopher Hudson, Chaplain; Holly Embry, Herald; Andrew Allison, Treasurer.

The Taming of the Shrew: Josh Powell, Eric Burden, Andrew Hinds, Bernard Dafney, Alan Wesley Kinsey.

Theatre Season: The Glass Menagerie, Spring Dance, Riders to the Sea, The Man Who Couldn't Dance, The Taming of the Shrew, Same Time Next Year; Steel Magnolias, The Importance of Being Ear-

The Taming of the Shrew: Bernard Dafney, Sarah Wimberly, Christopher Hudson, Eric Burden.
Murray State College
Tishomingo, Oklahoma
DPO Chapter

Theatre Season:  
*Blythe Spirit*  
*A Christmas Carol*  

Faculty Sponsor: Lisa Coulter

*Blythe Spirit.* (second row from left to right) Shannon Short, Daniel Woodall, Heather Pilkington, and Cassai Trammell  
(first row from left to right) Blythe Muse, Joel Dameron, and Shandi Cooper

*Blythe Spirit.* Heather Pilkington, Joel Dameron, Daniel Woodall, Blythe Muse, and Cassai Trammell

*Blythe Spirit.* Daniel Woodall

Emerald Hall, Rusty Thompson and Isaac
North Carolina State A&T University
Greensboro, North Carolina
Chapter: Phi Epsilon

Black Nativity: Cameron Dashiell. Directed by Miller Lucky, Jr., Musical Director- Rev. George Pass II, Choreographer- Georjean Moore, Costume Designer- Gregory Horton, Lighting and Set Design- Jeff Richardson

Theatre Season:
Black Nativity
Dreamgirls
Flyin’ West
Cuttings from the Classics

Dreamgirls: Left to Right: Joan Anderson (Lorrell), Asia Hester (Deena), Jamila Curry (Michelle). Directed by Gregory Horton, Musical Director- Stephanie Gray, Choreographer- Duane Cyrus, Costumes by Gregory Horton, Lighting and Scene Design by David Bell and Sound Design by Eric Lambe.

Flyin’ West: Left to Right: Melanie Matthews and Amy Williams. Directed by Dr. Vanita Vactor, Scene Design by Rashuan Marcus, Lighting and Sound Design by Jeff Richardson, Costume Design by Gregory Horton

Chapter Officers:
President: Cameron Dashiell
Vice-president: Asia Hester
Secretary: Joan Anderson
Treasurer: Tiffany Evans
Ms. Alpha Psi Omega: Amy Williams
Dean of Pledges: Jamila Curry
Crimes of the Heart. Danielle Bailey Miller as Babe, Katie Sawhill as Lenny and Rachel Hamilton as Meg.

Theatre Season: Crimes of the Heart, Antigone, Working, The Musical, and East of the Sun and West of the Moon

Dr. Richard Rose, Head of Theatre Department
William Gabelhausen, Director of Theatre Education

Antigone. Pete Talton

East of the Sun and West of the Moon. Shannon Webber as Lara and Patrick Hawkins as Justin.

Officers: President-Heather Thomas, Vice-President/Business Manager: Patrick Hawkins Jr.
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas
Chapter: Beta Phi

Officers:
- Thomas Brazzle-President
- Shawna Lynch-Vice President
- Tim Olivares-Treasurer
- Chris Flores-Secretary
- Sara Boland-Taylor-Historian
- Katie Jones-Historian

Theatre Faculty and Staff:
- Dr. C.W. Bahs
- Angela Bacarissee
- Juanita Finkenberg
- Dr. John Goodall (interim Dean)
- Jack Heifner
- Dr. Rick Jones
- Tomy Matthys
- Brad Maul
- Dr. Alan Nielsen
- Allen Oster (faculty sponsor)
- Shari Waterston Ellsworth
- Barbara Blackwell
- Nelda Hartley
- Mark Porter

Blithe Spirit. Savannah Seilheimer, Cassidy Risien, and Jamie Couch (guest artist)
Directed by: Allen Oster
Scenic Design: Tomy Matthys
Costume Design: Angela Bacarissee

Grease. Elizabeth Davis, Katie McBroon, Natalie Dickinson, Devin Collins, Nicholas Mills, Katie Jones, Boni Newberry, Mark McManus, Brad Lassiter, and Aaron McDaniel

Six Degrees of Separation.
- Christopher Gamel and Thomas Brazzle
- Directed by: Kyle Kennedy
- Scenic Design: Tomy Matthys
- Costume Design: Angela Bacarissee

Theatre Season: Blithe Spirit, Grease, The Servant of Two Masters, Six Degrees of Separation
Officers:
President: Smanatha Masson (Sept. - Dec. 2006);
Megan McGarvey (Jan. - May 2007)
Vice President: Megan McGarvey (Sept. - Dec.
2006); Nathaniel Angstrom (Jan. - May 2007)
Business Manager: Megan Myerov

Antigone by Jean Anouilh
Translated by Jenny Sams
Director: Mark Cole
Scene Design: Joe Rial
Lighting Design: Johan Godwaldt
Costume Design: Kitty Macey
Actors, L to R: Samantha Mason, Megan McGarvey

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
Directed by Jerry Bradley
Scene Design: Joe Rial
Lighting Design: Heather Berg
Costume Design: Kitty Macey, Abby Jenkins
Actors L to R: Christy Pronto, Megan McGarvey

Dora: A Case of Hysteria by Kim Morrissey
Director: Trevor Franklin
Scene Designer: Carolyn Bonanni
Lighting Designer: Johan Godwaldt
Costume Designers: Kitty Macey, Katie Aheam

Lost in a Viral Paradise
Director & Choreographer: Jonel Langenfeld-Rial
Scene & Lighting Designer: Joe Rial
Costume Design: Sara Chobot, Kitty Macey
Music Composed by: Max McKee, George N.
Gianopoulos
Actors L to R: Mickenon Wilson, Danielle Valeriano, Michael Racioppa, Charlie Smith, Amanda Acobes (on stilts)

Theatre Season: Antigone, Lost in Viral Paradise, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Dora: A Case of Hysteria
Taylor University
Upland, Indiana
Chapter: Beta Sigma

Faculty:
Tracy Manning, Managing/Artistic Director
Judy Kirkwood, Publicity Coordinator
Dr. Jessica Rousselow-Winquist

Theatre Season:
A Man for All Seasons
Night Watch

Chapter Officers:
Dr. Jessica Rousselow-Winquist
Tracy Manning

The Chalk Garden
Lindsay Snider and Jenna McCullough
Director: Tracy Manning
Scene Designer: Cory Rodeheaver
Costume Designer: Sarah Bailey

Night Watch. Jonathan Bennett, Jenna Hanchey
Director: Tracy Manning
Scene Designer: Cory Rodeheaver
Costume Designer: Sarah Bailey

A Man for All Seasons
Matthew Johnson, Joshua Zehnder
Director: Tracy Manning
Scene Designer: Cory Rodeheaver
Costume Designer: Sarah Bailey

Night Watch. Jenna Hanchey
Tyler Junior College
Tyler, Texas
DPO Chapter

Officers: Christina Ivey, President; John Grote, Vice-president; Sam Stokes, Treasurer; Megan Moore, Historian; Brooks Burton, Sergeant in Arms; Jordan Innerarity, Student Senate Representative.

Faculty: Victor L. Siller, Faculty sponsor; Dr. David W. Crawford, Department Chair; Rebecca Faulds, M’Liss Hindman, Jacque Shackelford, Clarence Strickland, Lara K. Smith, Steve Westhafer, Jan Jones

A Name for a Ghost to Mutter
Emily Davis, Holly Bell, Christian Ivey, Josie Weeks
Director: Vic Siller
Scene Design: Clarence Strickland
Costume Design: Jacque Shackelford

Theatre Season:
Dearly Beloved
A Name for a Ghost to Mutter
Beauty and the Beast, the Musical
A Texas High Plains Trilogy

Beauty and the Beast
Megan Moore, Braden Bradley
Director: Rebecca Faulds
Scene Design: Clarence Strickland
Costume Design: Jacque Shackelford
Treasure Island. Miya Lewis, Aneli Wells, Kat Quirk, Sara Kaplan
Directed & Designed by: Michael McKinney

Desdemona-A Play About a Handkerchief.
Loren Simpson, Jasmine Jackson
Director: Dr. Jan Lewis
Designer: Michael McKinney

Late Bus to Mecca.
Miya Lewis, Materra Drafts
Director: Dr. Frazer Lively

Railing It Up.
Cameron Beasley, Tiffany Hatch
Whittier College
Whittier, California
Chapter: Pi Mu

Theatre Season:
Into the Woods
Stop Kiss
Tartuffe

Into the Woods. Josh Wood, Lara Hurlburt
Director: Jennifer S. Holmes
Musical Director: Stephen Cook
Scenic & Lighting Designer: Brian Alan Reed
Costume Designer: Carin Jacobs

Tartuffe. Napoleon Tavale, Amelia Sellers

Officers: President – Kelsey Marie Wuomens
Vice President – Cody Goulder
Secretary/Treasurer – Danielle Omer
Inter-Club Council Representative—Daniel Amas
Faculty: Brian A. Reed (Dept. Chair & Pi Mu Cast Adviser), Jennifer S. Holmes, Gil Gonzalez.

Tartuffe. Daniel Amas, Avinash Jackson, Danielle Omer
Director: Gil Gonzalez
Scenic & Lighting Designer: Brian Alan Reed
Costume Designer: Carin Jacobs
Wig Design: Cynthia Karim

Stop Kiss. Matthew Calloway, Kelsey Marie Wuorns, Ronny Nevo
Director: Gil Gonzalez
Scenic Designer: Brian Alan Reed
Lighting Designer: Tyrel Castro
Costume Designer: Elizabeth Schluter
Sound Designer: Katie Liddicoat
Theatre Season:
Othello
Pippin
The Rover
Private Lives
Proof
The Mercy Seat

Pippin. Jessica Humphrey, Ashton Botts, Brian Gehrlein, Amanda Brown, Amanda Brasher, Caitlin Flebbe, Jenny Bellington, Lydia Pratt, Maggie Rader, Riley Thompson, Lindsay Huston, Andrea De Regneir, Dacus Bowles, Beth Willard, Damen Webster

Othello. Ammie Brown, Daniel Nelson, Frank Ugochukwu, Jack Kynion, Riley Thompson, Damen Webster, Amanda Brasher

The Rover. Lydia Pratt, Ashton Botts, Stephanie Daily, Phillip Meece, Amy Walmann, Ashley Jones, Brian Gehrlein

The Rover. Amy Walmann, Dacus Bowles, Bill Coberly, Maggie Rader, Ashley Jones

Officers: President: Hannah Reese; Vice President: Ashley Jones; Secretary: Andy Kirk; Treasurer: Megan Barr; Points Officer: Lyndal Jenkins

Faculty: Dr. Kim Harris, Nathan Wyman
Enchantment Comes Around
Mitchell Roush, Martha Kinyon

Check, Please. Bethany J. Stanger, Nicholas Parsons

The Jack Tales
Janette Foman, Nick Floyd, Brittany Ellis, Shannon Robinson

Officers: President: Sara S. Firm; Vice President: Regina R. Pedersen; Secretary/Treasurer: Zeborah Mansel Carter

Theatre Season:
Death Takes a Holiday
Director & Set Designer: John I. Baker III

A Street Car Named Desire
Director & Set Designer: John I. Baker III

The Jack Tales
Director & Set Designer: John I. Baker III

Student Directed One-Acts: Enchantment Comes Around
Director: Regina R. Pedersen

Suppressed Desires
Director: Michelle Bentley

Check, Please
Director: Sara S. Firm

Death Takes a Holiday: Matthew J. Miller, Sara S. Firm, Janette Foreman, Mitchell Roush, Chad C. Hall
From the Desk of the President—Teresa Choate

As a director, I have long practiced a pre-show custom. Each night before “places,” I read an inspirational quotation, usually from a great artist of the theatre. There is one quotation, however, that is always saved for opening night and closing night, and the man who said it was a musician. For me, it captures the goal of all true artists, that longed for, but never attainable, perfection of our art: "Do not practice art but penetrate to the very heart of it - this it deserves - for only art and science elevate man to the godhead . . . . The true artist is not proud. He senses dimly how far he is from his goal, and though others may admire him, he feels sad not to have reached the point where his better genius lights the way like a distant sun." These are the words of Ludwig van Beethoven, a man who faced tremendous obstacles as he composed his greatest works after he was almost totally deaf. As theatre artists, ours is the art that requires a synthesis of artists practicing many arts, among them: writing, painting, music, dance, singing, as well as acting, directing, design, and dramaturgy. We also face substantial obstacles. I am sure many of you have heard the question, “Why theatre, why pick such a difficult path?” But for those of us whose “sun” shines on a stage, it is not a choice, it is a necessary ingredient in our lives. The challenge is to keep striving to reach the “heart” of our artistic potential while simultaneously maintaining a lifestyle that is healthy and happy. In “seeking a life useful,” we must be true not only to ourselves but to everyone with whom we come in contact. So for us, the challenges are as great as the rewards.

In 1925, the first chapter of Alpha Psi Omega was established at Fairmont State College in West Virginia. Over the course of the next eighty-two years, our honor society has grown in remarkable ways; our numbers are legion and we continue to grow. I ask each of you to reach out to your brothers and sisters in Alpha Psi Omega and Delta Psi Omega: to encourage them, support them, praise them, and join with them in artistic endeavor. Benjamin Franklin once said, “We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.” He was speaking, of course, to a group of individuals who were about to start a revolution and needed to depend mightily on one another or perish. I hope his spirit will forgive me for applying this sentiment to those who us create theatre. We must light the way for each other; we cannot get there alone. No where is this more true than in that profession unique we all love: the theatre.

A couple of things from the National Business Manager...

Don’t forget to send pictures for next year’s Playbill in the .jpeg format; also, include all information in Word documents. This info includes: theatre season, faculty and sponsor names, list of officers for the year, and captions for each photo.

The second thing...remember dues are now $30. This is a one-time fee to the National Office, which makes you a member of APO/DPO for life.

Bless you all with your theatre endeavors for the coming year. —Bret Jones