

September 20, 2010  
Week Zero Edition, Fall Quarter

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS



**Retirement Benefits** - President Yudof recently issued an important letter to faculty and staff regarding the Post-Employment Benefits Task Force's recommendations concerning proposed changes to UC retirement benefits. More information can be [viewed here](#) and [here](#).

**Be Ready for the Big One** - September is "campus preparedness" month. There continues to be a high wildfire risk this year and SoCal always faces the danger of a major earthquake. To gain practice in dealing with such epic disasters, the campus will participate in a statewide emergency drill - [The Great Shakeout](#) - on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Campus residents are advised that a subscription emergency notification system is in place at UCSD. Learn more and sign [up here](#).

**Change to FSA Eligible Expenses** - Over-the-counter medicines will no longer be reimbursed, unless prescribed by a doctor, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of next year. Because of these changes, you won't be able to use your [CONEXIS](#) Benefit Card to purchase OTC medicines beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> - you will have to pay and then submit the receipt for reimbursement. Prescription drugs, insulin, and OTC health care items are not affected by the change.

**Winter Holiday Schedule Announced** - UCSD (excluding the hospitals and clinics) will close for the last two weeks of the year. The closure includes four University paid holidays (December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>). Staff employees must charge any non-holiday working days to accrued vacation, accrued compensatory time off (non-exempt only), or leave without pay. Academic employees on fiscal year appointments must use accrued vacation or take leave without pay. Non-represented employees may request a one-time advance of up to six days of vacation to cover the period of absence, if needed. Non-represented employees who elect to take leave without pay will continue to accrue vacation and sick leave credits. If you are represented by a union, the closure days will be handled per your existing contract provisions or collective bargaining.



**Message from the Librarian: Robert Melton**, UCSD Librarian, sends the following news: "I'm happy to announce that the Libraries' new mobile website is now live. You can visit it on your smartphone at <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/m>. The purpose is to provide access to information and services that mobile users most request, and I think our new site captures this nicely. The site currently supports the vast majority of mobile devices (iPhones and iPods, Android-based phones, etc). A mobile version of our Roger catalog is also coming soon (slated for Fall Quarter), including the ability to search, place holds, and check your library account. So please browse the website and let us know what mobile services you'd like to see next!" You can email Robert at [rmelton@ucsd.edu](mailto:rmelton@ucsd.edu).



## DEPARTMENT NEWS



The San Diego Performing Arts League will honor **Molli and Arthur Wagner** as Gold Stars at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Star Awards celebration. The Wagners have been avid supporters of the arts in San Diego and were instrumental in the creation and development of the arts program at UCSD and the revival of the La Jolla Playhouse. The Awards will be presented at a ceremony at the Balboa Theatre on Monday September 20<sup>th</sup>. Dinner: 5:30-7:00 pm (optional); Show: 7:30pm- 9:00pm. Tickets [available here](#).

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Message From the Dean** – “During academic year 2010-11, UCSD will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, and the Division of Arts and Humanities, along with our partners in the office of the Campus Architect/Facilities Design and Construction, the Stuart Collection, and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, are organizing *UCSD by Design: Art, Architecture, and Urbanism in the Campus Context*. We invite you to join us, and to explore and celebrate the campus built environment, at a unique series of lectures and moderated discussions. We hope to see you at these exciting events!” [More here!](#)

**New Student Orientation Week** - This year’s orientation schedule starts on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00pm with a barbeque for all new MFA and PhD students. On Tuesday there will be various sessions for students held throughout the day, with an all-faculty/all-staff luncheon with the students at noon. The orientation meeting for new undergraduate students is scheduled for 2:00 – 3:00pm on Tuesday (location TBA). Wednesday and Thursday will be filled with additional meetings, and on Friday night there will be a reading of a play, “Habibi,” by first year MFA Playwriting student **Sharif Abu-Hamdeh**, in the Arthur Wagner Theatre (GH157) at 7:30pm. Please check postings around the Department for specifics and updates.

Please welcome **Marybeth Ward** as our new Theatre and Dance Department Graduate Coordinator. Marybeth will be stepping into the big shoes that **Lee Montano** vacated with his retirement after 26 years of service at UCSD. Marybeth has been with the University for ten years, and worked with Lee for the past several years as the Office of Graduate Studies as Graduate Admissions Liaison to the Department, evaluating the Theatre & Dance Department MFA and PhD admits. Marybeth loves working with students and is up for the many challenges and rewards that the Theatre & Dance Department presents.

**New Undergraduate Representatives** - The undergraduate class representatives for the 2010/11 academic year are: Theatre – **Thanh Ta** and **Lee Montgomery**; Dance – **Courtney Liphay** and **Nicole Oga**. These individuals have volunteered to serve as a conduit between students and the Department, and are always willing to listen to student comments and concerns. They will also be facilitating undergraduate meetings throughout the year. Undergrads are welcome to contact their Reps at [tdugreps@ucsd.edu](mailto:tdugreps@ucsd.edu).



Professor **Janet Smarr’s** book, *Louise-Geneviève Gillot de Saintonge: Dramatizing Dido, Circe, and Griselda*, was published this summer in The Other Voice series by the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto. Gillot de Saintonge was the first female librettist of the Paris opera (1690s) as well as writing court entertainments and other drama, including a remarkable feminist reworking of the Griselda story. “The current volume provides not only the most in-depth biography of her ever published, but also the first appearance of any of her work in English.” (Perry Gethner’s blurb.)



## MORE...

Dance Faculty alum **Jean Isaacs** is busy rehearsing for this year's upcoming version of [Trolley Dances](#) (September 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>). In addition to that project, she has several more in development with *Jean Isaacs' Dance Theatre*. Click [the link](#) to learn more.

"Ruins True," a collective creation inspired by Samuel Beckett's work and conceived by **Liam Clancy**, Mary Reich, **Yolande Snaith**, and **Gabor Tompa**, was staged at [Sushi](#) in San Diego in June.

**Shahrokh Yadegari** will be in concert with Christine Brewer at the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The two performances will take place at 6:30pm and 8:30pm. Tickets may be purchased for \$25 on the [Pulitzer website](#).

**James Newcomb** (Adjunct Acting Faculty) performed at the [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#) in three productions: as Mr. Collins in "Pride and Prejudice"; and as Worcester in "Henry IV Part 1"; and, in "The Throne of Blood." Acting faculty member **Ursula Meyer** was voice and text director for two productions at the Festival - "Twelfth Night" and "Henry IV, Part 1." In August, she worked on another production of "Twelfth Night" at the [Shakespeare Theatre D.C.](#) the productions run through October.



**Jorge Huerta**, Chancellor's Associates Professor of Theatre Professor *Emeritus* directed a reading of Chilean playwright Jorge Diaz's absurdist classic, "*El Cepillo de Dientes*" ("The Toothbrush") at the Los Angeles Theatre Center in June. The reading starred UCSD MFA actor, **Marixtell Carrero** and **Ricaardo Guzman**. (The reading was in Spanish.)

**Don Mackay** (Adjunct Faculty, MFA '90) recently produced three plays for the 2nd annual Pegasus Fringe Festival in Aspen with fellow classmate **David Ledingham** (MFA '90) and brought **Hilary Ward** (MFA '07) with him from Los Angeles to star in "Love Song," "Shining City," and "Goldfish." Don also returned from the southeast where he played Leontes in "Winter's Tale" and while he was there filmed an episode of [Drop Dead Diva](#) Atlanta with Rosie O'Donnell and Faith Prince. He will guest star in the season finale of [Weeds](#), directed by Scott Ellis (of the Roundabout Theatre/NY).

**Now Hiring** - The Department seeks an experienced theatre professional to teach in our MFA professional actor training program. Preference will be given to scholars at the Assistant or Associate level, but applicants with extraordinary experience or qualifications may be considered at another rank. Please click to read the entire [job announcement](#). (Scroll down to "Theatre and Dance".)



## ADMINISTRIVIA

**Fall Quarter begins** - Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> (New Grad Student BBQ, 4:00pm)

**Incoming Graduate Student Luncheon** - Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, noon

**Undergraduate Orientation** - Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2:00pm

**Instruction begins** - Thursday, September 23<sup>th</sup>

**Reading of "Habibi"** - Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm in Galbraith Hall



## WELCOMING FUTURE STUDENTS



*Leo*

MFA student **David Meyers** is the proud father of **Leo Rocket Flaherty Myers** (left), born August 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:21pm. Leo weighed in at 8lbs, 10oz and was 22 inches long on arrival.

Faculty **Mark Guirguis** is the proud father of **Claudia** (right), who arrived two weeks early on July 25<sup>th</sup>. She was 6 pounds, 14 ounces on arrival.



*Claudia*



*Max*

Alum **Makela Spielman** (MFA '04) welcomed her son, Max Zachary Goldberg, into the world on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:11pm. Max weighted 7lbs, 3 oz and was 20 inches tall. The family is doing well.



## ONSTAGE

**Upcoming Season Announced** - The Department has announced a number of exciting productions this year. Please visit the [Season Page](#) for production details, scheduling and ticket information. Upcoming works include:

[Kasimir and Karoline](#), by Ödön Von Horváth.

[Reasons to be Pretty](#), by Neil LaBute.

[onSIGHT](#). Directed by **Allyson Greene**, **Eric Geiger**, and **Allison D. Smith**.

[Joe Turner's Come and Gone](#), by August Wilson.

[The Threepenny Opera](#), book/lyrics: Bertold Brecht, music: Kurt Weill, English adaptation: Mark Blitzstein.

[dance theatre thesisWorks](#) directed by **Alicia Peterson Baskel** and **Rebecca Salzer**.

[Hedda Gabler](#), by Henrik Ibsen.

[The Hot L Baltimore](#), by Lanford Wilson.

[winterWORKS!](#) Directed by **Yolande Snaith**.

[Baldwin New Play Festival at UC San Diego 2011](#)

[ONPS \(Our New Play Spectacular\)](#)

[New Directions -- MFA I Student Choreographers' Showcase](#). Directed by **Eric Geiger**.



## IN MEMORIAM

We are very sorry to report that [Mary Corrigan](#), *Emeritus* Professor of Theatre and a Master Teacher of Voice for the Theatre, died after suffering a stroke on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Mary joined the faculty of the UCSD Theatre and Dance Department in 1975 and retired in 1992. One of the most admired voice teachers in the country, Mary taught both undergraduate and graduate students in the Department and many of her students are contributing to the American Theatre scene today. Passionate about the work, Mary was also a warm human being and loved by all. She will be sorely missed.



## ALUM UPDATES

On May 24<sup>th</sup> in a ceremony at Playwrights Horizons, Clubbed Thumb Producing Artistic director **Maria Striar** (MFA '95) was awarded a "Lilly" for artistic directorship. The award, named in honor of Lillian Hellman and given for the first time this year, was bestowed by The Committee for Recognizing Women in Theater. MFA '99 alum **Annie Kaufmann** also won a "Lilly" award. Read the [Variety article here](#).

**Alex Cranmer** (MFA '04) appeared in July in New York in David Rabe's play about euthanasia, "A Question of Mercy" and "a series of smaller fun roles" in "Love Song of the Electric Bear." The productions were part of [PTP/NYC 2010: Season 24](#).



**Rebecca Lawrence** (MFA '10) wrote to let us know she's appearing in two new films - "[The Kids Are All Right](#)," directed by Lisa Cholodenko and starring Annette Benning, which is out in theatres now; and, "[The Romantics](#)," directed by Galt Niederhoffer, which will be out in September.

**Suzanne Agins** (MFA '03) directed Noel Coward's "Fallen Angels" at the Dorset Theatre Festival in July in Vermont. The cast included **Garrett Neergard** (MFA '04) and **Amy Stewart** (BA 96). **Ryan Palmer** (MFA '03) did the sets.

[Andrea Portes](#) has had a novel, *Hick*, published. The thriller is getting good reviews from the people who've purchased it on Amazon.com! *Hick* has become a [screenplay](#), under development as a movie due out in 2010 or 2011.

**Chris Acebo** (MFA '98) continues as associate artistic director of [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#) and designed "Hamlet", "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof", and "Throne of Blood" for the festival this year. Alum **Christine Albright** (MFA '04) is performing in "Pride and Prejudice" and as Lady Percy in "Henry IV. Part 1" **Sara Rasmussen** is assistant director on "Ruined" and "The Merchant of Venice."



## MORE...

The cast of “The Temperamentals,” which ran last year off-Broadway, won a Drama Desk award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance. **Sam Wright** (MFA ‘99) was a member of that five person ensemble and **Jonathon Silverstein** (MFA ‘01) directed the production. Here’s a [New York Times](#) review of the work.

Alum **Shishir Kurup** (MFA ‘87) is writing songs for “The West Hollywood Musical,” for which Cornerstone Theatre won a NEA grant for funding. ([Los Angeles Times](#) article here.)



From **Brian Sgambati** (MFA ‘01): he played Jim Reston in the National Tour of “Frost/Nixon,” starring Stacey Keach, for the better part of '08-09. “After that I worked on fellow UCSD alum and all around great gal **Rachel Axler's** (MFA ‘04) play “Smudge” with the Women's Project- which was a blast. And this spring/summer I played Peter in the Huntington Theatre Company's production of “Prelude to a Kiss,” directed by Peter DuBois.”

Photo: [Huntington Theatre Co.](#)



**Editor’s Note:** Just hit “reply” and send your info! Photos are always welcomed/encouraged, but don’t send huge files - please resize them from what comes off your camera - thanks!

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