October 4, 2010
Week Two, Fall Quarter

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday, October 4th - Area Heads Meeting: GH 144, 4-5:00pm
Wednesday, October 6th - Faculty Meeting: All Faculty. Files - Carmody, Geiger, GH 144, 4-5:30pm
Thursday, October 7th - Production Meeting, TBA, GH 144, TBA

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Faculty Excellence Awards Nominations [From SVC Paul Drake] – “I write to invite nominations for the 2010/11 Chancellor’s Associates Faculty Excellence Awards. These awards are given annually to deserving members of the UCSD faculty and consist of a citation and honorarium of $2,500. Presentations of these awards will be made at the Chancellor’s Associates Faculty Excellence Awards Ceremony on March 31, 2011. The categories for nomination are as follows:

- Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
- Excellence in Graduate Teaching
- Excellence in Research in Humanities & Social Sciences
- Excellence in Research in Science & Engineering
- Excellence in Community Service
- Excellence in Performing & Visual Arts

The nomination form, including the criteria that will be used to evaluate the nominees, is available to download on the Academic Affairs website. The nomination deadline is November 19th.

Recycling Batteries – Not sure how to dispose of your used batteries on campus? Do not throw them in the trash. Toxic heavy metals and corrosive properties of batteries make them unsuitable for disposal in the municipal trash because they can contaminate surface and ground water. Used batteries generated at UCSD are collected by the Environmental Management Facility for recycling or disposal. EMS recommends that you cover the terminals with plastic nonconductive tape (Scotch® tape or electrical tape) to prevent the possibility of spark. Place the batteries in a sturdy bag or container. Limit the package weight to 2 pounds or less. Address the package to "Used Batteries" at Mail Code 0958. More here.

Revamped Employee Training System – In case you did not receive the general email blast, the campus is implementing a new system for employee training. As of October 7th Enrollment Central will be replaced by the UC Learning Center. All existing training records will be migrated to the new system. Staff Education will send another mass email once the system is live to explain the options available. It will not be possible to enroll online for training courses between October 4th and October 7th.
Librarian Robert Melton let us know that eighteen new videos have been added this month to the Alexander Street Press database “Dance in Video,” including new material from the Alive and Kicking Series; performances by the Berlin State, Royal, San Francisco Ballet, and Dutch National Ballet Companies and the Nederlands Dans Theater; documentaries on Alwin Nikolais and George Balanchine; and tap instructional videos. You can contact Robert at the Social Sciences and Humanities section of the library at (858) 534-7573.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

The MFA Class of 2011 is fundraising for their showcase. Please save the dates: October 24th - Pumpkin Carving Competition; October 30th – full-blown Halloween Costume Party. Details to follow. Start brainstorming your costume now. Pumpkin and costume winners win (depending on the popular vote for the clothing to be sold this year) either a t-shirt, hoodie, jersey, or tank top!

Emeritus Faculty Athol Fugard’s play The Road to Mecca opened at the San Diego Repertory Theatre last Friday (October 1st) in the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza. UCSD Acting Faculty Todd Salovey is directing. The Union Tribune did a write up of Athol and the play recently.

CD Release Party! Costume Shop Staffer Sarah Maisel’s new CD, Have Uke Will Travel, is being launched on October 15th with a party at the St. James Room in La Jolla. Please RSVP to Pam by October 11th for details. [Sarah has a contract to do an additional two CDs.]

ONSTAGE

Coming Soon


Larissa Lury is a director, actor, acrobat, and a second-year candidate for an MFA in Directing. For UC San Diego, she directed Oyster by Ron McCants for the Baldwin New Play Festival and Gruesome Playground Injuries by Rajiv Joseph. Her past projects include: The Soap Myth (Dog Run Rep/Pat Blake); A Life of Numbers and If the Cushion Fits, Sit for Youth Ink! (McCarter Theatre); The End of My Tour and My Abraham (Passage Theatre); Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (The Loft Theatre); The Person, The Snout and the Plant and Fish Display (Ensemble Studio Theatre); So She Said (Abingdon Theatre/Small Pond Productions); I Need You (Under St. Marks); Detritus (Prospect Theatre/Six Figures/The Combustibles); Accentuate My Ramble (Trilogy Theatre), as well as workshops of new plays by Crystal Skillman and Emily Conbere. In 2005, she was given an AREA Award for Project Development from chashama for the site-specific Porch Plays. She has had the pleasure to assistant direct for Emily Mann, Anne Kaufmann, Kenny Leon and Michael Unger. She was the Ensemble Studio Theatre Resident Director in 2008-09, a volunteer director for The 52nd Street Project, and is an Affiliated Artist with New Georges. Larissa received a B.S. from Northwestern University.
MORE…

Reduced Price Student Tickets Special – Students who independently purchase one ticket for one
Department show pay $10. The “5 for 20” option provides entrance to five shows for half the cost. Click for
more information. The La Jolla Playhouse is also still offering discounts for students.

ADMINISTRIVIA

October 8th – Last day to add a class; last day to file Advancement to Masters Candidacy
October 21st – “Great Shakeout” emergency preparedness drill
October 22nd – Last day to change grading option; Family Weekend on campus
November 11th – Thursday, Veteran’s Day, campus closed

ALUM UPDATES

Damen Scranton (MFA ’97) is directing K2 in Los Angeles. The play is a 75-minute tour-de-force about two
mountain climbers who are stranded on a ledge at 27,000 feet. After an accident leaves one of the men with a
severely broken leg, the two survive the night only to confront the fact that they do not have the necessary
equipment to rappel to Base Camp safely. K2 previews at the Underground Theater in Hollywood on
Thursday, October 7th and runs through November 14th. Damen has worked as an actor and teacher in NYC, is
an artistic associate with Blessed Unrest, and is a member of the Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble. As
an actor, he has performed at the Lincoln Center Theater, the La Jolla Playhouse, and Sledgehammer Theater,
among others.

Michael Swaim (BA ‘07) sent word that he is working on a new film, Kill Me
Now [weblink not working at press time]. Undergrad Alums Abe Epperson
(’07), Lisa King (’06), Katie Willert (’09), Katy Stoll (’07), Brentan
Schellenbach (’10), past student Matt Barrs, and current grad student Daniel
Rubiano are also involved. Michael says: “I wrote the screenplay, act in the film
and am Producing, Abe is the Director of Photography, Matt is a Producer and
Production Designer, and the others are all acting. We're shooting on location in
Effingham, IL, and it's a horror/comedy about a group of vapid teenagers getting
picked off - or not - by a star-crossed serial killer who views himself as mankind's savior. All of us also work
regularly at Cracked.com, one of the net's most popular comedy sites. I'm the head of video production there,
and a web series we produced (myself, Matt Barrs, Abe Epperson, Katie Willert, and Lisa King) called Agents
of Cracked recently won the Audience Choice Award at the 2010 Streamy Awards. Season 1 can be viewed at
Cracked, and season 2 is premiering in late September.”

The NY Times did a review of the Broadway premiere of Michael Frayn's
play, Alphabetical Order. Angie (Angela) Reed (MFA ’96) is the lead in
the ensemble cast, and has a fine review from Charles Isherwood. Angie is
center-stage in the color photograph. She was in Denver last year with the
national touring company of Spring Awakening, and she understudied
Frances McDormand a couple of years ago in Country Girl.

Photo: Richard Termine for The New York Times
MORE...

Rachel Axler (MFA ‘04) has had her play Smudge published by Samuel French. Librarian Robert Melton says that copy is on order for Geisel Library.

Chalk Repertory Theatre is staging twenty works as Flash, a site-specific festival of brand new short plays - with a new program each weekend - in Los Angeles. Rachel Axler’s (MFA ‘04) work Hats, with Joy Osmanski (MFA ‘03) in the cast, was up this last weekend. Emeritus Professor Charlie Oates directed David Ari (MFA ‘04) in Mr. Borely. Check their website for info on future shows and more alums!

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