From the Editor: If there is a constant in theatre, it is the dynamic of change. Characters evolve, technology advances, new works struggle from the talent pool, along with new talent. Shows open, shows close. In this edition we chronicle a changing of the guard in the Department of Drama and Dance, and a relocation for ye olde editor, in addition to the comings and goings, additions and accomplishments of our alumni. Read on. - Chris Romano

From the Chair: As I end my six years as chair, I can't help but look back upon the remarkable achievements and initiatives by the department's faculty, staff, students, and alumni during this time. Indeed, numerous alumni gatherings and this newsletter, now in its eleventh issue, stand out as highlights! Other prime examples are enrollment growth (more than doubled since 1995), diversity of new courses and faculty, involvement in two new minors in Film Studies and Multimedia Arts, and many prestigious awards for our faculty, students, and alumni. Yet, performance in the Balch Arena Theater continues to be the heart of who we are and what we do! As our only theater, the Arena overflows with constant productions by faculty and students—for instance, coming soon Romeo and Juliet directed by Anthony Cornish (Oct. 25-27, Nov. 1-3), 3P's How I Learned to Drive (Nov. 8-10), and Torn Ticket II's Zombie Prom (Nov. 15-17). Is it any wonder why we need a second theater, partly to allow for less-pressured scheduling of the Arena? Right now preliminary sketches and cost estimates are being done for renovation of Jackson Gym into a black-box theater and completed Dance Lab. In the near future you will hear more about what you, our devoted alumni, can do to make this important project a reality. In the meantime Barbara W. Grossman will be a wonderful new chair and will lead the department to new heights! I'll look forward to continued contact with you through email (downing.cless@tufts.edu) and your submissions to future newsletters. Last but certainly not least, I heartily thank and praise Chris Romano for the terrific contribution he has made in getting this newsletter started, editing all the issues with great skill, and agreeing to continue as editor from his new home in North Carolina! All my best - Downing Cless

Audrey Appleby ('75) is performing original song cabarets in New York and Paris. She also writes songs in Brazilian, Rhumba and Salsa form as well as singing in French.

Steve Benson ('74) was on “American Experience” as a grave-robbing murder suspect in “The Murder of Dr. Parkman,” PBS Winter 2001.

Molly Blank ('98) finished doing Teach for America, teaching fifth grade in the Washington, D.C. public schools. She lives in Washington and is now working as a production coordinator and researcher at a documentary company.

Sharon Breitbart Frischling ('83) is now a part-time consultant in arts administration and a full-time mom to son Eli Ross, 1, and Sarah Anne, 3. She was General Manager of Water Music/Mainstage, a concert production company, for eleven years. Say hello to her and husband David at sharon.breitbart@frischling.com.

Charles Cermele ('80) performed his cabaret act at Libby's Cabaret in Atlanta, Georgia, in February 2001, receiving a rave review from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He is presently taking classes at Albert Gallatin in NYC.
Susan Clark (‘89 Ph.D.) has been appointed Director for Theatre for the Groton School. She will be involved in planning a large new theatre complex on the campus.

David Costabile (‘89) was a Who in Whoville in “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” Currently he is shooting the Miramax movie “Stolen Summer,” and also did an episode of “Will and Grace.”

Rob Dean (‘76) appeared as Astolfo in Calderon’s Life is a Dream as produced by A Noise Within in Glendale, California.

Julie Felise Dubiner (‘91) has been hired as dramaturg/literary manager at the Prince Music Theater (formerly the American Music Theater Festival) in Philadelphia. She’s very excited to be back on the east coast after 6 years of freelance touring in Chicago. Contact her at jfdubiner@yahoo.com.

David F. Eliot (‘69 M.A.) has had six plays published in the last two years. Magda’s Story, The Spirit of Life and Three Japanese Ghost Stories have been published by Baker’s Plays, and The Oldest Story Ever Told has been published by Anchorage Press.

Anne Fletcher (‘92 Ph.D.) has taken a position in the Theatre Department at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Norman Frisch (‘76) is back in New York for much of the time now and “looking forward to my 25th reunion, Oy!”

David Hatkoff (‘00) appeared in The Magdalene Project at the New York City Fringe Festival this summer.

Constance Kaplan (‘77) has a private psychodynamic psychotherapy practice in Los Angeles where she specializes in working with the film and television community. As a former producer and Vice President of Paramount Pictures she continues to engage in the creative process but no longer “does lunch.” She is President of the Association for Psychoanalytic Thought of Southern California.

Sara Kugler (‘00) teaches second grade in Washington, D.C., and plans to move to New York City to continue teaching.

Andrew Leary (‘94) is the proud father of Jesse Cooper-Leary, and is the Head of Drama at Greens Farms Academy in Westport, CT.

Kate Levy (‘82) has been doing “lots o’ theatre,” including stops in Salt Lake City, UT doing Noel Coward, and last year at the Alley, Alliance, O’Neill Center, Papermill Playhouse, and Yale.

Erika (Bainbridge) O’Hara (‘86 M.A.) is completing her third M.A., this one in Information Science at the University of Maryland as a recipient of a National Leadership Fellowship award from the Institute of Museum and Library Service. She works at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC, and last summer made a presentation on "How to Combine Teaching Japanese Theater in a Regular Theater History Course" at ATHE.

Cathi Ostroff (Cohen) (‘82) published her first book, Raise Your Child’s Social IQ - Stepping Stones to People Skills for Kids. She lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her husband and three children. She is the director of In Step, a private group mental health practice. Contact her at KatzS@aol.com

Bill Reichblum (‘81), Dean of Bennington College and Artistic Director of Kadmus Theatre Studio, served on a panel which awarded TCG/ITT travel grants.

Steve Reynolds (‘71 Ph.D.) directed Dancing at Lughnasa and Tartuffe for Wittenberg University theatre program, where he is department chair. This summer he directed Dream
Theatre, a company created project for the summer theatre. His playwriting student Dan Stroeh won the 2001 American College Theatre Festival National Student Playwriting Award.

Aimee Ricciardone (’92) is the Associate Box Office Manager and Manager of Student Ticketing Services at Harvard University. Last summer she stage managed a workshop production of Miss Price, a new play by Boston playwright John Kuntz, at the Unadilla Theatre in Vermont. In the fall of last year she stage-managed the Freshman Theatre Program’s production of Tom Stoppard’s Arcadia at the Agassiz Theatre at Harvard.

Chris Romano (’79) bailed out of New England winters and the perpetual Big Dig to relocate outside Charlotte, North Carolina, working for Smith Helms Mulliss & Moore, LLP as their Network Services Manager. Drop the editor a line at 841 Southwest Drive, Davidson, NC 28036.

Cindy Rosenthal (’76) published "Two Theater Works That Scream, ‘Pay Attention’" in the New York Times Arts & Leisure section. She was writing about Barry Edelstein’s (’86) productions of Victor Klemperer’s diaries and Ferdinand Bruckner's Race at the CSC Rep.

Marcia Rubine (’67) is going back to work after 15 years of raising kids and parents. No reasonable offer will be refused.

Carl Samrock (’65) opened Carl Samrock Public Relations, a boutique public relations firm in Los Angeles representing a variety of clients from video, motion pictures, and news media. Recent projects included “The Matrix,” “Erin Brockovich,” and “The Wizard of Oz.” He has been in touch with fellow alums Arnold Wengrow (’67 M.A.), Steve Macht (’64 M.A.), and Darcy Pulliam (’61). Contact Carl at carsamrock@cs-pr.com.

Justine Shapiro (’85) lives in Berkeley, CA and co-directed and co-produced “Promises,” a documentary film featuring seven Palestinian and Israeli children growing in and around Jerusalem. The film, which began production in 1995, won the Audience Award for Best Film at the Rotterdam International Film Festival in February and will be broadcast on PBS’ POV series later this year. From 1994-2000 Justine hosted the award winning travel series “Lonely Planet,” broadcast to a global audience of over 35 million. She is married to filmmaker Carlos Bolado and they were expecting their first nino in May.

Rob Sherman (’98 Ph.D.) exchanged the footboards for motherboards and has been building a successful career in the software field since 1995. He works at Art Technology Group in Cambridge, MA as a project manager supervising teams who build advanced web applications, and, where he is the only Drama Ph.D. He lives in Arlington with his partner of 10+ years, Dan Dowling, an Equity actor who performs throughout New England.

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Evan Shweky ('86) is Managing Director of ABA Associates, an executive search firm.

Greg Skura ('93) performed in two new one-act plays at TheVital Theatre Co., and was named Production Director of the 42nd Street Workshop Theatre Company. He will play Nick in the independent feature film “The Bad Thing,” shooting this summer.

Drew Stern ('00) completed his first year at New York University in musical theatre performance, where he played Jinx in Forever Plaid and starred in the new musical Barbary Keep.

Dave Towle ('83) remembered for his dedication to the sound booth now works for Sun Microsystems in Portland, Oregon as a Senior Project Engineer. He still sneaks away to sail, sneaking across the Atlantic in January. Wife of sixteen years, Beth is with Intel, and they have a 12 year old son, Stewart, and daughter Morgan, who is 3.

Devon Van Leer ('99) is moving from veterinary medicine in Oregon to study at the University of Oregon, pursuing a Ph.D. in Paleontology.

Chris Vasquez ('91) has continued success with his tango singing engagements. He went to Washington DC May 20th to be part of a tango festival, and has more engagements in NY, Buffalo, and Orlando this Summer and Fall.

Doug Vermes ('98) is a high school math teacher at Scarsdale High School in Scarsdale, NY.

Stephen Webber ('87) performed Cabin Pressure at the Israeli Theater Festival.

Philip White ('98) composed the music for the premiere of The Wooden Breeks, by Glen Berger, and played the role of Young Casanova in the west coast premiere of Casanova by Constance Congdon. He also directed Once on this Island at Tufts’ Magic Circle Theater.

Amanda Yesnowitz ('94) received a Masters in Music from the Boston Conservatory and an MFA from the Tisch School of the Arts. She taught in the English Department at New York University for three years, but since then she has been actively pursuing a career as a musical theatre lyricist while working for a Broadway producer. She was honored with the 2001 Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award for excellence in lyric writing and promise as a musical theatre artist. In the five year history of the award Amanda is the only individual lyricist ever to receive it. Her current project, “By The Numbers: A Musical Comedy in 3 Generations” is featured in this year’s ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop, directed by Stephen Schwartz. Contact her at alyplum@aol.com

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