From the Editor: We open with more comings, goings, and greetings from a new Chair, a new University President, and the departure of one of our dearest faculty. Read on, and keep the news flowing – Chris Romano, Editor

Alumni Events: The LA event was on Saturday March 23rd in Nick Salamone's garden at 837 Melrose Hill from 3.30-6.30. The NY event was on Monday April 15th at the Classic Stage Company Theatre in Union Square in New York City from 5.00 -7.30.

Anthony Cornish leaves the Tufts Campus (but never the Tufts community) on Saturday, May 4. The department will be having a celebratory dinner for Tony and hopes as many alumni as possible can attend. From his days as Director of the Tufts in London program, to his years as Artist in Residence, to his immeasurable help in putting together this newsletter, Tony has been part of the fabric of theatre at Tufts. We shall miss him greatly.

From the Chair: As a fellow alum (Ph.D. '84), I'm proud to be the first woman to chair Drama and Dance at Tufts! It means a great deal to me to be able to give something back to the department and the university. I'm delighted with our new president, Lawrence (Larry) Bacon, whose energy and vision have already begun to revitalize the campus. Among their many virtues, Larry and his wife Adele are strong arts supporters. They attended all our major productions, both faculty-directed and student-directed, last semester. We look forward to their presence in the Arena for many years to come!

As the campus struggled to deal with the terrible events of September 11, many students found solace in the arts. Creative statement provided an outlet for them then, as it always has. The Dance program presented a moving and evocative performance piece by Daniel McCusker's students. Called "this, THAT," it used the impact of the disaster on New York City as impetus and inspiration. Dance also staged a number of less formal presentations over the course of the semester which reflected the range and quality of the work in which the dance classes (from Alice Trexler's Movement for Theatre to Gretchen Hayden's Kathak Dance) are engaged.

In terms of theatrical performances, the fall Arena production was Romeo and Juliet, ably directed by Anthony Cornish, who is in his last year as Artist-in-Residence. Senior Jennifer Bien directed the 3Ps Major, Paula Vogel's deeply affecting How I Learned to Drive. Senior Mike Robb made Torn Ticket II's quirky selection, Zombie Prom, memorable for all of us. The freshmen (directed by a sophomore) tackled Christopher Durang's The Marriage of Bette and Boo and interpreted that black comedy quite convincingly. There have been a number of other productions (one-acts, Cheap Sox and Traveling Treasure Trunk shows, a concert version of Hair), which attest to the vigor and vitality of theater at Tufts.

This semester we've enjoyed Sudipto Chatterjee's innovative interpretation of John Millington Synge's The Playboy of the Western World. Chatterjee also directed a moving Holocaust-related piece, The Gate of Heaven, with seniors David Kraemer and Jeremy Wang-Iversen. Junior Rah-nee Kelly directed a powerful production of Dima Son's Stop Kiss, which featured seniors Rachel Evans and Rachel Jablin in the play's leading roles. Lecturer (and Tufts Ph.D.) Luke Jorgensen's production of John Guare's Six Degrees of Separation was performed in April. Also, Stephen Sondheim's production of Into the Woods, directed by senior Tom Damassa for Torn Ticket II. There are upcoming minors, too, as well as shows by Cheap Sox and Hype, which will keep us happily occupied through the end of the semester.

This is a busy year for our department for several reasons. First, we have three faculty searches underway and are currently reviewing applications for lecturers in Acting/Directing, Design, and Technical Direction. All are extremely important to the strength of our program and we'll work hard to find the best candidate for each one. Next, we're reassessing our curriculum and are looking for ways to offer more exciting, innovative courses. Finally, we want to help Magic circle and Creative Arts, our exemplary summer children's programs, raise more money for scholarship assistance. Under the superb management of Joanne Barnett and the artistic direction of Luke Jorgensen, Magic Circle is about to enter its 50th-anniversary season! We have many other goals for our department, but I'll save those for upcoming newsletters.

Sadly, I also have some terrible losses to report. Herman Sandler, beloved husband and father of Tufts alumni Suki, Jordana, and Pamela, died in the World Trade Center disaster on September 11. Junior David E. Medeiros succumbed to pancreatic cancer on March 7 after a valiant two-year struggle. We send our heartfelt condolences and best wishes to both bereaved families.

Feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns about the department and its programs. If you'd like to help support one of our efforts, let me know. You can reach me at 617.627.3524 or at Barbara.Grossman@tufts.edu.
I look forward to hearing from you!
Barbara W. Grossman, Chair
Department of Drama and Dance

**From the President:** As two of the newer members of the Tufts community, Adele and I would like to thank you for including us in the Tufts family. We have been delighted with the warm welcome that so many of you have extended to us this past fall. If we have not yet met, I hope we will have a chance to see you on one of our upcoming visits this spring with alumni groups throughout the country.

As residents of Gifford House, Adele and I have enjoyed attending programs on campus that feature Drama and Dance students. I think we have managed to attend every major drama performance in Balch Arena this fall, and we also put in a surprise guest appearance at Supershow. Adele and I both love the performing arts and recognize their importance to campus life. One of my goals as president is to increase support for the arts at Tufts so that our students, faculty and staff may continue to benefit from a rich and exceptional arts program. I invite you to support this initiative too. The performing arts are central to the undergraduate experience. Our students learn not just in the classroom, but on the stage and in the concert hall as well. The performing arts enliven and enrich our community in so many different ways. My thanks go to all of you who have contributed to our exceptional program in Drama and Dance. Adele and I look forward to future interactions with you and to performances yet to come.

Best regards,
Lawrence S. Bacow, President

**In Memoriam:**

**Nancy Buell** died of cancer in October 2000. The last years of her career were as a cabaret singer in New York, Berlin and Cologne, where she established a solid reputation.

**Joan Lautman** (*'81) passed away of cancer in August 2001. Joan was the driving force behind the department scholarships honoring Kal Burnim.

**From the Cast and Crew:**

**Audrey Appleby** (*'75) was chosen by ASCAP and The Manhattan Association Of Cabarets to perform "Miami Mosaic," an original Bossa Nova song she composed, with Latin American musician, Beledo, at the ASCAP/for Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs Songwriter Showcase in November at Lighthouse International in Manhattan. She was one of 14 songwriters chosen, with special guest Rupert Holmes. She wishes to extend special thanks to fellow alum **Charles Cermel**, (*'80) for putting her in touch with ASCAP.

**Hank Azaria** (*'87) is starring in a new primetime sit-com, "Imagine That," after being featured in last summer's film, "America's Sweethearts."

**Melissa Cahmann** (*'92) was featured in the fall 2001 issue of American Poetry Review and won a $2500 grant from the Leewey Foundation for poetry. She was a scholar at the 2001 Sewanee Writers' Conference and is completing her poetry manuscript, "Girl-Boy-Girl-Boy." In December 2001 she completed her Ph.D. at University of Pennsylvania in Educational Linguistics and is now assistant professor of Language Education at the University of Georgia. Y'all can reach her in Athens, GA at cahmann@uga.edu.

**John Caldwell** (*'71) finished a production of the musical Lucky Stiff at the California Conservatory Theatre in which he played the Tony Hendon/Luigi Gaudi role. He is currently appearing as Sawyer and Judge Group in the Willows Theatre Company's production of Here's Love, a musical version of Miracle on 34th Street.

**Denise Cole** (*'99) is teaching at Central Michigan University, where she was named "Professor of the Day" by the student newspaper and directed a production of Shaw's Village Wooing.

**Mark Cosdon** (*'01) was appointed Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill, where he was cited as one of the college's "most inspiring" and "most challenging" professors in senior class exit interviews. He directed Christopher Durang's The Marriage of Bette and Boo.

**Karen Molner Davis** (*'76) starred in the Summer Music in the Garden cabaret fundraiser in Los Angeles on June 24, attended by L.A.-area alumni. Highlights were her renditions of "Our Love Is Here to Stay," and song and dance numbers, with partner Frank Basile, of A Couple of Swells and "Oh Them Dudes." She also sang selections from her own CD, "Someone Loves," at the Off Vine restaurant in Hollywood on November 11 to an overflow crowd of Tufts alumni. Her CD, available on amazon.com, is a must-have for all loyal Tuftonians.

**Dirk de Pagter** (*'01) lives in Utrecht in The Netherlands now, and just finished his first professional job as Stage Manager for Opera Trionfo's production of Poulenc's Les Mamelles de Tiresias. The premier was September 7, in the Haarlem Stadschouwburg, and followed up with a two month tour around the country. He also works weekends at the bar from which he lives around the corner.
Robertson Dean played the title role in Shakespeare's Pericles, Prince of Tyre, for A Noise Within, in November, in Glendale, CA.

David Eliot ('69 M.A.) Davids's script, Magda, Jan and Daniela, Two Fugues and an Aria, was selected for presentation at The Denver Center Theatre Company's TheatreFest 2001 June. His play, Knocking, was the winner for the Americas of the BBC and British Council's International Radio Drama Contest, and was broadcast on the BBC World Service on November 9th and 10th. His digital video, Katinka, was an official selection for the Rhode Island International Film Festival, The Vancouver Island International Film Festival and the New Bedford Film Festival. The video, written by his wife, Anne Phelan, was shown at all three festivals.

Michael Eliopoulos ('91) lives in San Francisco. Recent work includes Bronte at the Magic Theatre with playwright John O'Keefe (former student at Iowa of Peter Arnett) and director Barbara Damashek. Contact Michael at michaeleliopoulos@hotmail.com

Kate Halpern Fisher ('95) works at CBS Television in New York in Entertainment Publicity. She also recently moved with her husband to Hoboken, NJ to get a bit more space! Email is khalpernfisher@aol.com.

Kathy Glauber ('98) was in the ensemble of the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players productions of The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado.

Ethan Krasnoo ('98) is on an eight month tour of My Fair Lady for Troika Entertainment.

Stephen Kunken ('93) played the role of Hal in the Broadway and touring productions of Proof, which won last year's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play. While in Boston, he returned to Tufts and spoke with students about the acting profession, training, and career advice.

Randy Merrifield ('71) is living and working in Alexandria, Virginia. He offers a drama workshop at the Engelside Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre and loves his work with the members there. They recently performed an evening of famous Shakespeare monologues and are working on a production of Twelfth Night. After a hiatus of ten years he has returned to acting playing George in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf at the Studio Conservatory Theatre in Washington DC. It is a role he feels he has finally grown into.

Maren Montalbano ('97) is always auditioning in New York, working by day as a secretary, and coming up with the odd singing job here and there. She most recently performed the alto solo of Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass at the Church of the Resurrection.

Michaela Murphy ('96) moved back to Illinois to pursue an MBA at the University of Chicago. She keeps up her creative side by singing with the GSB a cappella group; writing for the newspaper "Chicago Business," and assisting with Follies, a production parodying life in business school. She is also co-chair for Chicago Women in Business, and for the Entertainment & Media Group; and participates in the Dean's Student Admissions Committee helping communicate with prospective and admitted students, and assisting with the application-reading process. She gets away from school by watching Molly Erdman perform her unique brand of comedy. She would love to catch up with any other alums in Chicago.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

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Address:

News:

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Heather Nathans ('99) was appointed head of the History/Theory area of the Department of Theatre, University of Maryland. She has published "All of the Federalist School? Choosing Sides and Creating Identities in the Boston Theatre Wars" in New England Theatre Journal, and delivered papers at conferences of the American Society for Theatre Research, the Society for Early Americanists; and the American Literature Association.

Jen Plante ('95) moved to Los Angeles and is performing a lot of standup comedy there. She has connected with fellow alums Julie Nathanson, Kathryn Vaughn, Jen Collins and Danny Strauss and says “we're all enjoying Hollywood life so far.”

Sendil Ramamurthy ('96) is scheduled to star in "The Ground Beneath Her Feet," with Selma Hayek. It will be made in the Fall of 2002. He is currently making a television series for the BBC in London.

Braden Rhett ('96) moved to Tokyo with her fiancé. She is studying Japanese, occasionally volunteering with a local theatre group, and traveling. Any Jumbos passing through Tokyo should feel free to email her at bradenrhett@gmail.com. She met with fellow alum Jon Kisch ('95) when she was in Sydney, Australia in December and reports that he is doing very well, is in film school, and loves living Down Under.

Amy Rhodes ('97) and J.C. DeVore ('97) formed the Thermodynamic Theater Company in New York. Their first show was 12th Night, which ran at The Kraine downtown in December 16th. David Hatkoff ('00) played Fabian.


Bruce Shapiro (former faculty) has published Speaking American: The Australian Actor's Guide to an American Dialect, with an accompanying CD. He works with the Australian film industry coaching actors in American dialects.

Justine Shapiro ('85) is a new mom, and her film “Promises” has been nominated for an Academy Award in Documentary. Theater Emory and the Tanne Foundation were early supporters. They still need help for the deep debt they got in filming Israeli and Palestinian children from 1997-2000. Go to their website at www.promisesproject.org.

Andrew T. Smaha ('99) is a freelance television and special events producer. He is currently the full-time Exhibition Specialist with PIAHRA, a non-profit trade association located in downtown Los Angeles. He also continues to moonlight as a special event coordinator for the amusement industry at various facilities nationwide.

Magda Spasiano ('96) has been at the Boston Center for the Arts for almost two years now and recently got a promotion to Director of Youth Programs. She is currently working with 11 high school students in the creation of an original play to be performed in May, as well as administering a whole host of other projects.

Roy Steinberg ('71) directed The Madwoman of Chaillot at the Neighbourhood Playhouse in New York from October 2nd to 28th with Anne Jackson, Kim Hunter & Alvin Epstein.

Nancy Taylor ('01) teaches in the English and Drama Department at MacMurray College, where she directs the theatre program. She has directed staged readings of Playing House, and House/ Wife for the Theatre Cooperative's New Play Festival, Boston, and The Taming of the Shrew at the Natick Ensemble Theatre.

Angeli Vashi ('99) played Queen Margaret in Andre Serban's Richard III and Henry VI at La Mama Theatre in New York last fall.

Larry Zuckerman ('74) lives in Seattle with his wife and two young boys and would like to hear from old friends. You may reach him at 2914 Queen Anne Avenue, North, Seattle, WA 98109, or e-mail at lzuckerman@seanet.com.

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