



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

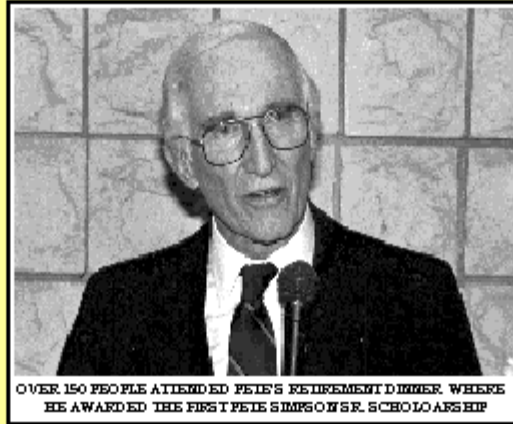
ALUMNI NEWS

Vol 4, Number 1

BY LEIGH SELTING

FALL 1997

THE NEW PETE SIMPSON SR. SCHOLARSHIP!



OVER 150 PEOPLE ATTENDED PETE'S RETIREMENT DINNER, WHERE HE AWARDED THE FIRST PETE SIMPSON SR. SCHOLARSHIP

DEPARTMENTS

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NEWS!

Hello! After a brief hiatus, the Alumni News! is back, better than ever. Much has happened since our last issue, and as always, you can enjoy catching up with the latest alumni news and information on our Web site. That address again is: <http://www.uwyo.edu/th&d>. Be sure to check out the new [Alumni Home Page](#) at the same address for an updated list of your fellow classmates and their e-mail addresses. The site, now wonderfully maintained by William Missouri Downs, is a great contact site for past and present Theatre and Dance majors from the University of Wyoming.

Fall has been a busy time for everyone here, and productions and rehearsals are in full swing. A Few Good Men opened our season, and was brilliantly directed by professional actress, director, and teacher Mala Powers. A large cast of students and technicians were able to benefit from Ms. Powers' special training and expertise in the Michael Chekhov technique. Not only did the production benefit, but classes as well. She and the most talented writers and filmmakers in the country to Laramie to showcase this years inaugural theme, "Expanding the Western Vision". A total

of 13 films, ranging from silent films to the premier of a film shot in Wyoming, were shown in the Fine Arts Theatre over three days. To support the festival, \$11,000 worth of equipment was purchased, and the selection and installation of the equipment, as well as the renovation of the light booth was coordinated by Larry Hazlett. Former students James Soden and James Rader were hired as projectionists, and did an outstanding job. Named, at the request of the donor, after former department head and professor emeritus Dr. Gladys Crane, we look forward to next year with great anticipation. In tandem with the film festival, this same donor has bequest \$1.5 million to the Theatre and Dance Department for the purpose of building an additional studio theatre to house the film festival in the future, and provide a much-needed space for our rapidly growing undergraduate program. Stay tuned for details as they become available!

Los Angeles-based friend/manager Coral Leigh, graciously availed themselves to our program for a series of workshops dealing with acting and the business in Hollywood. We miss them already!

Even before our first production hit the boards, the department was hard at work premiering the first annual Gladys Crane Mountain Plains Film Festival. This event, sponsored by an anonymous donation of \$50,000 to the Theatre Department, allowed the Laramie community to see rare films that dealt with western sensibilities, themes and concepts, and in many cases, meet the stars, producers or directors who made the films possible. We brought some of Good things have continued to happen for our program. Last spring, a \$10,000 endowed scholarship was established in the name of Pete Simpson, Sr., retiring vice-president of UW, longtime friend of the theatre and dance program, and father of Peter Simpson, Jr., a 1993 graduate now appearing in the Boston company of the long-running off-Broadway hit [Blue Man Group](#): Tubes. The scholarship is designated for a junior or senior theatre or dance performance major who demonstrates excellence in the field. This year's scholarship was awarded to Jennifer Chapman, a junior from Cheyenne. Another anonymous donor has generously donated to our program a \$75,000 endowment for a scholarship, beginning in the fall of 1998, for a theatre or dance junior of high scholastic standing and strong production contributions. These endowments will play a major role in assuring that the best and brightest of our program can be retained and rewarded for their efforts.

In 1995, the Theatre and Dance department purchased a Current Concepts Studio Reformer from a CTE Grant submitted by Margaret Stalder. Following some preliminary student tutorials and a research project conducted by dance major Michele Ward '97, there is now a class available for students in the department. This equipment allows dance students to work on placement and control of movement outside of technique class and out from under the pressure of gravity. Strength is balanced by flexibility and students are able to take the time to really figure out how their body works, via Pilates-based exercises. Also last spring, the department produced a benefit performance of the dance show for the KILTS drama group at Laramie High School, to help fund the drama group's trip to Scotland. Four members of that company are now proud theatre majors at UW!

Faculty are, of course, busier than ever. We welcome costume designer Teresa Shea for the year, who is filling in for Lee Hodgson who is taking a year's leave of absence. Teresa comes to us from California and will be designing 4 shows this year. Patricia Tate and General Hambrick are busy working with guest artists Dimitri Kouznetsov and Edward Stegge from the Colorado Ballet on the next production of the season, Dances From Broadway. Following up on the December, 1996, innovative dance production Chaos, Fractals and Complexity, Margaret Stalder and Peter Shive are working on producing a video for secondary education which uses the dance production as part of an instructional packet about this new science. Lou Anne Wright participated in a ten day intensive for voice and speech production taught by Katherine Fitzmaurice last July. Lou Anne will be attending a certification workshop in Fitzmaurice technique next summer in New York. Professional photographer Eric Weber visited the department in October, and took headshots for nearly 30 performance majors as part of Leigh Selting's auditioning class. William Missouri Downs and Lou Anne Wright's book Playwriting: From Formula to Form has been published by Harcourt Brace.

Spring promises to be a busy and exciting time once again, with the student directed one-acts, RMTA, ACTF, ACDFA, (which we are hosting this year), dram-prom and more. If you happen to be in Laramie, be sure to stop in and say hello, check out a show, and let us know what's going on in your life as well! And be sure to forward your new addresses to us! See you next spring!

THE CLASS OF 1997

Krista Billings '97 completed her BFA in Theatre and Dance, with an emphasis in lighting design. She is now attending [Temple University](#) on a fellowship in pursuit of her MFA in Lighting and Scenic design.

Kimberly Blair '97 received her BFA with a performance emphasis and is currently living and working in Casper, WY, while applying for graduate school for next fall.

Tasha (Bocanegra) Marshall '97 not only has a new BA in dance, but a new baby boy, Cameron, born last May. She currently teaches dance at the Tolerton School of Dance.

Daphne D'Spain '97 received her BFA in dance and lives and works in Denver.

Heather Marsh '97 graduated with a BFA in dance and now teaches at the new Rocky Mountain School of Dance, (formerly the Shirley Lewis School of Dance) in Casper, WY.

R. Gavin Mayer '97 finished his BA from UW, and is continuing his training by completing the education program at UNC in Greeley, Colorado.

James Soden '97 now lives and works in Cheyenne after receiving his BFA in technical theatre.

Angela Stoddard '96 resides in Denver, and has taught dance for Ballet Arts. She completed her BA in dance in December of 1996.

Michele Ward '97 is hard at work in medical school at Denver University, after completing a double major: a BA in dance and a BS in natural science mathematics.

Stacy (Bernatis) Waters '96 received her BFA in performance in December of 1996.

ASOPA NEWS

Twila Coffey - President

ASOPA (Associated Students of the Performing Arts) started the fall semester by providing manpower at the Gladys Crane Mountain Plains Film Festival. For a first time venture, it seems to have been quite a success, not to mention a learning experience. We now know what we can expect next year.

ASOPA is very fortunate this year to have such dedicated and active officers: Sal Sabella - vice president, Ryan Rigazzi - secretary, and Jennifer Chapman - treasurer. We are happy to announce that Lou Anne Wright is our new faculty advisor.

This year is going to be a productive time for ASOPA and we have several fundraising ideas in the works and hope to sponsor several student productions. We also will be providing refreshments before and during the intermissions of shows as well as a coat check. And be on the look out for us at ACDF in the Spring.

The University Of Wyoming Department of Theatre & Dance

Is Proud To Be Hosting The

Regional American College Dance Festival

February 25th through March 1st 1998

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CHECK OUT OUR [ALUMNI HOMEPAGE](#)

Sharon Huizinga BA '97 has deferred admission to graduate school, (an MFA program in design at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC) until next September. Planting trees and making money will keep her plenty busy until then!

CAROLINE RULE BA '96 had her play *Penis Envy* published in *Playwriting From Formula To Form* published by Harcourt Brace.

Scott Pardue BA '95 had his play *Lemon 714* published in *Playwriting From Formula to Form* published by Harcourt Brace.

John Santangelo BA '95 now works in sales for Theatrix, Inc. in Denver, Colorado.

Tara Olmstead, BA '95 recently appeared in *HMS Pinafore* for PCPA in Solvang, CA, and is now working for a touring children's theatre company based out of California.

Christopher Tabor BA '95 is hard at work in graduate school at the University of Alabama/[Alabama Shakespeare Festival](#) where he is a candidate for the MFA degree in Stage Management. Shuttling back and forth between Tuscaloosa and Montgomery, he has worked on the *Merchant of Venice*, *Cymbeline*, *The Traveling Lady*, *Misalliance*, and *Camelot*.

Brady Allen, BFA '95 began his new job last May as the Development Services Coordinator at the [Folger Shakespeare Library](#) in Washington, DC. The offices are located across the street from the Supreme Court Building on Capitol Hill.

Jim Weber BT'D '93 can be seen in a current national commercial for *Frasier*, and has done a guest video spot on "Saturday Night Live" and a cable commercial for "Comedy Central". He and University of Virginia graduate school classmates also produced and starred in a showcase production in NYC at the Triad Theatre entitled *Date with a Stranger*.

Steve Hough BA '93 worked as an extra on the soon-to-be released feature film [Starship Troopers](#), filmed in Wyoming.

Pete Simpson BA '93 is currently acting in the Boston company of the popular off-Broadway hit *Blue Man Group: Tubes*. Last fall he was featured in a guest video spot on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien", and this December he can be seen in a Vaclav Havel play in New York City.

Scott Little '92 is now visiting assistant professor and technical director at Oklahoma State University. He writes that "wife Dina and son Keegan are doing well, although Keegan is heading full-tilt for those terrible twos! Let me know what is going on , and give everyone my best." scotl_osu@osu.net

Christine (Lewis) Austin BA '92 writes, "I am working at a hand and upper extremity therapist's as the office manager here in northern Virginia. It is always challenging, we see a lot of interesting cases, and I get to put all of that

anatomy to work!"

Kodee Lind BTD '92 is living in Salem, OR, and teaching dance at Western Oregon University, and working with students at the Silverton Performing Arts Company. She writes, "I would love to hear from all my friends!"
heyspot@concentric.net

Marta Burton BA '89 can be seen playing the role of Nimue in the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's production of Camelot. She has recently relocated to NYC (New Jersey) from Minneapolis, MN.

Mike Morelli, BS '89 received an MFA in Directing at Utah State University, and now resides in Reno, NV. He teaches theatre at Truckee Meadow Community College, and has directed a show for Fitzgeralds Casino in Reno.

Roger Winn BA '89 continues to work as a producer for Industrial Arts Theatre in Denver, CO, and also played Ed in Entertaining Mr. Sloane for the Colorado Actor's Theatre. He'll next be directing Merchant of Venice for Industrial Art's Construction Zone series, and is still involved with a local improvisation group called "Comedy Helper" performing on Friday nights in Denver. He writes, "as for other news, my bike was stolen, the heavy rains leaked through to my kitchen (in his new house) and I plan on rebuilding my back patio before winter.!"

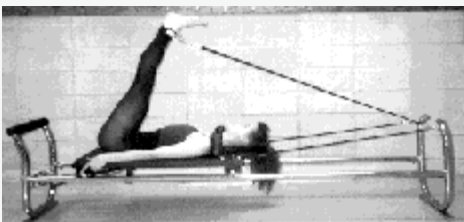
Billie K. Gross MFA '88 is currently the Costume Assistant at the University of Wyoming, and in addition to those duties has been doing workshops with public school children in making paper and teaching a couple of classes at the Junior High School this past spring. Then she was off on a big adventure this past summer in Alaska for four month selling gold nuggets and ivory! Between Thanksgiving and Christmas she will be renewing her contacts with the cruise lines and spend some time in the Caribbean working on costumes for entertainers on board!

Patrick Willingham BTD lives in NYC and is the Executive Manager for Blue Man Productions, which produces the long-running off-Broadway hit, Blue Man Group: Tubes.

David Gray BTD '93 and **Chontelle Gray** BTD '93 our illustrious husband and wife "team", after receiving MFA's from Cal State Long Beach, have both taken positions at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, WY. Chontelle is the scenic designer and David teaches in the English department and will be directing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat for CWC.

Jennifer Hooper BTD '93 has entered the MFA Acting program at California Institute of the Arts.

Jason Grandpre BS '93 writes, "...I graduated in May ('97) from California Institute of the Arts, with an MFA in Lighting Design and Technical Direction. I'm currently living in Anaheim and working for Strand Lighting, Inc. in Los Angeles where I am a project manager...I would like to know what my old friends are up to so please let me know where are and what you're doing and I'll do the same! (310) 637-7500 ext 305 and my e-mail is:
jgrandpr@strandlight.com."



Donations needed to purchase another "Reformer"

Due to the increased student use of the Current Concepts Reformer (see article, pg. 1), another machine is desperately needed! This equipment and the training our dance students are receiving not only makes them more aware of their placement and strengths as dancers, but it also reveals their "weaknesses". As they become stronger, they become "smarter" as dancers-not only avoiding injury, but prolonging their careers as performers. Another machine would double the benefit already being experienced by the department. Isn't this a project you would like to support? The

price is \$2,500. Contact Margaret Stalder, 307-766-5138 or stalder@uwyo.edu for more details.

1997-98 SEASON

<p>"A Few Good Men" October 10-18 Main Stage directed by Mala Powers</p>	<p>"Steel Magnolias" Jan 27-Feb.1 Main Stage directed by Lou Anne Wright</p>
<p>"Dances From Broadway" November 19-23 Main Stage choreographed by Patricia Tate & General McArthur Hambrick</p>	<p>"Much Ado About Nothing" April 17,18,19,23,24,25 Main Stage directed Leigh Selting</p>
<p>"Innocent Thoughts" December 2-7 Studio Theatre written by William Missouri Downs Directed by Rebecca Hilliker</p>	

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Alumni News!

c/o Dept. of Theatre and Dance

P.O. Box 3951

Laramie, WY 82070-3951

e-mail...SELTING@UWYO.EDU

Please let us know where you are and what you are doing! Send a short note to the address below with your address, any tidbits about family, work, jobs, photos, stories, etc. Or, if you're a phone person, call (307)766-3287 and give us an update! You can use e-mail or the UW alumni homepage! We'd love to hear from you!

