

# Alumni News

## ~ Theatre & Dance Chapter ~

S A C R A M E N T O S T A T E A L U M N I A S S O C I A T I O N

### UPCOMING FALL SEASON

- **The Good Woman of Setzuan**, directed by Richard Bay, University Theatre (Oct 16–Oct 26, 2008)
- **New Directions, Sacramento Black Art of Dance**, directed by Linda Goodrich, Solano Hall 1010 (Oct 23–Nov 2, 2008)
- **Picnic**, by William Inge, directed by Michelle Felten, Playwrights Theatre (Nov 13–Nov 23, 2008)
- **Dance Sites, faculty dance concert**, works choreographed by dance faculty, Solano Hall 1010 (Dec 4–Dec 14, 2008)

### Graduate Thesis Plays

**Glory Bi**, written and directed by Michelle J. Cruff, Studio Theatre (Sept 11–Sept 14, 2008)

**Sweetening the Broccoli: Reflections on Alzheimer's**, conceived by Scott Adams, directed by Adrienne Sher, Studio Theatre (Sept 18–Sept 21, 2008)



### BONNIE BURNS BUSICK (1941-2008)

BY JIM LANE

More than one generation of CSUS students was saddened by the passing of Professor Bonnie Burns Busick last June. And we mean “generation” literally, not in the sense of a four-year college cycle; students yet unborn when Bonnie came to CSUS grew up to study and graduate under her tutelage, and to profit by her talent and dedication.

Bonnie was one person who never had to acclimate herself



to college life. She grew up on the campus of the College (later University) of the Pacific in Stockton, where her father Robert was president for 26 years and did so much to make UOP the world-class institution it is today. It was only natural that Bonnie should earn her bachelor's degree (in English literature) at UOP; from there she attended Penn State before earning her master's in theater design here at CSUS. She joined the CSUS theater faculty in 1974, and faculty, staff and students counted their blessings for the next 30

years.

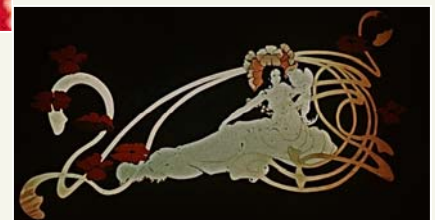
Bonnie had the eye, the mind, the heart and the hand of an artist. Many of you reading this have no doubt lost count of the times you looked at some piece of Bonnie's work – a backdrop, a portrait, a landscape, a main curtain, a costume parade – and stood agape and gasping, astonished at how Bonnie had done

get over it. And the number of her students who went on to work in theater, film and television was always a source of pride to her. She often spoke of them – just as they, no doubt, often spoke of her, and still do: “There was this professor of



mine at Sacramento State; man, you should have seen what she could do with a paintbrush...”

Now Bonnie is gone, and her family and friends are left to



it once again. Bonnie's work was often astonishing, and the most astonishing thing about it was that no matter how long we had worked with her, no matter how well we knew what she could do, she could still astonish us.

Bonnie always did her homework, and she made sure that you did yours – or at least, if you didn't, she made sure you knew she was wise to you. As a teacher she set the bar high, but she was always available to help you do what you needed to do to

miss her, and to reflect on how she enriched our stage productions, our educations and our lives. We take comfort from what it was to know Bonnie, to work with and learn from her. That, and the fact that, wherever Bonnie is, we can probably count on getting some pretty astonishing sunsets from now on.

## 'IN WITH THE OLD'

BY BILL ZARRIELLO

It is my distinct pleasure to be your president of the Theatre & Dance Alumni Chapter of Sac State for 2008–2009.

The department holds so many memories from my time as a student at Sac State—from productions I performed in and helped crew, to productions I was in the audience cheering on my fellow classmates.

Since I have been a member of the Board, we have awarded monies toward scholarships for current students to continue their Theatre & Dance education at Sac State, as well as awarded scholarship money and awards to graduating seniors to help them take their first steps toward their professional careers outside the academic arena.

I would like to invite you all to

join us in our support of the existing Theatre & Dance Department by becoming a Sac State Alumni Association

member and choosing the

Theatre & Dance chapter affiliation. You will find some highlights of the

benefits of being a Sac State Alumni member

on the last page of this newsletter, but you will also find that you get so much more than just those benefits for your \$50 membership dues. This year, we are helping to fund the musical talents of cellist Katherine Dudney, who

will be an integral part of Scott Adams' thesis production of **Sweetening the Broccoli: Reflections on Alzheimer's**, which also fea-



Alums Blair Leatherwood and Kim McCann Lawson in a scene from **Sweetening the Broccoli: Reflections on Alzheimer's**

tures the talents of alums Kim McCann Lawson and Blair Leatherwood (see front page sidebar

for dates). We also have an Alumni Gathering in the works for the spring to bring all our alums together for a relaxed evening of good talk with good friends.

This alumni board has had the distinct pleasure of being

lead by some of Sac State's Theatre & Dance departments finest: Jim Lane, Scott Adams, Cheryl Watson, Debra Hammond, and Kim McCann Lawson, to name a few. I feel honored to be included in that group, and to help aid this organization in building a strong chapter and connection with the campus, of which we all have such fond memories.

Also, alum Mark Winchester has created a Facebook site for **CSUS - Dept of Theatre/Dance - Dept, Alumni & Friends**, so those of you in the 'techno-know how' can email, blog, poke, and IM each other and rekindle old friendships. Use the link below to locate the site.

It's never too late to reconnect with people. BZ

To join the online Facebook community for **CSUS—Dept of Theatre/Dance—Dept, Alumni & Friends**, go to

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22576630915>

## HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATIONS

BY KIM MCCANN LAWSON

I had the amazing good fortune to be in "on the ground floor" of the establishment of the Sacramento Shakespeare Festival. As part of the SCC/City Theatre/SSF artistic team, I spent 22 summers directing a wide variety of Shakespeare's plays from **Much Ado to Hamlet, Shrew to R & J, Midsummer to Macbeth** as well as **Cyrano and Three Musketeers**. I had the luxury of working with many talented Sacramento State alums and students, including Shelly Sandford, Katie Brown Val-



**Macbeth**, directed by Kim McCann Lawson, summer of 2003 at the Sacramento Shakespeare Festival

divia, Jon Jackson, Bradley Moates, Blair Leatherwood, Cary Anderson, Lars Tatom,

Debra Hammond, Cheryl Watson, Andrew Sutherland, Kevin Menanger, Jana Holm,

Dan and Georgia Treharne, Eddie Jackson, and Stephanie McCall, to name just a few. However, eventually all good things must come to an end and I decided that it was, at last, time to walk away. My last show was a production of **Macbeth** of which I am very proud. While I'm still nominally involved with the Festival, I am enjoying a rehearsal-free summer as well as more time with my husband and son – but oh, what a grand learning experience it was!



FOR MORE INFO ABOUT JOINING THE  
SACRAMENTO STATE ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION, VISIT  
[WWW.SACSTATEALUMNI.COM](http://WWW.SACSTATEALUMNI.COM)



SACRAMENTO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
THEATRE & DANCE CHAPTER

**Our Mission**

To enhance the connection between the department and its former students and/or supporters through a variety of interactions, including networking, social activities, professional development, scholarship fund-raising, educational outreach, and artistic/creative collaboration.

**Benefits to Chapter Members/Students/Department**

Through the development of a strong connection between the Alumni Association and the department, current members, students, and potential students will benefit from a richer, more productive environment enjoying an alliance between historical continuity and tomorrow's innovations.

**How Do I Join?**

It is an annual cost of \$50 and if you choose Chapter Membership in the Theatre & Dance Chapter, \$5 of that will be pledged to go directly to the funds of the Theatre & Dance Chapter itself. So for \$50 a year, you can help support the theatre arts department and current students toward a more rewarding and exciting time at Sac State.

**Benefits of Being a Member**

**Stay connected to a powerful network of 180,000 alumni:** As an Association member you will receive newsletters and e-mails with updates and invitations to alumni events and networking opportunities. We host free or low cost professional development events, speaker series, alumni workplace lunches, tailgate parties and social/business mixers. **Information Access:** Enjoy access to the libraries at all 23 CSU campuses for only \$5 per year. **Health and Safety:** Sac State Alumni receive discounts on health, vision, life, auto, renters and homeowner's insurance through an alumni group-discount savings plan. **Save on campus activities:** Association members receive discounts at the Hornet Bookstore, the Sacramento State Aquatic Center, the Career Center and Hornet Athletics. Members can also purchase a discounted recreation pass for the campus swimming pool and racquetball and tennis courts. **Discounts:** Discounts on car rentals (National, Hertz, Budget and Auto Europe), hotels (participating Clarion, Comfort, Quality, Econo Lodge, Rodeway and MainStay hotels worldwide), vacations (book condominiums and hotels at World Class resorts in over 80 countries for only \$349 a week), movie passes (unlimited theater passes good at most Regal Cinema and United Artists Theater locations) and gym memberships (pay no initiation fees when joining any Sparetime Health Club).

**What if I don't have \$50, but I Still Want to Help?**

"I got a trunk of old clothes; I got a barn" We can always use the support of alumni when it comes to staffing the Lenaea Festival or creating events for the generation of scholarship funds. Volunteer your time and talents backstage, musical directing, stage managing, as a Board Member, or working on the Membership Committee. Contact **Michael Haugland** at [theatredancealumni.sacstate@gmail.com](mailto:theatredancealumni.sacstate@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving on the membership committee on a regular or limited basis.

For more information, or to join the **Sac State Theatre & Dance Alumni Chapter**, please visit our website:

[www.csus.edu/org/theatre\\_alumni](http://www.csus.edu/org/theatre_alumni)

**2008–2009 Theatre & Dance Alumni Chapter Board Members**

Bill Zarriello—President/Editor, Michael Haugland—President Elect/Membership Committee Chair, Kim McCann Lawson—Secretary, Scott Adams, Georgia Larson, Jim Lane, Cheryl Watson, Larry Shumate, Nick Avdienko

If you are interested in volunteering or joining the Board, contact us at [theatredancealumni.sacstate@gmail.com](mailto:theatredancealumni.sacstate@gmail.com)