



FATE E-LETTER

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WORKSHOPS, DALI MUSEUM, AWARDS HIGHLIGHT 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Fate members from across the state gathered in St. Petersburg September 29th to October 1st for our 32nd annual conference and were treated to a large selection of workshops, a Dali museum tour and the presentation of FATE's annual leadership awards.

THURSDAY

The conference kicked off Thursday evening with the ever-popular reception hosted by John Prignano and Music Theatre International, and gave new members an opportunity to mix with some of the organization's veterans.

FRIDAY

The first of 22 scheduled workshops began at 8:30 Friday morning with the traditional "wheel" of three short workshops attended by everyone on a rotation basis. The workshops were scheduled from 8:30 Friday morning through Noon Saturday and covered a large variety of areas.

Friday's lunch proved a real treat. Following the concept of "Legacy" that was the conference theme, we had three former high school drama students whose careers are not involved in theatre, but who are using what they learned in drama classes in their current professions as a lawyer, a doctor and a lobbyist. Each spoke for about ten minutes and reminded everyone that what we do in a classroom or production carries far beyond the theatrical world. We create legacies, and these three people were an outstanding demonstration of that fact.

FATE members spent an exciting evening Friday when we had the new Dali Museum all to ourselves. The Education Director of the Museum greeted us at a sangria and tapas reception and two docents led us on a tour of the world's most comprehensive collection of Dali's works.

SATURDAY

The morning began with an eye-opening presentation about VSA Florida and what inclusion can do for students and for the entire theatre education process.

Following workshops and committee meetings, the Annual General Membership meeting and election of officers took place at lunch. Prior to the meeting, the annual FATE award were presented. These are discussed on the next page.

Calendar

December 9 -- Deadline to submit FAAE symposium proposal (*See story page 3*)

December 12 – January 11 -- Thespian online registration

Taylor Horne, Michael Vasallo, Linda Lovins Educator, Administrator, Advocate of the Year

TAYLOR HORNE, Educator of the Year Taylor is in her seventh year as Middle School Theatre Director at her alma mater, Episcopal School of Jacksonville. She holds a BA in Communications and a MS in Theatre Studies from Florida State University.

She has developed middle school courses in creative dramatics for grades six through eight. Taylor exposes her students to all elements of theatre; for example, she brought in guest artists to work with students and perform scenes from Shakespeare as part of a school Renaissance day.

Taylor is a member of the FATE Board of Directors, and designed and orchestrated a successful regional event for us: the pilot “mini conference” which was held at Episcopal in April. The event drew members and non-members from northeast Florida for a half-day conference of workshops on advocacy and college admissions.



President Sarah Bennett presents the Educator of the Year award to Taylor Horne.



President Bennett presents the Administrator of the Year award to Michael Vasallo.

MICHAEL VASALLO, Administrator of the Year Michael is the arts magnet coordinator at John Hopkins Middle School in St. Petersburg. A graduate of the University of South Florida, he began his teaching career at Northeast High in St. Petersburg. He moved to St. Petersburg High, where he taught IB Theatre Arts for seven years and served as the Chair of the Fine Arts Department.

After a stint as assistant principal at his alma mater, Gibbs High, Michael moved into his present position with responsibility for the arts magnet at John Hopkins Middle School. Since the move, he has focused his energy on reshaping and building the arts program.

Michael served as Treasurer for FATE for five years and is currently a member of the Board of Directors. He has also served as the Chair of District 4 Thespians and is a member of the Pinellas Association for Theatre Education (PATE). Michael was named to “Who’s Who Among American Teachers” in 2004 and 2005.

DR. LINDA LOVINS, Arts Advocate of the Year The former Performing and Fine Arts Program Specialist at the Florida Department of Education, Dr. Lovins has been a strong voice for theatre and all of the arts, and most recently spearheaded and guided the development of the new Next Generation of Sunshine State Standards in the arts.

An experienced choral and general music educator with degrees from the Crane School of Music, SUNY at Potsdam and Florida State University, where she earned her Ph.D. Dr. Lovins taught public school music from 1980 to 1998, while holding leadership positions at the district and state levels. When she replaced June Hinckley, Dr. Lovins became the champion of arts education in Florida and a good friend to FATE.

In addition to the three awards cited above, FATE also awarded the Ann Derflinger scholarship to Nicole Quintana. Named for the FATE co-founder, the scholarship is funded by the annual raffle.

From President Christa Whittaker

Don't wind up on the menu!

First of all, I want to thank you all for a wonderful FATE conference! As we move on into the school year, we are all consumed with our productions and, for many of us, with preparing our students for district and state Thespian competitions. And oh yeah -- we have to teach classes, too!

I am happy that a lot of you applied to join the panel that is writing the EOC exams; I understand the steering committee is reviewing the applications now. There will be another call for writers and reviewers in 2012.

Nothing is more frightening than being uninformed about what is coming at us from the state -- especially when these test may ultimately influence our paycheck. Even if you are not on the team, please be proactive and stay involved with what is happening at your school, in your district as a whole, and with FATE -- remember, if you are not willing to take a seat at the table, you might just wind up on the menu!

Here's wishing you a safe and blessed holiday season, and I hope you all get a chance to relax and enjoy a break from the constant chaos that is a theatre educator's life.

Christa

Debra Barnum Inducted Into EdTA Hall of Fame

Past FATE President **Debra Barnum** was honored at the September national conference of the Educational Theatre Association in Chicago when she was inducted into the organization's prestigious Hall of Fame. This is an honor reserved for people who have taught theatre for more than 20 years and who have been leaders in the field. She was nominated for the honor by **Jonnette DeMarsico**.

While serving as the Florida State Thespian Director, Debra brought the state conference to downtown Tampa in 1989. She later served the national organization as a regional director.

Debra was the theatre director at Dixie Hollins HS in St. Petersburg for more than 25 years, before her retirement. She served as president of the Pinellas Association for Theatre Education.

FATE's 1991 Educator of the year, Debra remained an active leader in the organization and continues to serve FATE as an emeritus member of the Executive Committee.

FAAE SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR ARTS INTEGRATION SYMPOSIUM

The Florida Alliance for Arts Education (FAAE) is sponsoring regional an **Arts Integration Symposia Series** in January and February. Participants will learn about what arts integration is and how Florida schools are being transformed through the arts. Each Symposium will feature local programs and presenters as well as national and statewide findings and models.

They are seeking session proposals that focus on integrating the arts with other academic areas in Florida's PK – 12 educational settings, both in school and outside of school. School administrators and arts teachers are invited to submit session proposals. These "breakout session" presentations will be 60 minutes long and may be delivered by one person or a group of presenters.

The deadline to submit is December 9th for the Tallahassee, Miami and St. Petersburg offerings and January 6 for the Central Florida session. Go to www.faae.org for further details.