



# FATE E-LETTER

Volume One, Number Two

March, 2004

## New FATE Logo Debuts Above

The “apple” you see at the top of this page is FATE’s exciting new logo. The Executive Committee met February 7 and selected the new symbol from among nine entries in our logo design competition. Winner of the \$250 award for the selected design was Amy Heath of Miami.

Amy was one of several people from across the state who entered the competition, including a group of students from one art class at Florida School of the Arts.

The contest was originally announced in the August newsletter, with a December deadline for finished copies in both black and white, and color. The Executive Committee also considered the old logo as one of the possible selections, but were attracted to the simplicity and clean lines you see above.

Lapel pins featuring the new design have been ordered, and will be available at the State Thespian Conference in Tampa.

## *Calendar*

**March 31-April 3** Florida State Thespian Festival, Tampa

**June 17** FATE Executive Committee meets in Clearwater

**June 18-20** State ACE meeting in Sarasota

## Fine Arts Classes Survey Results Listed; Check Where Your County Stands

If you were at Conference 2003, you probably completed one of the fine arts surveys distributed jointly by FATE and the music, dance and art teachers’ organizations. The survey aims to establish a “state of the arts” report to use as a basis for comparison, a baseline that will tell us, for example, if the class size amendment is impacting arts education over the next few years.

You can see where your county and your school stand compared to the rest of the state in regards to arts classes. Go to the Music Educators’ site:

<http://www.flmusiced.org/fineartssurvey/Reports>.

*In some cases, more than one person from a school responded, so the numbers can be confusing at first.*

**October 14 – 16**

**Conference 2004**

**FATE IS YOUR SILVER LINING**

*Celebrating 25 years of service!*

Clearwater Beach Marriott Suites

**Save the dates!**

## From the President

# It's Time to Re-energize and Collaborate with Our Peers

Your 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are expressing their inevitable "senioritis". FCAT pressure is taking its toll on your underclassmen. You feel like summer won't come soon enough.

BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO RELAX. Too many arts programs are being cut. Too many arts teachers are losing their jobs.

Now is the time to re-energize and gear up to secure your job. With legislative budget cuts affecting all of us, you've got to find creative ways to prove your worth on campus. As I have said, communication is the key. Only you can let others know what you are doing. Be sure your principal knows about your good works outside the classroom and the creative activities in your class that support the academics.

This might be a good time to collaborate with your academic peers. Find ways to involve them in your productions. A helpful

study guide to your play might encourage them to help you build your audience. Why not choose next year's plays to support what they do in their classrooms?

As busy (and tired) as we all are, we need to start saying "YES!" when asked to chaperone a field trip or prom, to organize the school talent show, or to help amplify or light an assembly. Although we may not receive a financial supplement for these extra duties, the reward could come in the shape of job security.

As always, continue to involve your local school board members and politicians. Get to know them and allow them to get to know you and your students.

Finally, make plans now to attend FATE Conference '04 in Clearwater October 14 - 16. Let's come together to save theatre arts education in Florida!



## Good for You

They say that elementary school teachers need the patience of Job. Imagine, then, what it must take for the elementary school drama director!

On April 2, Lake Highland Prep in Orlando will present *Oklahoma* with a cast of 55 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders directed by **Betsy Pavlovich**, Lower School Drama Director. The cast was selected from the 96 students who auditioned! A professional ballet mistress choreographed, and there will be a live orchestra. Curly is being played by a 6<sup>th</sup> grade boy who appeared in *Ragtime* last summer at Seaside Theatre. There will be two additional performances on April 4, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

This follows closely on the heels of Betsy's production class' work on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for which she brought in two Shakespeare Festival actors to workshop with her students two weeks before the performance.

The Middle School is doing *Guys and Dolls* and the Upper School is doing *Bye, Bye Birdie* this spring.

# FSU Offers MS for Theatre Educators

The school of Theatre of Florida State University is accepting applications for its new Master of Science in Theatre program designed for the working theatre educator. The degree can be completed in three summers at FSU. Students will attend classes four days a week for six weeks in mid-summer. The schedule is being

adjusted to account for school openings around the state.

Interested teachers should visit the School of Theatre website at [theatre.fsu.edu](http://theatre.fsu.edu) for complete information and application instructions. The school is still taking applications for the class to begin June 28.

Direct questions to Lynn Hogan at [lhogan@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:lhogan@admin.fsu.edu).

## House Committee Approves Arts Funding Restoration Bill

The Florida House of Representatives Appropriations Committee approved HB 427 on Tuesday, March 9. This is the bill that calls for a restoration of a dedicated funding source for the arts.

The bill specifies \$14.3 million for cultural grants, \$2 million for historic preservation grants and \$1.75 million for historical museum grants.

Next step for HB 427 is a vote of the full House. The word is that Speaker Johnnie Byrd wants the full vote on March 16, the day Secretary of State Glenda Hood has designated as Arts Day in the Capitol.

The Bill has had the support of the Florida Cultural Alliance and several arts organizations

throughout the State. Members of FATE's Executive Committee joined in the Alliance's campaign to persuade key Representatives with a flood of postcards and emails urging their support of the Bill.

*YOU SHOULD URGE YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE TO VOTE FOR THE BILL WHEN IT COMES BEFORE THE HOUSE.*

A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate. FATE will track its progress.

From the Executive Director

**THE ARTS – ASK FOR MORE!**

In her message, Beverly talks about the need to get involved with your peers as one step toward job security. There are several other things we can do.

For example, Beverly includes an arts advocacy statement in all of her programs. It includes ideas like “Research proves that arts education improves test scores.” “Theatre teaches skills that last a lifetime. Through the process of plays production, theatre arts students learn history, mathematics, science, language arts, technology, group dynamics, collaboration, cooperation, management” etc. She ends with the slogan you see above: The Arts – Ask for More.

You can also reach out beyond your audiences. What about getting involved with your local ACE

committee? Yes, it takes up valuable time. But it is important.

For example, the Pinellas County ACE committee recently produced a flyer using the same caption, and detailing the proven benefits of arts education.

Aimed at parents, 50,000 of these are being distributed in Toys ‘r Us, KB Toys and Chick-fil-a stores throughout the county. These flyers urge parents to be sure their schools offer a full range of arts programs.

In addition to community leaders, Pinellas ACE has music, art, dance and theatre teachers as committee members. Is there a theatre teacher on your local ACE committee?