



FATE E-LETTER

Volume Two, Number Four

June, 2005

FATE Committee Meets with Arts Boards

The FATE Executive Committee met with officers from the Art, Music and Dance educators and the Florida Higher Education Arts Network in Sarasota June 8th and 9th to discuss issues of common concern. The sessions included a joint meeting with the ACE/FAAE Board of Directors, an opportunity to present educators' concerns to the state organization. ACE/FAAE coordinated the event.

The arts organizations agreed that the three main issues facing all of us now or in the immediate future are access to students, changes in mandated pupil stations and certification.

The demands of FCAT and reading remediation pull-outs are cutting into students' time in arts classes. Some districts recognize that teachers with CRISS training are able to teach reading, and won't pull students at level two or above. However, not many Districts have taken this step, and many schools are pulling everyone for reading remediation, no matter what their level.

FATE's Conference '05: The Time to Act will focus on the fact that theatre teachers do teach reading, and on strategies you can use in the classroom and in your relations with administrators to support this concept.

Newer plant specifications from the State are cutting into the space allotments for arts areas. Schools are being built with no auditorium or theatre; with chorus rooms but no robing rooms; with band rooms, but no instrument storage rooms. Art rooms are getting smaller. The arts organizations will study current and proposed state specifications and make recommendations for change.

The concern about certification centers on the idea that any certified teacher in Florida can take a test and be certified in an arts area, whether they have the training and skills or not.

The executive directors of the arts organization have met in the past, have been in frequent contact, and will maintain that contact.

However, the sessions ended with the recommendation that ACE sponsor more joint meetings of the full boards in the future.

Calendar

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|-------------------|---|
| Sept. 21 | Deadline for \$170 "Early Bird" Conference '05 Registration |
| Oct. 13-15 | Conference '05: The Time to Act, Clearwater Beach Marriott |
| Nov. 2-5 | Florida Theatre Conference, Lakeland |

From the President

Share Your Success Stories ...

Happy Summer to All!

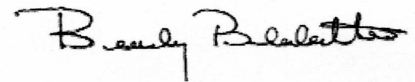
All of us here at FATE hope you are having a relaxing summer as you gear up for the start of another school year! In your time for reflection, perhaps you can remember some personal stories of students who have been affected by their theatre arts education.

Do you know of students who came to school just to be able to attend that after-school play rehearsal? How about those who received college scholarships to study theatre? Anyone who made a career choice based upon the positive energy received in your classroom? Someone who saw grades or test scores improve due to a new-found interest in school? Anyone who felt better about themselves, overcame hardships, or steered away from the wrong crowd or drugs due to their love of the arts?

If you can recall these personal stories, would you take a few minutes to write them down and send them to us care of my email address (bblanchette@adelphia.net) ? You could also ask your students to write. Please add a statement and signature giving us permission to pass on or publish the letters.

FATE, along with ACE (Arts for a Complete Education), is collecting testimonials with a plan to send them to those who make decisions about arts education in our state, and to post them on the ACE web site, www.faae.org. We believe that with your help, we can make a difference.

Enjoy your summer. I hope to see you this October in Clearwater for our annual conference!



... Your Rubrics ...

Christa Whittaker is collecting your assessment rubrics for a compilation booklet to be distributed at the October meeting. Please fax, email or mail a copy of rubrics that you have successfully used in your theatre classes to her before September 1st. "We know you have wonderful tools," Christa said. "So please consider sharing them with other theatre educators, the FATE members."

Send to: Christa Whittaker, 808 Overbrook Drive, Ft. Walton Beach, 32547
bcwhittsend@aol.com, fax (850)833-3311.

... and Your Resources

Sarah Bennett and her Resource Committee want to compile a resource bank of information to be distributed at the October conference. Included at the end of this newsletter is a three-page form to send her information and ideas. Please take the time to complete it and send it to her. It will also be available on the web site.

The compilations of these three areas will help you develop, strengthen and promote your program. Please take a few minutes to contribute your ideas, then be sure to pick up your copies at the October conference!

Drama Position Open In Lake County

There is a full time drama position at East Ridge High School. The new teacher will one of two drama teachers on a team of eight in the Visual and Performing Arts Department. For information go to www.lake.k12.fl.us to fill out an application and email a copy of your resume to FATE member Kathleen Yemm at yemm@lake.k12.fl.us Do it as soon as possible, since this announcement reached us June 9th.

Foundation Offers Fellowships For Teachers at Arts Schools

The Surdna Foundation announces the sixth year of its Arts Teachers Fellowship program.

Twenty awards of \$5,000 each are given to teachers at arts schools, with an additional \$1,500 going to each school. All permanently assigned arts faculty in specialized, public arts high schools are eligible. Applicants must have been teaching arts in high school for a minimum of five years, and plan to continue as an arts teacher in 2005-2006.

FATE member **Paul Hughes** from Harrison School for the Arts was a fellowship recipient last year.

For information, go to the Surdna Foundation web site.

Stage Directions Magazine Sponsors NYC Conference

There is still time to sign up for the 2005 Stage Directions Magazine's Summer Conference scheduled for the New York Hilton August 7th and 8th. Keynote speakers are Tony winning costume/set designer Tony Walton and projection designer Wendall Harrington.

Go to www.stage-directions.com for more information and a complete list of sessions and instructors.

Congratulations to ...

FATE Executive Committee Member **Sarah Bennett**, who was recently named a "Woman of Accomplishment in the Arts" for the Glades area of Palm Beach County. This is the third year for the Woman of Accomplishment program.

Sarah has been the Theatre Arts Director of Glades Central for 35 years, and she and her husband **Robert** are the Thespian sponsors at the school. She has also been the director of the Black Gold Jubilee community play for five years, and has helped compile and form into scripts the stories from many of the pioneers of the Glades area.

In addition to her theatre work, Sarah is also a member of the Glades Art League, and has had many of her oil paintings displayed in the Glades area.

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Producing Artistic Director **Matt Macdermid** and the Unified High School Theatre Project. UHSTP was named as the May customer showcase winner for Music theatre International.

The organization also announced its challenging new season, including *The Laramie Project* and *Cabaret*. Their season opens with a remounting of *The Spitfire Grill*, with **Jonnette DeMarsico** as guest artist.

ACE Seeks Stories, Photos for Web

Beverly Blanchette asked everyone for success stories she can pass on to ACE for their web site. Please send yours today. If you can send photos (electronically) that have been appropriately released for publication, ACE will add them to their growing file of "1000-word pictures." School, district, and show names, along with teacher/principal names would be great for the photos, and give credit where credit is due. Materials may also be sent electronically to Linda Lovins, ACE/FAAE Program Director (linda@faae.org).

FATE RESOURCE FILE

FATE is compiling a resource file for the benefit of its members. Please take time to submit your resource of information to share with other members.

After filling out the following information and forms, please submit them by email to Sarah Bennett, DivaDirector1@aol.com or mail them to her at 964 Linda Road, Belle Glade, Fl 33430 by Sept. 1.

Thank you for your time and willingness to share your knowledge and expertise.

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

FAX: _____

Thespian District: _____ Troupe: _____

Your Talent Resource you are willing to share with others:

Material Resources you know of or are willing to share with others:

Title of Lesson _____

Course That Lesson might be used for: _____

Theatre Skill or Objective _____

Duration of Lesson _____

FCAT Reading Standards:

- Author's Purpose
- Reference and Research
- Main Idea
- Words and Phrases
- Compare and Contrast

FCAT Math Standards:

- Measurement
- Data Analysis
- Number Sense
- Geometry
- Algebraic Thinking

LEP Strategies

- Cooperative Learning Groups
- Activate Prior Knowledge
- Alternative Assessments

- Individualized Instruction
- Modification of Text
- Use of Visuals
- Graphic Organizaers

THEATRE STANDARDS AND SKILLS:

RESOURCES:

MATERIALS:

OBJECTIVE:

ACTIVITIES:

ASSESSMENTS:

Teacher name _____

School _____

Email: _____

ATTACH COPIES OF WORKSHEETS, TESTS, OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL.

