



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005

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NAPAT TO INAUGURATE CLASSICAL ACTING AWARD AT KCACTF REGIONAL FESTIVALS

Beginning with the 2006 KCACTF Regional Festival season NAPAT will offer a \$250 award for Classical Acting at each of the eight Regional Festivals. Mirroring the Classical Acting Award currently given at the National Festival during the Irene Ryan Evening of Scenes (see separate story on page 3), this award, to be presented to an Irene Ryan finalist, has been created to foster the finest in classical acting. The National Partners American Theatre believe that the best acting stems from a classical base. For this award, classical selections are defined as dramatic material written before the 20th century.

Recognizing that some Regions may already have a classical award in place, NAPAT has agreed that in these cases the \$250 alternatively may be awarded for excellence in Design or Musical Theatre. Such alternative awards will be determined at the discretion of the Regional Chair and in consultation with the NAPAT Regional Representative.

In addition to the cash award, recipients will receive a NAPAT Medallion, and the student's coach or instructor will be presented with a Certificate of Recognition. It is anticipated that these awards will be presented by the NAPAT Regional Representative at the appropriate awards ceremony.

THE NATIONAL PARTNERS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FROM THE KCACTF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

At its April meeting in Washington D.C., the NAPAT Board unanimously adopted a policy that beginning this year a complimentary twelve-month membership in this organization would be extended to all outgoing members of the KCACTF National and Regional Committees. A complimentary membership also will be extended to Kennedy Center Medallion awardees. These memberships commenced following the National Festival.

Although the names of these new members are still being collected as this Newsletter goes to press, The Partners welcome:

**Anita DuPratt, Jay Edelnant,
Lauren Friesen, and Jim Wren.**

SUPPORTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF THEATRE ARTISTS

KAY COUGHENOUR REMEMBERED AT NAPAT FESTIVAL IN WASHINGTON

Kay Coughenour of Texas A&M Commerce, a long time friend and supporter of KCACTF and NAPAT, passed away last December and NAPAT took the occasion of its Second Annual Festival to remember and honor him. This year the NAPAT Classical Acting Award presented at the Irene Ryan Evening of Scenes was given in Kay's memory. In addition, at the Partner's Brunch on April 23 a Resolution was adopted and presented by the Board in Kay's honor. (See [Resolution](#) on pg. 3) Partner's Chair Jeff Koep also authored and read the following reflections:

"The National Partners American Theatre are proud to honor and recognize Dr. Kay Coughenour . . . Kay Coughenour was the epitome of what an educator should be. Proud of his students, he was always demanding. And as demanding as he was of his students, he was always compassionate. Kay understood that it takes many persons to educate and train a student. When he had given fully of himself, he was always the first to seek input of others who might assist his students in their journey.

"Of the many ways Kay chose to educate his students, the one he was most proud of, the educational tool he supported most fully was the American College Theatre Festival, now KCACTF. Kay realized that students need exposure to quality professionals, quality work, and experience beyond the home institution. To that end Kay worked tirelessly to make sure his students at East Texas State University, now Texas A&M University-Commerce, were fully involved in KCACTF. For this to happen, Kay worked countless hours to serve KCACTF. He served as Regional Design Chair twice. He served as Texas State Chair twice. He served on the Region VI KCACTF Executive Committee for many years. He had the honor of having a production invited to the National Festival in Washington, D.C.

"Most of all, however, we remember Kay for the great Texas Festivals he hosted. At least a dozen times he, and his wife Jo, hosted Festivals at Texas A&M University - Commerce. Kay oversaw every detail while Jo made sure the Director's Forum enjoyed excellent meals as they discussed the productions. While Kay labored to ensure that all attending had a great time educationally and in terms of entertainment, Jo often hosted the Regional Committee to dinner at the Coughenours'.

"A few years ago, Kay was diagnosed with lung cancer. True to form, a short time after surgery and having a lung removed, Kay was hosting a Festival while undergoing chemotherapy the very week of the Festival. He attended every production and, in his own inimitable fashion, made sure the Festival was running smoothly with Focus On The Students! In Summer, 2004, cancer returned to Kay. In September he spent a good deal of time in the hospital. However, late October, 2004 saw Kay hosting a Festival in Commerce, albeit from his bed, in his home. Kay demanded a report every day from the Regional Chair, the Guest Respondent, and all involved. It proved, unfortunately, Kay's last Festival as he succumbed in December, 2004."

The Resolution and these Reflections will be framed and given Kay's widow Jo.

It was Kay's wish that memorials in his name be given to the National Partners. To date NAPAT has received over \$1375. in Kay Coughenour's name from the following individuals and institutions: ACTF Region VI, Robert Buseick, Gerald Duchovnay, Danny and Janet Duncan, David Andrew Gibbs, Buddy and Toni Harrott, Harvest House Publishers, Robert Houston, Frances A. Hyatt, Jeff and Julie Koep, Paul and Charlene Lenchner, Louis Margot III, Northeast Texas Chapter of International Wine and Food Society, R.K. and Martha Oltman, Courtney K. Roberts, Kathryn Robinson, William B. Vaill, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Wade, and John D. Walvoord.

KELLY HENTON OF DILLARD UNIVERSITY WINS NAPAT/LAMDA CLASSICAL ACTING AWARD

Kelly Henton, a senior Speech Communication and Theatre Arts major at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana was awarded the 2005 National Partners Classical Acting Award. This Award is made possible through charitable donations by present and past members of KCACTF National and Regional Committees as well as other friends of American theatre education; and it is co-sponsored by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), the renowned British drama school. Mr. Henton will receive full tuition for an intensive eight-week summer workshop in London, as well as housing, a meal allowance and round trip airfare. The award was presented at the end of the Irene Ryan Evening of Scenes by this year's Partner judges Kathryn Robinson, Jere Wade, and LAMDA representative Gina Napoli.

Kelly Henton is a three-time Irene Ryan nominee. He received this year's nomination for his performance in Regina Taylor's absurdist play, The Ties That Bind; and his classical presentation for the Irene Ryan scenes were Petruccio (The Taming of the Shrew) and Shylock (The Merchant of Venice.) At LAMDA he will receive courses in Voice, Movement, Singing, Historic Dance, Stage Combat, Alexander, and Textual Analysis. The experience will also include a visit to the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford Upon Avon and London theatre performances.

NAPAT FESTIVAL AND SPRING BOARD MEETING

The Second Annual NAPAT Festival was held in Washington, D.C., April 22 & 23, 2005. The highlight of this event was the Annual Brunch. Twenty-five Partners and friends attended the Saturday brunch at Marshall's Bar & Grill. The Resolutions in honor of Kay Coughenour were presented, and the program featured of an oral history "retrospective" starring "old-hands": Carole Brandt, Jerry Crawford, Gredna Doty, Sam Smiley, Ron Willis, and Jack Wright. A rousing good time was enjoyed by all!

The NAPAT Board also met while in Washington and two of its actions are reflected in the lead articles of this Newsletter. Additional Board business included an announcement from Paul Hustoles that the NAPAT website is now up and running at www.NAPAT.net. Check it out for NAPAT news, Board minutes, etc.

Vice-Chair Joyce Cavarozzi was appointed Membership Chair for the organization, and Jere Wade will chair the Festival Committee for the April 2006 gathering in Washington, D.C.

The Board will hold its Fall meeting in Harrisburg, PA, hosted by Kathryn Robinson of Pennsylvania State Capitol College. Please note: NAPAT funds are not used to support Board meetings.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Kay Coughenour served an exemplary professional life in educational theatre; and WHEREAS, his students, faculty, and friends are better theatre practitioners, artists, and colleagues because of knowing him; and WHEREAS, he served the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and the National Partners of the American Theatre and their memberships through friendship, laughter, and charm; and WHEREAS, his passing makes us take special pause to consider the fulfilled life of a friend,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the National Partners, his professional family presents reflections of his life and bestows upon him the posthumous title Emeritus Partner of American Theatre; and extend to his wife, Jo, recognition for his contributions to the youth of the American theatre, The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and to the National Partners of the American Theatre in particular; and express our sincerest sympathy for the loss of a gem of a man who served the educational theatre process so faithfully and honorably.

ADOPTED by the Board of the National Partners of the American Theatre this 23rd day of April in 2005 A.D.

2005 MEMBERSHIP/PLEDGE FORM

NAPAT Contributions/Membership Dues
are sought ANNUALLY ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS.
(These donations are tax-deductible.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution (please check one below):

National Partner: \$100___\$150___\$200___\$250___
\$500 or more_____

Associate Partner: \$99____\$75____\$50____\$35____

Make checks payable to National Partners American Theatre

Send to: **Donn Finn, Treasurer**
1807 Courtney Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046

2005 NAPAT Donor/Members - (Through April)

This list does not include donations given in Kay Coughenour's name
(See related article, pg. 2.)

Full Partners

Buseick, Robert	Cavarozzi, Joyce	Conaway, Lin	Doolen, Kevin
Dewey, Evelyn	Finn, Donn	Fletcher, Winona	Hustoles, Paul
Gibbs, Andy	Greer, Jim	Kauffman, Robert	Koep, Jeff
Marley, Harlene	Oosting, Tom	Orlock, John	Perry, Elaine
Robbins, Kenneth	Robinson, Kathryn	Schwartz, Bonnie	Shawger, David
Sloan, Roberta	Speers, Susan	Tammi, John	Watson, Jack
Wade, Jere	Young, David	Zivanovich, Judith	

Associate Partners

Brandt, Carol	Devine, Larry	Hutchinson, William	Kelso, Susan
Nichols, Richard	Sawyer, Raymond		

WON'T YOU CONSIDER JOINING NAPAT TODAY?

NAPAT BOARD

Jeff Koep - Chair
 Joyce Cavarozzi - Vice-Chair
 Donn Finn - Treasurer
 Jere Wade - Secretary
 Elaine Foster Perry - Past Chair

Regional Representatives:

Wil Kilroy - I
 Robert Kauffman - II
 Lin Conaway - III
 Mark Charney - IV
 Paul Hustoles - V
 Andy Gibbs - VI
 Ginny Quinley - VII
 Harlene Marley - VIII

Distinguished Life Members:

Kathryn Robinson
 Bonnie Nelson Schwartz
 Sam Smiley
 David Young

KC/ACTF Liaison

Jay Edelnant

Kennedy Center Liaison:

Susan Shaffer

* * * * *

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