



Dear TAIG,

As one of the reunion co-chairs, the reunion in April reminded me of putting on a show. I feel like Kate and I were running around like chickens with our heads cut off, in the same way we did during tech week. Furthermore, it reminded me of a show because of how willing people were to help us with whatever we needed. Whether you helped us secure Broadway tickets or just ran to the front desk to get more pens for the auction sheets, your effort and willingness to lend a hand was so very much appreciated!



For this issue of The Encore we decided to focus on the financial state of the organization. We launched an endowment campaign at the reunion in April to help ensure the club's legacy for another 115 years. Fred gives an overview of the situation and the need for an endowment in our lead article. We round off our issue by recapping the reunion and bring

forth an older tradition of a Thespian Key.

I hope this issue reminds you of why you loved Thespians. Whether you graduated 50 years ago or merely 5 months, we all have that special memory of Thespians and it's our responsibility to make sure that we can continue this legacy.

Andrea Schwander ('10)
TAIG Newsletter Editor
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Thespians Launch Endowment Fund

In order to make certain that Thespians' colorful history of presenting musical shows for the enjoyment of students, alumni and townspeople continues, the Thespian Alumni Interest Group (TAIG) Board has launched an Endowment Fund drive aimed at raising enough financial support to enable the Penn State Thespian Club to fund its activities.

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to create a permanent fund that will earn enough money each year to cover the costs of producing our Thespian shows and sustain operations of the Club.

After extensive analysis of past budgets and expenditures, TAIG's Finance Committee with the Thespian Executive Board and Thespian Advisor has established a fund-raising goal of \$125,000 so that there will be enough interest earnings to cover these costs.

While working on creating a TAIG endowment, we learned that a

\$25,000 endowment funded by Bill McTurk's estate would soon be available. The current campaign was kicked-off during Thespians 115th Anniversary weekend this past spring. Since the kickoff, \$8,418 has been added to the existing endowment.

The Endowment, simply, is a tax-deductible account to which Thespians and friends can contribute to help provide financial stability to the Penn State Thespians. The value of this endowment is that it exists in perpetuity and only the annual investment return is spent for expenses. Any remaining income is added to the principal. This procedure ensures that the endowment will grow and continue to support its intended purpose for many years to come.

Costs to operate the Club and produce theatre shows continue to rise. While the Club has been self-supporting over the years through help from the University Park Allocation Committee, UPAC, expenses have increased substantially. Thus, operating the Club today is more challenging than ever before. Thespians must rely on alumni donations as a source of annual income through the TAIG Gift Fund. The funds in the TAIG Gift Fund are not enough to generate interest income to support Thespians however. The Endowment provides a longer-term solution and will be able to generate revenue.

TAIG's Board, after studying this issue for several years, has determined that this is the best way to assure that Thespians' tradition of presenting student-produced shows and enabling students to perform in musical productions will continue for years to come.

Giving to endowments is a wonderful way to create a legacy, recognize the donor, honor a friend or loved one, or assure the existence of an organization. Contributing to this endowment also assures the donor that his/her memory will be recognized for loyal support of Penn State Thespians.

Funds will be deposited in the William E McTurk Thespians Endowment for Excellence and will be acknowledged by Penn State.

A donor form is included in this issue of "The Encore." There are many options on how to structure your gift including monthly payments. Please remember to mark that your gift is for the McTurk Thespians Endowment; otherwise it will be credited to the TAIG Gift Fund. Contributors are recognized in this issue and will be added to the donors' list on our website.

We urge all Thespians, current and alumni, to support this fund-raising effort by making a major investment in the Thespian Endowment Fund. Donations at all levels are appreciated.

Fred Leuschner, '50
TAIG Board Member

What Actives and Alumni are saying about the Endowment

Fellow Thespians,

We welcome a new board member this year, Amanda Huckabee Ferlazzo (2004). Amanda has been active in TAIG over the past year by serving on the Finance Committee. Amanda takes Tom O'Leary's place on the board. We thank Tom for his service and contributions; he was instrumental in putting our web site together.

TAIG has been busy with reunion planning and starting an endowment to support Thespians in the years to come. Thespians have been busy with their charities, reunion activities and of course, putting on musical shows.

At the Reunion Board meeting, we learned that Schwab would be under the management of Student Affairs beginning July 1, 2013. This means there will be a change to event scheduling and fees. With this transition, more monies will become for building maintenance and upgrades. Thespians may even get to run the front of the house again using Thespian ushers and handling ticket sales. This is welcome news! It also presents an exciting challenge, as Thespians haven't managed the front of the house in over 10 years. I'm sure they'll rise to the occasion.

The creativity of the actives was on fine display at the banquet. Among the Silent Auction items were a quilt handmade by the actives, an AIDA set model display, a hardcover book of photography, *A Week in New York*, by Anne-Marie Pietersma, an AIDA set model display by Ben Sereda, and a charcoal drawing of *The Vigil* by Jessica Yeh. After dinner, we were treated to a short video by the actives about the Club today. My favorite part was the "Why I Love Thespians" segment. The video is available on our website in case you did not get to see it.



Over the summer, Thespians remained busy by presenting the Art Fest Cabaret on July 14. In what we hope will become an annual event, the Cabaret brought together actives and alumni to give us a great evening of song.

Thespians has changed a lot since my days as an active, but during my years on the TAIG board I've learned that Thespians is really still the same. It has retained its love of musical theater, its heart, its soul, its passion.

Please join the entire TAIG Board and show your support for Thespians, for current and future students, by making a donation to the Thespian Endowment Fund. Take a look at the Thespian Reunion video link on our web site. I bet you'll agree with at least one of the actives on why YOU love Thespians.

Guy Fissel, '77
TAIG President
Taig.president97@gmail.com

I'm writing to urge all of you to make a tax-deductible donation to the Thespian Endowment Fund described elsewhere in this issue.



What do you remember from your college days? We have FLEETING memories of classes, dorms, parties, sports events, friends, etc. However, if you've ever taken part in any Thespian production, those wonderful memories seem to last forever.

My Thespian memories span 44 years as a performer, accompanist, writer, producer/advisor, and as a member of the Thespians Advisory Board. I still hear from many of my former Thespian students from the '40s and '50s. What great memories they are. And, I'm still performing at age 89.

Now, our financial picture is worrisome. Won't you please help perpetuate Thespians legacy by participating in this very important fund drive?

For the Glory,
Ray Fortunato, '47, '52g
Honorary Chair of the Endowment Fund Campaign

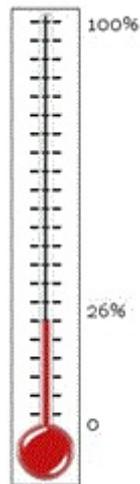


As Thespians, we strive to make the best show possible. We are students, many of us with majors far from theater. We all have other responsibilities across campus, from class to jobs. Yet, come each new semester, each tech week, we all pour our hearts and much more of our time into the shows we put on as Thespians.

I hope each of you reading this remembers that proud feeling you had seeing your sweat and tears come to life on stage in Schwab Auditorium. I am asking for your support to help continue this transformation from dreams to reality. To continue building our shows and sharing our talents with the community here in State College, we need to complete this endowment for the future of our club.

Your Friend in Thespiis,
Sean Meadows '13

The Thespian Endowment Fund Campaign
Ray T. Fortunato, Honorary Chair



CAMPAIGN STATUS
\$125,000 Goal

\$33,443
Raised as of August 31, 2012

Donors

Angel (\$25,000+)
William E. McTurk

Producer (\$10,000 to \$24,999)
YOU could be first!

Stage Manager (\$5,000 to \$10,000)
YOU could be first!

Director (\$1,000 to \$4,999)
Guy Fissel (1977)
Eric (1976, 1983g) & Toni (1978)
Minford
Fred Leuschner (1950, 1951g)
Ruth Yeaton (1953, 1959g)

Maestro (\$500 to \$999)
Anne M. Giedlinski (1967)
Roland & Linda Kankey
-In Memory of Andy Kankey
(2005g, 2008g)

Designer (\$100 to \$499)
Susan Berlin (1978)
Nan B. Clingman (1975)
Darren (2001) & Amanda
Huckabee Ferlazzo (2004)
Nancy Graham Leuschner (1953)
-In Memory of Marilyn Minor
Hass
Tom O'Leary (2008)
Stacy Reck (1988)
Vince Roscioli (2009) & Kate
Proulx (2010)
Luanne Russell (1963)
Bill (2001) & Tia (2000) Schwab
Kevin Warner (1988)

Rising Star (\$1 to \$99)
Eliza Altenderfer (2012)
Lauren Fitzroy (2008)
Authur L'Esperance (1971)
Sean Meadows (expected 2013)
Rosemary Newnham (1992)
Andrea Schwander (2010)
Nick Semon (2007)
Evan Smith (2011)

TAIG 115th Anniversary/200th Show Reunion Recap

State to celebrate the 115th Anniversary of the club and Thespians' 200th mainstage show. Both actives and alumni worked as part of the reunion committee to plan the weekend.

It started with a late-night reception in Schwab planned by the actives, that allowed Thespians to remember the past and celebrate the present. The actives and alumni were challenged in a rousing game of Thespian trivia, tours of Schwab were given, and it wouldn't be a Thespian event without some karaoke! It was a wonderful night that allowed everyone to catch up with friends they had not seen in years and to make new friends.



The main event was Saturday night. Highlights included the silent auction, where over \$1,700 was raised to kick off the Endowment drive. The most popular items were photographs of Schwab taken by an active and a quilt of show-shirts sewn by actives. After a delicious dinner, a door prize was given out for earliest graduate (Fred Leuschner, 1950), as were awards for Service to Thespians (Jerry Henry, 1991 and Bill Schwab, 2001), and for Contributions to the Performing Arts (Robby Lehman, 1978). Joshua Beblo (2005, 2008g) gave a speech bestowing the McTurk Award on Andy Kankey (2005g, 2008g).



After the dinner, we headed to Schwab to see the actives' production of AIDA. The show was wonderful! It had incredible singers, a ton of costumes, and a set that slid and flipped around to show the different locations. Throughout the weekend it was apparent that both alumni and actives had a great time!

Keep an eye out for information about our next reunion, scheduled for 2017!

Kate Proulx '10
2012 Reunion Co-chair

Click here to see the [Thespian Reunion Video](#)

Many thanks to all those that helped make/procure donations for the silent auction including:

Eliza Altenderfer
Kaitlin Boland
Amanda Huckabee Ferlazzo

Guy Fissel
 Jerry Henry
 Tammi Hurrelbrink
 George Inglis
 Pat Kelly
 Amanda Lippert
 Sean Meadows
 Anne-Marie Pietersma
 Luanne Russell
 Bill Schwab
 Ben Serada
 Evan Smith
 Ravender Virk
 Jessica Yeh

Thespian Key Sales

Another way to support the endowment is to buy a Thespian Key! This key is a replica of the ones that used to be given out to each new Thespian member, according to Fred Leuschner (1950). Keys were worn on a gentleman's pocket watch fob in order to easily recognize other club brothers.

Our new Thespian Key is our long-time logo in gold and is 15/16" in diameter. We have two styles: lapel pin or key ring. The Thespian medallion on the key ring can be detached and fastened to a charm bracelet, necklace or zipper pull.



Order your Thespian Key today by sending a check for \$19.50 (which includes \$4.50 for shipping) payable to TAIG to Vince Roscioli 8850-P Golden Oak Drive,

Manassas, VA 20109. Remember to let us know which style you would like and your shipping address. All proceeds go towards the endowment.

Kaitlin Boland	Matt Kaye	Luanne Russell
Nan Clingman	Tom O'Leary	Andrea Schwander
Guy Fissel	Kate Proulx	Ravender Virk
Kendall Ireland	Vince Roscioli	Ruth Yeaton

Get Involved: Regional TAIG Groups

Whether it was sewing costumes in the basement of Schwab, working through a difficult choreography rehearsal, or having lunch in the Thespian office, chances are, for many of us, we count our interactions with fellow Thespians as some of our fondest college memories. As time passed, many of the friendships we made during our time in

Thespians waned. TAIG would like to offer you an opportunity to re-forged those connections, while simultaneously making new ones.

We are in the process of forming regional TAIG groups. These groups are intended to provide an opportunity for Thespians in the same geographic location to meet on a regular basis for social activities, such as happy hours, family picnics, or attending a local theatre group's performance. Activities will be decided upon and organized by each group, depending on their interests. Groups will also be encouraged to conduct periodic fundraisers to help support the Thespian endowment.

To make these groups happen, we need your help. First, please make sure your [profile with the Penn State Alumni Association is up to date](#) and you have identified as a member of TAIG, especially your mailing address. We need this information to reach all Thespians in each region. Second, we are looking for volunteers to serve as group leaders, or co-leaders, to organize activities for Thespians in their regions. TAIG will support group leaders by providing assistance in organizing groups and will also host periodic conference calls for groups leaders to share ideas. Sound like something you might be interested in doing? For more information, or to volunteer as a group leader, please email Amanda Huckabee Ferlazzo (class of 2004) at taig.regionalgroups@gmail.com. Please be sure to indicate where you live so we know where groups are interested in forming.

If you're receiving this newsletter, Thespians likely played a big role in your Penn State experiences. Rather than fondly remember the "good ole days" let's move forward and start creating wonderful new Thespian memories!

News from the Actives

Recruitment Update

The Thespians are off to a great start this year with garnering memberships as we collected over 250 signatures at the Involvement Fair and had over 100 in attendance at the first General Interest Meeting. As always the Thespian tradition lives on!

THON Update

Thespians' new THON committee is extremely excited for the 2012-2013 season! The Head Chair is Becca Koenigsberg, the Treasurer is Jon Saperstein, and the Family Relations Chair is Jess Goble. They are ready and determined to beat last year's amazing \$24,681.80 total and would love for alumni to help! There will be many fundraisers throughout the year to participate in, and they encourage all alumni to join them February 15-17th for THON 2013! Updates will be sent via our committee email regularly, and if there are any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to send an email to thespians4d@gmail.com. FTK!

TAIG Calendar

- *The Producers*
 - October 18, 19, & 20th, 2012
 - Schwab Auditorium
- TAIG Board Meeting
 - October 20, 2012, 11 a.m. EST
 - For details e-mail: taig,president97@gmail.com
- TAIG Pre-show Reception
 - October 20, 2012, 5-7 p.m.
 - Private room at Chili's (139 South Allen Street)
 - Appetizers will be available
- *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*
 - April 11, 12, & 13, 2013
 - Schwab Auditorium
- TAIG Board Meeting
 - April 13th, 11 a.m.
- TAIG Summer Meeting- July 13th

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