FOCUS Newsletter

Kaskaskia College Friends of the Fine Arts

Season of Entertainment 2009-2010
Guest Artist & Speaker Series

Saturday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.
Bill Miller
Bill Miller is an award-winning recording artist, performer, song writer, activist, painter and world-class accomplished flute player. A Mohican Indian from northern Wisconsin, Bill Miller has long been one of the most admired figures in the Native American music arena and beyond. His Grammy Award winning recording, Cedar Dream Songs, exemplifies his artistry by blending the Native American and western folk blues traditions into something wholly new.

Saturday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.
American English: The Complete Beatles Tribute
American English is simply the best Beatles tribute story of our time. At the inception of the band, they were voted “number one” by thousands of Beatles fans at Beatlefest contests. Covering all periods from the early years to Abbey Road, American English has shared the stage with musical headliners including the Neville Brothers, Three Dog Night, The Buckinghams, and many others. The fantasy lives on with these remarkable musicians who take the music to the highest level possible. American English is the closest you’ll ever get to reliving the Beatles. Whether you grew up with the Fab Four or not, this show will be your window to the past. Witness “The Complete Beatles Tribute” with American English.

Special Event on February 6: “All You Need is Love” Sweetheart Dinner
Join KC Chef Clarke Griffin and the KC Culinaires as they prepare a special Valentines dinner for you and your special someone. It will be a complete meal of taste treats topped off with wonderful chocolate dessert creation. This pre-performance event will be held in the Lifelong Learning Center and requires a separate advance ticket.

Friday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago
Muntu Dance Theater is a Chicago-based company that performs authentic and progressive interpretations of contemporary and ancient African and African-American dance music and folklore. A colorful and invigorating professional company, Muntu has brought its audiences in the aisles with its unique synthesis of dance, rhythm and song. The Company has received enthusiastic and critical acclaim for performances that are brightly costumed, athletically performed and accompanied by a powerful six-man drum orchestra.

Three Additional Events to be Announced...
Meet Professor Brandi Wilkins

Brandi Wilkins has been with Kaskaskia College since the fall semester of 2002. She began her teaching career as a graduate teaching assistant at Murray State University in 2001 where she taught public speaking and interpersonal communication. After obtaining her Master’s degree in 2002, Brandi started teaching speech courses for both KC and Rend Lake College as an adjunct faculty member. In the fall of 2004, she started as Assistant Professor of Speech and Journalism here at KC. Brandi is currently the Humanities Department Chair as well as faculty advisor for the speech team and the Scroll student newspaper. She also works with the Friends of the Fine Arts organization. She resides in Breese, Illinois with her husband, who is also a faculty member at KC.

Professor Cliff Jourdan and Instrumental Music Students Visit Chicago

Thanks to the generous donations from the Kaskaskia College Friends of the Fine Arts Enrichment Grant as well as Student Activity funding, Cliff Jourdan and nine instrumental music students traveled via train to Chicago. While in Chicago, the students attended a performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra featuring pieces by Haydn and Mozart. In addition, the students visited the Shedd Aquarium, Navy Pier and the House of Blues. Pictured right L-R- Front row: Chelsea Keene, Eva Potter, Middle row: Matt Filer, Eric Galindo, Matt Fitzgerald, Justin Laux, Zach Anderson, Nick Snider, Back row: Prof. Cliff Jourdan and David Pochek.

CALLING ALL FRIENDS

Membership in the Kaskaskia College Friends of the Fine Arts has now reached 171 members. Our goal is 225 members. The only towns where we have double digit membership totals are Centralia, Salem and Carlyle. Please give us your help in expanding memberships in other communities served by Kaskaskia College. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Boatright at (618) 545-3036 or Heather Jourdan at (618) 545-3026.

ALL FRIENDS INVITED

The annual meeting of the Kaskaskia College Friends of the Fine Arts will be held Friday, September 18, 2009 in the Lifelong Learning Center. A social hour with refreshments will begin at 6:00 p.m. Scholarship winners will be honored and the Fine Arts departments will report on their use of the Enrichment Grants provided by the Friends. Those planning to attend are asked to call Heather Jourdan at (618) 545-3026 to RSVP.
In May, David Quinn and members of the Theatre Guild attended a performance of *A Chorus Line* at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St Louis. This trip was also financed by KCFFA Enrichment Grant funds. Pictured L-R: Mollie Reaney, Spencer Hente, Alex Williams and Caleb Howe.

We are extremely proud of the growth and development of the Fine and Performing Arts programs at the College. We have just completed a very successful 2008-2009 Academic Year and I want to thank our Fine and Performing Arts Department Chair and Music Professor Cliff Jourdan, and the Arts and Sciences Division Dean Kellie Henegar and all of the faculty and staff for a superb year. It was an exciting year of expanded programs and the dedication of the Dee and Sue Boswell Art Gallery, Jerome and Mildred Rakers Clock tower, and the Educational Classrooms in the new Lifelong Learning Center. The wonderful Music concerts, Theatre plays, Visual Arts exhibits, Speech contests, Scroll publications, and “Season of Entertainment” performances have brought much enjoyment to the patrons and tremendous learning and growth experiences for our students. Expanding our Music programs with concerts off-campus in collaboration with area high schools, has been tremendously successful. Also, performing children plays for elementary students has also been appreciated and received very well. Additionally, hosting Speech contests and Scholar Bowl competitions for area high school students has been very rewarding and successful. Further, the exhibits of student, faculty, and guest artwork have been expanded for the enjoyment and enhanced educational experiences. I want to also recognize all the staff behind the scenes for contributing to the success of the Fine and Performing Arts at KC. As to the future, with the continued assistance and support of the Friends of the Fine Arts, we are looking forward to another exciting and productive 2009-10 Academic Year.

In this article, I want to also pay a special tribute to Evelyn Stover a long time colleague, supporter, and friend of KC who has decided to retire. Her employment at KC started back in 1967 and for the past 42 years, she has and continues to be an inspiration to everyone. Ev has been serving as the College Director of Volunteerism, the Americorp, and she fulfills many other functions in support and service to the College and the Arts. We are encouraging her to stay connected to the College as she is a friend and will always be part of KC. We are encouraging her to stay connected to the College as she is a friend and will always be a part of KC. We were proud to recognize her at the recent 2009 KC Commencement Ceremony with an Honorary Associate of Arts Degree.

We are very open to new ideas and suggestions for improving our programs. Please share with us your comments. Thanks for your support, encouragement and participation. I want to wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer.

Dr. Jim Underwood
President
Be A Friend  Support the Kaskaskia College
Friends of the Fine Arts

Around the District
Clinton County Showcase 2009-2010 Summer Youth Musical
Alice in Wonderland Jr.
Director: Lori Wahl
Location: North side Park - 10th & Walnut Breese, Illinois
Performance Dates: July 9, 10, 11,12, 2009
(Rain Date: July 13th)
Show Time 8:00 PM
Join Alice's madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the White Rabbit, races the Dodo Bird, gets
tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble-blowing Caterpillar, and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own
game! Roles are plentiful, including three Cheshire Cats and dozens of other wonderfully wacky characters.
This fast-paced stage adaptation of Alice in Wonderland features updated dialogue and new arrangements of
such classic Disney songs as "I'm Late," "The Un-birthday Song" and "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah."

Salem Community Theater and Cultural Center
119 S Broadway
Salem, IL 62881

Upcoming Summer Performances:
Missoula Children’s Theater: The Little Mermaid
July 6-11, 2009

Seussian Jr.
August 7-16