



On behalf of Gail Humphries, Dean

May 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings and salutations! It is nearly summer and we are finally moving out from under the restraints of the pandemic. **It is my pleasure to announce that we have our dates established for our face-to-face annual meeting for 2022. Please mark your calendar for April 23 and 24, 2022!** There are new components and locations for our gathering in Washington, D.C., while we also preserve and honor the outstanding tradition of the College of Fellows.

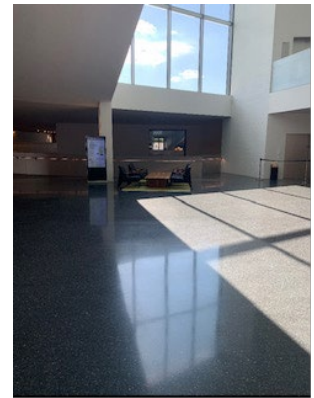
On Saturday, April 23, 2022, we will meet from 2-4 PM at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for Dynamic Dialogues-discussions related to pertinent theatre issues. Facilitators Dean Emeriti Dan Carter and Karen Berman will lead two different groups discussing relevant theatre topics. This is a new addition to our weekend agenda allowing for substantive dialogue and engaging conversation between new and current Fellows. We will meet in two different rooms in the new facility at the Kennedy Center-The Reach (PT109 and the Skylight Room). A Board member will scribe each meeting and we will have what I believe will be an interesting article for the subsequent issue of The Gazette.

Our Saturday evening event is at the National Press Club in the Holeman Lounge from 6:00-9 PM. The Cosmos Club, our normal gathering spot, is not available that evening. It is hard to believe that it is booked that far in advance, but that is the case. The National Press Club is an exceptional venue which you can view on the website (or take a virtual tour) press.org. Our Saturday evening will be an informal event that provides an opportunity, as always, for current Fellows to catch up and network with one another and also provides us with the opportunity to introduce the new Fellows to current members in a cocktail reception and lighthearted introduction by their nominators. This evening also includes the opportunity for the new Fellows to sign the formal book for the College. We will have Fellows signing from 2020, 2021 and 2022, so that we can include everyone invested currently and during the pandemic. The evening will be unprecedented in many ways, but this year has certainly surpassed any precedent.



Our business meeting will occur at The Reach in Room PT109 (<https://www.kennedy-center.org/reach/>) from 10-11 AM on Sunday morning, April 24, with a short informal coffee beforehand starting at 9:30 AM. After that time, everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy the various spaces of The Reach and then we will convene in The Skylight Room for our investiture luncheon from noon-3 PM. The investiture luncheon will include the Roger L. Stevens address as well as the presentation of citations and the investiture of the new Fellows for 2022.

More details and your formal invitation will follow in the months to come, but I hope that you enjoyed this Sneak Preview.



Now, to special thanks. Planning and implementing the Zoom webinar was quite an accomplishment because of the exceptional team of individuals involved in so many aspects. If you saw the long list of thank yous on the Zoom Webinar scroll, you can readily understand that it took a comprehensive team effort to realize the meeting. I am particularly grateful to Paula Marchiel and Ed Baker of The Seven Devils Theatre Organization (our production team), Jesse Leong (our video editor), Brenda Brody (our ex-officio consultant), the Kennedy Center Team (Gregg Henry, Laura Krause, Bekah Wachenfeld) and the Fellows webinar team who worked so hard to make this happen (Karen Berman, Dan Carter, David Leong, Brant Pope and Randy Reinholz). A special shout out to all of the Board members who gave so generously of their time and talent and to each of you for joining us for that special 2 hours on April 18, 2021. A reminder that you can watch the entire meeting on our website under the Members Only section and that you can also access Kathleen F. Conlin's inspiring Roger L. Stevens address via the website.

Kudos also to the magnificent donors who afford us the opportunity to pay it forward! Thank you, Karen Berman, Charlene Gordon, Bonnie Nelson Schwartz, Thomas Schumacher, and Jeffrey Sine. The scholarships for 2020 and 2021 were recently awarded via live stream and video through The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). Gregg Henry, the KCACTF Artistic Director, has been a formidable force through all of the challenges of the pandemic and we are deeply grateful for his many yeoman efforts. Photos and biographies of the scholarship recipients will be posted on the website soon and featured in the next issue of The Gazette. I also look back with great fondness at the inspirational vocal provided by Michael J. Scott at the onset of the Zoom webinar. It seemed quite fitting to begin our meeting with a consummate artist spreading light and laughter through song.

My deep gratitude to our Lifetime Benefactors and to our sponsors for the Zoom webinar. As we move forward in the upcoming months, I am reminded of a quotation from JFK that seems pertinent...

THE FUTURE IS NOT A GIFT. IT IS AN ACHIEVEMENT.

I do believe that we are on the right track with a terrific momentum for 2022!

All the best,

Gail H