

Drama professor added to faculty permanently

Katz hailed as dramatic expert

BY ANDREW CHAN
STAFF WRITER

In the face of growing problems with faculty retention, one University department has managed to attract new blood.

Leon Katz was named the David G. Frey distinguished professor this semester, after serving as a visiting professor in the fall.

A teacher and playwright, Katz is a prominent figure in American theater and an expert on drama as both literature and stage practice.

"He's one of the great dramatists in the world and an expert at scene structure," said professor David Hammond, artistic director of the PlayMakers Repertory Company.

"He probably knows every play ever written and knows them intimately."

One of Katz's most acclaimed plays, "The Three Cuckolds," is a farce based on a 16th-century Italian comedy. The work has been performed in more than 400 productions.

In his first semester as a distinguished professor, Katz is teaching theater history and literature and

"Studies in Dramatic Theory and Criticism."

He also is a contributor for the PlayMakers production of George Bernard Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra," which is being directed by Hammond and will premier April 6.

Katz's career as a professor was celebrated last year when he won the Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Teaching from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

He earned his doctorate degree in English and comparative literature from Columbia University and previously taught at Carnegie Mellon University, the Yale University School of Drama and the University of California-Los Angeles.

Among his many books are the recently published four volumes of "Classical Monologues: From Aeschylus to Bernard Shaw."

His current projects include a play analysis textbook and an anthology of critical essays.

The professorship was created by a \$500,000 endowment from David G. Frey, who also has funded positions in the art and music departments. The professorship includes a \$167,000 match from the N.C. Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. It is part



Professor Leon Katz will teach theater history and literature during the next semester.

of the Carolina First campaign, UNC's \$1.8 billion private fund-raising effort.

Hammond was on the committee in charge of the search to fill the new professorship.

"There were hundreds of applicants, and we culled them down to a list and did a series of interviews," he said.

In a highly competitive market, endowments such as Frey's are important for maintaining the quality of UNC's faculty, Del Helton, director of communications and donor relations, wrote in an e-mail.

"Private funds, such as the David G. Frey Distinguished Professorship in Dramatic Art, allow the College of Arts and Sciences to counter lucrative offers of salary support, research grants and travel support to pursue research and more."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Professionals to receive help

BY JENNIFER FAIR
STAFF WRITER

Young business professionals in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area can look forward to a new way to learn about local business opportunities.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce Young Professional Network will host its inaugural meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 24, at Off Franklin Bar & Grill at 108 Henderson St.

"(The network will) come together on a monthly basis to network and talk about topics of interest to young professionals: building relationships, finance, buying their first home," said Aaron Nelson, the chamber's executive director.

"It's a support network as well as a rocket launcher," he said. "We're hoping to (propel) people forward."

The chamber characterizes young professionals as people under the age of 40 who work for a chamber member.

Goals of the network include

helping young professionals develop new business skills, helping them build network access to potential clients and customers, and positioning the area as an attractive destination for young entrepreneurs, Nelson said.

"Hopefully, getting these people together, we can spin off another program in the community," said Jason Austell, marketing director for AXA Advisors LLC. "Just something to get them involved."

"We want to make a difference."

AXA Advisors, a financial advising firm that has a regional branch in Raleigh, is sponsoring the network for the first year.

"We felt like it was a good opportunity to get our name out in Chapel Hill," Austell said. "We want to help host events, have input and create buzz about (the network)."

The firm's Chapel Hill office employs about 10 employees, some of whom meet the criteria for network members.

"(The network) gives them an opportunity to see what else is out there," Austell said. "You've got all

types, and this is a good opportunity for them."

The first meeting will not have a guest speaker and will instead be more of a networking event, said Tracey Hager, the network's coordinator.

But beginning in April, the meetings will host a guest speaker and still allow time for socializing among members.

The group will hold its meetings at various bars and restaurants in the area that are members of the chamber.

"We'll be shifting around town," Nelson said.

The idea for the program came from young professionals in the chamber who mentioned that they would like an opportunity to get to know like-minded professionals and learn about topics that interest them, Nelson said.

Ninety percent of the chamber's 950 members employ fewer than 10 people, many of whom are young professionals, he added.

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LECTURE

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evening. "The ceremony was beautiful," she said. "The whole thing was just really nicely done."

The lecture was sponsored by the Department of History in collaboration with 10 other University units.

Berry, Geraldine Segal distinguished professor of social thought and a history professor at the University of Pennsylvania, is heralded for making and writing history.

Recognized for her advocacy, Berry holds a law degree and was the first black woman to serve as the chief educational officer in the

Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Berry also was a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1980 to 2004, serving as its first chairwoman from 1993 to 2004, and co-founder of the Free South Africa Movement. She also has written several books and holds 32 honorary degrees.

Ferris reiterated the importance of keeping stories like House's alive.

"These are the stories of people that ... are the heartbeat of our nation's culture. They help us to rediscover America."

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SBP

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said. The group interviewed students, student leaders and administrators to validate the promises' possibility.

"I'm the first to admit I'm an optimist," Dearmin said. "But everything that is on the platform is feasible."

Students will measure the strength of Dearmin and Ballard's platforms during Tuesday's runoff election.

Though Ballard trailed by 887 votes in the general election, he said he is confident that he can make up the difference to win.

He said he does not anticipate making changes to his platform and instead will try to gain votes by appealing directly to students.

"I hope to make up that route by personal contact," he said. "Now I want to reach out students."

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PRECINCTS

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linked to an online voter registration database to allow officials to check voter eligibility and ensure that no one votes more than once.

And success in Orange County might spur the General Assembly to create super precincts statewide.

Kinnaird claims super precincts might end problems with provisional ballots. Under current state law, voters who show up at the wrong precinct and those whose names aren't on the list of eligible voters can request a provisional ballot.

Last week, the N.C. Supreme Court ruled that provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct during the last election cycle cannot be counted — a move that could alter the outcome of the race for superintendent of public instruction.

Johnnie McLean, SBOE deputy

director of administration, said super precincts would simplify the process, reducing the number of employees and machines the board needs.

Rep. John Blust, R-Guilford, said super precincts could complicate voting and extend the time it takes to count ballots. "It will create chaotic conditions on Election Day. ... It's an invitation to fraud," he said.

But former student body president Matt Tepper, who introduced the single-precinct plan, stressed that Kinnaird's plan could increase youth voter turnout — something officials from the student level up stressed during the fall elections.

"The ultimate goal is to make it easier for students," he said.

Staff writer Carly Triche contributed to this article. Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

TUITION

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for students who apply on time.

"I sincerely believe, ladies and gentlemen, that UNC-Chapel Hill is a more affordable and more accessible university than it was four years ago," Moerer said.

Just before the committee's meeting, Gov. Mike Easley released a strong statement in support of Wilson's position, applauding his call for a freeze on in-state tuition hikes.

"The system, and its campuses, cannot maintain the goodwill of the people while raising tuition year after year without a long-term plan in place," Easley wrote in a letter addressed to Wilson.

The committee listened diligently as the campuses made impassioned requests, but members said more funding should ultimately be provided by the General Assembly.

"We now have these cases to go to (the legislature) and say, 'Please help us get at this need without going directly into the pocketbooks of the students,'" Wilson said.

The committee postponed decisions about student fees, out-of-state tuition and graduate tuition until its March meeting.

"I think the presentations we heard today make strong cases," said committee member Hannah Gage. "The question is, once again, do we put this on the backs of students?"

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BUSH

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"I believe candidates are rewarded, not punished, for taking on tough issues."

Although the war on terrorism dominated Bush's first term, he spoke only briefly about the spreading of democracy.

"Millions of Iraqi citizens said they will not be terrorized and went to the polls," he said. "Freedom is on the march."

Alongside Bush on stage were four North Carolinians who talked about situations in their life.

Andrew Biggs also accompanied Bush to the event. Biggs, a Social Security Administration analyst, took a needling from Bush.

"Andrew has a Ph.D., and I earned a C," Bush said. "Look who's working for who."

Biggs told the crowd, "You don't need a Ph.D. to understand this. He will get me back later."

A group of about 100 protesters holding signs that read "Hands off my Social Security" also welcomed Bush to Raleigh.

But audience members were vocal about their support.

Vitaly Zaruoba, 67, of New Bern, said he made the trip because he is worried about his children's Social Security. "I froze to death in line," he said. "I hope people are intelligent enough to listen to Bush's plan."

Another supporter, Lisa Shaeffer, 34, of Raleigh, wanted to see Bush up close. "I wanted to see the president live and in person," she said. "I think he is a great speaker."

Shaeffer agreed that Bush is in for a battle in convincing millions that his plan will work.

"It's a great idea, and he needs to talk about it more," she said. "He's going to have to rely on word of mouth."

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