

College of Arts and Sciences Foundation Profile

Department of Theater

I. General Description

As stated in its mission statement, the dynamic Department of Theater creates an environment for students that is “serious, focused, collaborative, risk-taking and nurturing.” In addition, it accomplishes this with six faculty and three staff persons who often work twelve-hour days, sometimes seven days a week to deliver an ambitious number of courses and productions. Serving over 80 majors and minors as well as the general student population through Foundational Studies courses, the department is devoted to a liberal arts approach to theater education. As famous set designer, Ming Cho Lee once said of the liberal arts: “You train the person, I’ll train the designer.” While a good portion of the curriculum is dedicated to hands-on applications, an equally important part is the study of history, analysis, literature and theory.

II. Points of Pride

- The largest amount of pride is in the faculty and their individual accomplishments both in the department and outside of the University. Because they are active both creatively and scholarly, the students benefit with contacts in all areas of theater.
- We are proud of our ever changing curriculum and the work we do to keep it relevant to the students we are recruiting.
- We are proud of our students who for the most part demonstrate a love and understanding of the complexities of theater.
- We are proud of our Alumni, many of whom are generous donors to the department. Many past chairs and students have scholarships set up and our best and most active students with financial need are awarded upwards of \$7,000 each spring at the awards banquet.
- Successful participation and awards won by students at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 3.
- Our professional company, Crossroads Repertory Theater, and the opportunities it affords artists in the community, students, and the public. CRT consistently reaches out to underserved communities to introduce theater to an audience that might not experience it otherwise.

III. Vision

To educate students in all of the areas of theater within a liberal arts setting. This includes hands on approach that means students are expected to be actively involved in theater department productions and classes. We would like to see a higher level of dedication from the students and structure our curriculum to serve them in the best way possible within our means. Of course, our greatest vision would be to have a new theater space or at least major renovations to the ones we have. We are working on recruiting students at the top of their classes; however, we can barely accommodate the students we now have in the facilities we currently use. To expand our student population, we must expand our space.

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IV. Opportunities for Philanthropic Support

- *Opportunities for naming of spaces:* The theater space in the New Theater, the performance lab in the New Theater, the lobby in the New Theater, or a completely new theater.
*In Dreiser Hall: naming of seats so we could get nice theater seats, naming of the Dreiser Theater to finish renovations. \$500,000 - \$5,000,000.
*The Interdisciplinary Center for Technology and media in the Arts: to purchase necessary technology for media design and execution, replace existing theater lights with LED lights to conserve energy. \$50,000 - \$250,000
- *Endowed Faculty or Endowed Chair position:* An outstanding scholar and teacher in a specific discipline in theater (e.g., Acting, Directing, or Marketing). \$500,000.
- *Endowed Scholarships:* To cover tuition and fees for undergraduate students in theater so they can focus on their studies and not have to have a job. \$20,000 to name a scholarship.