



Alumni Bulletin

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Dear Alumni . . .

I am not certain if this counts as the absolutely last Bulletin, but I know for certain this is the last time I write to you as department Chair. "Finalmente," I am about to retire.

In the current economic climate those who insist that money is the only thing that counts find their self-worth as diminished as their net worth. They almost convinced me they were right, but as I approach retirement with less money in my pension, I still count myself wealthy, rich in memories of priceless experiences. I treasure most many of those I shared with students in this department. Einstein, a man of science, not art, wisely said, "Not everything that can be counted, counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." I count myself rich because I have, like the antler-wearing shamans of pre-history, donned fantastic garb and danced about the fire of the theatre's footlights to summon forth spirits.

How can the experience of the magic of live theatre not count?

Last Spring I designed animal costumes for a small Minnesota music festival project based on the Chester mystery play

"Noye's Fludde." I will never forget the spectacular parade up the church aisle of all those school children dressed as animals. It was not great art, just great magic, and I was thrilled to have a part in it. Recently I saw an artfully designed and directed production of *Suessical* staged by a Canfield, Ohio, middle school. The pride and energy emanating from those eighth-graders was contagious.

Perhaps no one can truly measure the value of a live performance, the value of the magic fire re-kindled regularly in school and community theaters all around because of very rich people like us who know how to summon the spirits. We cannot really quantify its value, but we know it counts.

I count as priceless the many moments I've spent with all of you and with the spirits of Chekhov, Ibsen and Goldoni hovering about the stage. I am absolutely certain that I would not trade the things I love for "a pack of gold." It is time to start act three. "Let's go on with the show." Farewell.

Keep the faith,

Phillip Graneto, Chair

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