



December 1, 2025

Dear Fellows,

Greetings from Colorado. I hope that this e-newsletter finds you active and in good health. As we approach the end of 2025, I want to thank you again for your continued support and wish each of you a glorious holiday season. Now, as we move toward the new year, there is much pressing business to transact on behalf of the College. Please read this e-newsletter closely as your participation/involvement is vital on a few important issues now before the membership.

**FELLOWS WEEKEND APRIL 11 – 12, 2026.**

Please know that your Board and I have been working hard to prepare an amazing weekend for you at the Curtis Hotel in Denver. As this will be our first meeting outside of the Kennedy Center, a few changes will be required. First and foremost, there will be one standard registration fee of \$250 for all current Fellows and any guests. Your registration fee is necessary to cover all the ancillary expenses related to the 61st Fellows Weekend. These expenses include multiple room room rentals, catering, A.V rentals, technical support, printing, photography, etc. As in past years, the registration fee will be waived for the inductees in the Class of 2026. However, any guests of the Class of 2026 who wish to attend any events will also be assessed the \$250 registration fee. Save the date as formal registration will begin in January.

**Fellows Weekend activities will include:**

Saturday April 11 – The Executive Board meeting, a Roundtable featuring Denver theatre professionals, a tour of Denver Center for the Performing Arts Complex, and a reception to introduce and celebrate the Class of 2026 prior to their investiture on Sunday.

Sunday April 12 – The Annual Business Meeting and our Investiture Luncheon, which will include a VERY SPECIAL Roger L. Stevens Address speaker, who I plan on announcing in early January.

Use the following link to book your rooms at the COF special rate:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/denchdt-fww-7dd5414f-e0d7-43f1-8a13-46a3371c3165/>

You can edit the length of your stay in the tabs provided. If you struggle with the link, Jaemy Nava will be happy to assist you. You can reach her at [jaemy.nava@thecurtis.com](mailto:jaemy.nava@thecurtis.com) or phone her at 720-889-4714.

**April 11–12  
2026**



**Curtis Hotel  
Denver, CO**

**A MILE HIGH CELEBRATION OF THEATRE**

**Registration Fee \$250.00 per Fellow and \$250.00 per each guest.  
All Fellows and guests, including the Class of 2026 are invited to  
participate in all events.**

**Fellows Weekend Events**

**Friday, April 10**

Fellows Arrive in Denver ~ Theatre Performances at DCPA (on your own)

**Saturday, April 11**

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM DCPA Facilities Tour and Q&A  
Denver Center for the Performing Arts

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch (on your own)

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM Roundtable discussion facilitated by Theatre Arts Journalist John Moore  
featuring leadership from the Denver metro area theatre companies.  
Location: Curtis Hotel

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Reception to introduce and celebrate the Fellows Class of 2026  
and invited Denver academic and theatre professionals.  
Location: Curtis Hotel

6:00 PM Dinner (on your own)  
Theatre Performances at DCPA (on your own)

**Sunday, April 12**

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM College of Fellows Business Meeting  
All Fellows including the Class of 2026 urged to attend.  
Location: Curtis Hotel

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM Investiture Luncheon  
Roger L. Stevens Address  
Location: Curtis Hotel

**Note: All conference events and times are subject to change!**



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A DEAN-ELECT

According to the Bylaws, The Board of Fellows will solicit nominations from the full membership for a new Dean/Dean-elect of the College sixteen months prior to the conclusion of the current Dean's term. This allows members to nominate or self-nominate candidates. It enables the Board to assemble a slate of prospective candidates to place before the membership and permits the membership to complete a confidential electronic voting process by twelve months prior to the conclusion of the current Dean's term. The Dean-elect serves as an ex officio member of the Board from the time of their election to the time of their appointment as Dean at the annual meeting. Requirements for nominations: Expressed permission from the nominee, their bio, and their written statement of service.

#### DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Submit Dean-Elect nomination materials to Kristy Simpson at: [ksimpsoncof@gmail.com](mailto:ksimpsoncof@gmail.com)

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

According to the Bylaws, The Board of Fellows shall solicit nominations from the Fellows of the corporation to fill each vacancy on the Board. The Board shall review the slate of nominees and contact prospective Board Members to request a statement of service for consideration by the membership during the voting process.

Following review by the Board, the names of the nominees, their bios, and their statements of service shall be placed before the members and the election shall be conducted by the members of the College of Fellows via virtual ballot to be circulated prior to the annual meeting. The terms of newly elected members of the Board will commence at the next annual meeting.

#### DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Submit Board nomination materials to Kristy Simpson at: [ksimpsoncof@gmail.com](mailto:ksimpsoncof@gmail.com)

### NEW FELLOWS NOMINATION PROCESS

March 1, 2026 will be the deadline for nominations from College of Fellows at large to be considered for the 2027 Class of Fellows. All current Fellows are encouraged to place in nomination those persons she/he/they believes are deserving of membership in the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. To access submission guidelines, or to download the blank Fellows Nomination Form, you must first log into our official website at: <https://www.thecollegeoffellows.org>. Next, click on MEMBERSHIP located at the top of the page. Then, click on MEMBERS AREA in the drop-down menu. Finally, enter the following password to gain full access: lorenwinship. Please do not share this password as it is confidential. Feel free to email Kristy Simpson at: [ksimpsoncof@gmail.com](mailto:ksimpsoncof@gmail.com) should you encounter any issues in the process.

#### DEADLINE FOR CLASS OF 2027 NOMINATIONS IS MARCH 1, 2026



## UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

**College Dues/Financial Update:** Since my September update, I am pleased to report that 50+ Fellows, have now taken the opportunity to support the College by paying their annual dues for 2025/2026. Your willingness to embrace and support our “first guaranteed annual revenue stream” for the College has been quite remarkable and much appreciated. If you have not yet paid your dues, I urge you to do so as soon as possible by visiting the College’s website or by using one of the convenient links that you will find at the end of this document. Your dues continue to lend crucial support and financial stability to the College.

**Development Opportunities:** There remains \$6,000 in matching funds available in the David and Dawn Grapes CoF Endowment Fund. This endowment fund currently stands at \$35,000 and I will personally match any contributions made on a 2 for 1 basis through 2026. Interest from the endowment is earmarked to support the annual Fellows Weekend. Please contact me directly, if you are interested in donating to this fund at [davidgrapes@yahoo.com](mailto:davidgrapes@yahoo.com).

The College has also established a new Legacy Gift Program that will provide unique opportunities for Fellows to “pay it forward” through wills, bequests, and estate planning. These donations can be used to support an area of your choice. Contact me directly, if you are interested in discussing the possibility of a Legacy Gift to the College of Fellows.

### **Use the Full (Tax-Free!) Power of your IRA**

You can turn your IRA into opportunities to support the College and mentor the next generation of theatre artists. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can transfer any amount (up to the maximum allowed by law) directly to the College of Fellows without being taxed on the distribution. Your gift may even satisfy all or part of any required minimum distribution. If you want to explore this tax saving option, contact me at: [davidgrapes@yahoo.com](mailto:davidgrapes@yahoo.com).

### **2026 August Wilson Fellowship Applications:**

Applications for the 2026 August Wilson Fellowship at the O’Neill Center are now available through February 15, 2026, online. Please share the embedded link below with your colleagues, with students who may be interested, and with your full range of networks. I urge you to include a personal note of invitation and encouragement to those on your distribution list.

[The 2026 August Wilson Fellowship in Theatrical Production for Students of Color in Design and Theatre Technology - John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Note: While there is sufficient funding for 2026, the College needs additional donations to fund the Fellowship for 2027. Please contact Bonnie Nelson Swartz at: [bnelsonschwartz@gmail.com](mailto:bnelsonschwartz@gmail.com), if you wish to donate to the Fellowship or serve on the August Wilson Fundraising Committee.



## UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

### **Strategic Alliance Update:**

As you know, our Strategic Alliance Coordinators have been working to connect and/or strengthen our established connections to like-minded arts/theatre organizations. While this effort has been met with success in most cases, there are a few groups we have not been able to reach successfully. Knowing that many Fellows are simultaneously members/leaders of other organizations we ask now if any Fellows who are members of the following groups or who have strong connections with the leadership of these groups might be willing to join us in helping to connect/strengthen our strategic alliances with them.

- Theatre Communications Group. TCG
- Association of Arts Administration Educators. AAAE
- United States Institute for Theatre Technology. USITT

If you have an interest in participating in the Strategic Alliance Initiative, please email Michael Hood at: [michaeljameshood@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljameshood@gmail.com)

### **Update from Fellows Gazette Editor Heather Nathans:**

I have been prepping our article for *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre* (they have a deadline coming up for the submission). I'm excited to see the COF reach a wider audience!

I just returned from the American Society for Theatre Research conference and the President, Patricia Herrera, is very excited about potential collaborations with the COF. I also spoke with the President of the American Theatre and Drama Society (who was also there) about opportunities for engagement with the College.

**Social Media:** Currently, the CoF Facebook page has almost 300 active subscribers. I want to double that number! Therefore, I am asking each of you to visit our FB page and invite all your friends to follow us! Remember, if you have a post that you wish to share on the CoF FB page, just email the information to Kristy Simpson or myself and we will post it online.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61569773971070>

### **In Memoriam:**

Please email me any names of Fellows that may have died this year and I will include them in the In Memoriam tribute at Fellows Weekend in April.





## Communication & Payment Information

### Publication Opportunity:

The Board is seeking a volunteer, who is interested in putting together a new digital publication to be titled "College of Fellows at 60!" If you have an interest, please reach out to Mark Charney at: [mark.charney@ttu.edu](mailto:mark.charney@ttu.edu)

### Recommended Dues Payment and Communication Information:

- College of Fellows Wix website: <https://www.thecollegeoffellows.org/annual-dues>
- PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/CollegeofFellows>
- Zelle: 970-219-4352
- Check made payable to College of Fellows

Mail to:

Kristy Simpson

7008 Stanwood Drive

Columbia, MO 65203

Questions: [ksimpsonCOF@gmail.com](mailto:ksimpsonCOF@gmail.com)

Thank you again for your continued support of The College of Fellows and its mission!

Faithfully,

David Grapes II, Dean

College of Fellows of the American Theatre

[davidgrapes@yahoo.com](mailto:davidgrapes@yahoo.com)



## A MILE HIGH CELEBRATION OF THEATRE

### COLLEGE OF FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE

### 61st ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND

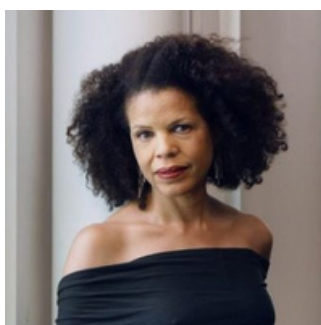
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#### WELCOME THE COLLEGE OF FELLOWS CLASS OF 2026!

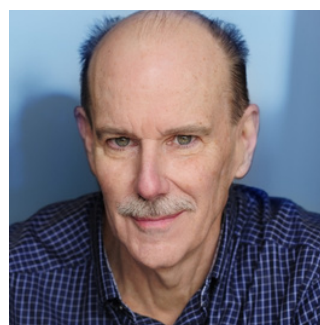
The distinguished artists, scholars, and industry leaders pictured here represent the best in American Theatre. Join us to celebrate their accomplishments.



**Aaron Anderson**



**Ifa Bayeza**



**Craig Carnelia**



**Michael Donovan**



**Reginald L. Douglas**



**Micha Espinosa**



**Patdro Harris**



**Allen L. Hughes**



**Anita Maynard-Losh**