



Welcome to our monthly e-news!



This Sterling e-News signifies a type of renewal at Sterling College. It is the first e-News to be sent to you since July 2008 and it comes with a renewed commitment to improving communications with you, our alumni and friends, through both this monthly newsletter and the Sterling Magazine, which will be published three times a year. It also comes as Dr. Paul Maurer is beginning just his second month as the 11th president of Sterling College. Dr. Maurer brings to Sterling a renewed focus on the importance and rarity of a Christ-centered, liberal arts education and its relevance in today's culture.

Consistent and clear communication is critical to the effectiveness of any organization, but that communication should flow two ways. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or information you would like to share. Stay in touch with Sterling College. Let us know about changes in your life. Share ideas with us about how this College can better serve you and its mission. Let us know about prospective students. Inform us of possible internships or job opportunities for our students. Please keep us informed as we keep you "in the know" about Sterling College. We look forward to hearing from you!

- David Earle, Director of Alumni Relations

SC Concert Choir Heads to the Mountains for Annual Tour

The Sterling College Concert Choir will be touring in Colorado during their annual Spring Break tour, March 21 through March 27.

The 45-member choir will be singing sacred music, spirituals and musical theatre selections. The choir is under the direction of Mark Clark, assistant professor of music, and will be accompanied by Brad Nix, department chair.

Tour Dates and Stops:

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Mt. View Presbyterian Church
Loveland, CO 80538
Concert at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Boulder East Baptist Church
Boulder, CO 80303
Concert at 10:30 a.m.
Presbyterian Church of Broomfield
Broomfield, CO 80020
Concert at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 23, 2009

Denver Christian High School
Denver, CO 80210
Concert at 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Longmont Christian School
Longmont, CO 80501
Concert: 8:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Yuma, CO 80759
Concert at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Heritage Christian Academy
Fort Collins, CO 80524
Concert at 10:15 a.m.
Maranatha Christian Center
Arvada, CO 80004
Concert at 2:20 p.m.

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Congregational United Church of Christ
Buena Vista, Colorado
Concert at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 27, 2009

First Christian Church
Scott City, Kansas
Concert at 7:00 p.m.

In this Issue: (click the links below to read the stories)

- Sterling College Concert Choir Goes on Tour
- Theatre Department Presents *Arsenic and Old Lace*
- Ben Dicke '01 Returns to Sterling for Workshops
- Basketball teams head to NAIA Championships
- SC Highlights
- *Sterling Alumni Magazine Now on Web!*

Upcoming Events on Campus:

March 13 and 14:
SC Theatre Production
of *Arsenic and Old Lace*

March 15 and 16:
Campus Visit Weekend

March 18:
Kirking of the Tartan
Chapel

March 20 - 29:
Spring Break

March 21-27:
Concert Choir on Tour
in Colorado

April 25:
Commencement

October 22-24:
Homecoming Weekend

October 23:
Presidential Inauguration

SC Theatre Alumnus Returns as Artist in Residence

Ben Dicke '01 tried on multiple identities when he was a student at Sterling, among them Bobby Childs as the lead in *Crazy for You* when he was a sophomore; Adam and Noah in *Children of Eden*; and Groucho Marx in his senior show. This past month, though, as Sterling College's Artist in Residence, he played the role that is his reality: Ben Dicke, Chicago-based, professional actor, director, and educator.

In 2004 Dicke earned his MFA in acting from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Since then he's performed at multiple professional theatres, including Chicago Shakespeare and Court Theatre (Professional Theatre of the University of Chicago). He's also discovered his passion for directing and teaching in workshop settings. He's spent the past five summers at the Wagon Wheel Theatre in Warsaw, Indiana, as a professional actor and as co-director of a musical workshop for students in grades 7-12.

Both Dicke's directing and teaching skills were in use during his tenure as Sterling College's Artist in Residence from February 12 through March 1. Dicke worked with the scene direction of the Sterling College Music Department's musical theatre cabaret. He held multiple workshops with Sterling College theatre students, sharing his

history as a professional actor and speaking on topics such as audition preparation, Shakespeare performance, directing, self-marketing, etc. He directed Sterling College students in a one-act play, *Pullman Car Hiawatha*, by Thornton Wilder, one of Dicke's favorite playwrights (one of Dicke's upcoming roles is in Wilder's Pulitzer-winning *Skin of Our Teeth*.) In addition to all of this, he traveled to ten area high schools, presenting workshops for high school theatre students and representing Sterling College's theatre program.

It was a fast-paced two weeks, but Dicke said his only regret was that he didn't have more time. "I want Sterling College's theatre program to continue to be a success. My hope is that the things I've learned about the theatre world in the past eight years can help current students. As clichéd as it sounds, I hope they see that their dreams of working in professional theatre are possible if they're willing to put in the effort."



Theatre Department Presents *Arsenic and Old Lace*



The Sterling College Theatre Program will be presenting *Arsenic and Old Lace* at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14, in Culbertson Auditorium on the Sterling College campus.

This dark comedy was written by American playwright Joseph Kesselring, who began his theatrical career at nearby Bethel College in Newton, Kansas, directing productions there from 1922-1924. In 1941 his play *Arsenic and Old Lace* opened on Broadway and ran for more than three years. In 1944, the film version was released, starring Cary Grant as main character Mortimer Brewster.

When theatre-critic Mortimer, played by Marcus Mull of Great Bend, discovers his aunts' latest form of charity—they've been poisoning lonely old men as an act of kindness—he is horrified. Then his homicidal brother Jonathan arrives, looking for a safe hideout from the police, and Mortimer

becomes frantic. He tries to keep his fiancé Elaine, played by Kacie Rogers of Wichita, from entering his aunts' house; the police from discovering his aunts' stash of bodies in the basement; and his brother from setting up the house as a criminal laboratory. The chaos results in well-timed comedy that doesn't end until the curtain drops.

Director Jennie Czuba, a Communications and Theatre Arts major, with an emphasis in Theatre, is directing *Arsenic and Old Lace* as her senior project in directing. She picked this play "primarily because of its zany (but realistic) roles that provided interesting character studies for SC actors and because it has lots of action throughout the show to keep the audience engaged." She adds, "I also like the fact that this play has some Kansas roots. Rumor has it that the playwright Joseph Kesselring modeled the original set for the show off the home he lived in while he was working at Bethel College. That house is currently the home of Bethel President Barry Bartel. He and his family were kind enough to welcome Stuart Parman, set designer for this production, and me into their home so we could investigate and explore. Stuart was able to integrate several of the home's unique, Victorian-style features into his final set design."

Tickets will be available at the door the nights of the performances. The box office will open at 7 p.m., and the doors will open at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, children, and seniors. Contact the Sterling College Theatre Department at (620) 278-4265.

Hoop Champions

It has been a basketball season to remember at Sterling College. Both the men's and women's team won the KCAC conference outright. The men's team advanced to the KCAC tournament semifinals, and the women's team was the KCAC tournament runner-up.

The men's team records of 21-9 was the best in school history, and the team finished 14-4 in the conference. Dean Jaderson was named KCAC Coach of the Year, and Jonathan Woods and Zach Goodrich were selected to the all-conference team. The men's team is making its third trip to the national tourney.

The Lady Warriors (26-5) won the conference title with a record of 16-2. Seniors Ashley Kraft and Jacqui Tinkel were named to the All-KCAC First Team, and Cathryn Wiebe received KCAC "Freshman of the Year" honors. This was the Lady Warriors' 10th KCAC regular season title and will be their 13th trip to the national tournament, all under Head Coach Lonnie Kruse. Kruse completed his 28th season leading the team and in February won his 600th game as head coach.



facebook

Be sure to check out and join the two Sterling College group pages on Facebook. If you haven't joined Facebook yet, join the thousands of SC alumni and friends who have found Facebook a great way to reconnect and stay in touch.



Join our Fan Site!



Join our Alumni Group!

Other Sterling College News:

- Sterling alumni **Maeghan Bishop '07 and Andy Wesner '07** were both honored with Horizon Awards by the Kansas Education Commission. The award recognizes the exemplary performance they displayed as first-year teachers. The Horizon is a highly selective award, as only 32 teachers in the state received the award last year.
- The annual Oscar Schmidt Lecture on February 27 featured Sterling alumnus and current Board Chair **Anthony "Tony" Thompson '69**, Chairman and CEO of Thompson National Properties in Costa Mesa, Calif.
- The **Sterling College Debate Team** regained the title of State Champions at the State Parliamentary Debate Tournament. The championship marks the second in the last three years for Sterling. Senior J.D. Smith of Hutchinson was named the top speaker at the tournament; sophomore Emily Graham of Hutchinson finished third; and freshman Jessica Brayton of Lyons placed fourth.
- **Junior Chris Morr** qualified for the NAIA Indoor Track National Championships in the 55M hurdles. A native of Holten (KS), Chris finished 13th at the NAIA Outdoor Championships last year.
- The **Sterling College Concert Choir** performed "All The World's A Stage!" on February 21&22. The Musical Theatre Cabaret was directed by assistant professor Mark Clark and accompanied by Brad Nix, chair of the music department.

Have some news to share with us? Let us know! Contact us at dearle@sterling.edu

Sterling Magazine Available on our Website

The Fall *Sterling* Magazine is now posted on our website for your viewing pleasure. Click here to read the latest edition of *Sterling!* If you did not receive a copy, please contact the Advancement office to confirm your current address.

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