Kathleen Laundy

2017-18 Professional Development Plan

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Progress on goals from last year:

* Completed Great Teacher’s Symposium for step credit. I had a wonderful time. It was very renewing and I made some new friends. The problem I wrote about was, “How do I get my students to take more personal responsibility for getting the costumes built?” The responses I got enabled me to get my crew of students to do just that in the spring.
* Continued on Geekfest 2016 committee and recruited two more students, Larren Knowlton for spring semester 2017 and Reina Webly for the 2018-19 school year. Lauren didn’t actually enroll this spring, but Reina is a senior this year, so I will see her in 3 months at Geekfest 2017.

Goals for this year:

* Break in Chris Cole, our new Scenic/Lighting Designer.
* Recruit his wife to help me out in the shop. Bailey has an MFA in costume design.
* Get both of them to help me recruit at Geekfest.
* Get my staff position approved and hire someone to start working ASAP.

**ARTISTIC GOALS**

***Imaginary Invalid*** Total spent: $625.29

It was a pull from stock show. We used costumes *from Magic Flute, Three Musketeers, Beaux Stratagem*, and *Tartuffe.* We had to build one maid costume and used stock fabric to do it, so that was free. We spent money on new shoes for the cast and 2 new wigs. It was an easy start to the semester.

Final count: 40 costume pieces, 23 costume accessories, and 7 wigs, worn by 13 actors.

***Dance Concert*** Total spent: $1487.73

There was only one number that we did anything interesting with--Rowdy’s automaton number. We ordered the coveralls, tea stained them, stenciled numbers on the back, then sewed the robotic jointed elements together and attached them to the coveralls.

I had to buy two cheerleader skirts and two vests for Janay and cut them up and sew them together to make one outfit for her because no one sells cheerleader uniforms in sizes larger than 18. Last year I spent $800.00 on fabric for the Bollywood piece that was never staged due to heavy rain preventing the choreographer from getting here from Austin. This year Melissa contracted her again to come in and set the piece. This year there was no rain. She came, set the piece, then Melissa cut it from the show because no one could do it. More time, but at least no more money wasted. I really felt like the whole show this time around was a sad imitation of itself from last year. I am really glad we won’t be doing any more of this.

Final Count: 132 costume pieces, 147 costume accessories worn by 25 dancers.

***How to Succeed in Business*** Total spent: $2080.64 ($1,013.25 on just the 12 Paris originals)

The biggest challenge was the Paris originals. We had to buy two dresses for Mackenzie and have Pat’s Gowns cut them up and make a new larger one because David’s Bridal doesn’t sell dresses in sizes larger than 24. The hats I ordered were shipped in the wrong color, and we didn’t receive the black ones until after the show closed. I had to buy replacement hats which weren’t nearly as good, at the last minute, and pay for expedited shipping. We reused the automaton coveralls from the dance show and dyed them green for the mail room scene. Costumes came from storage (16 grey men’s suits) and Goodwill. Miss Jones’ costume came from Catherine’s as they were the only retailer who stock size 32 women’s clothing.

Final count: 115 costume pieces, 111 costume accessories worn by 23 actors

***Hansel and Gretel*** Total spent: $396.27

There were many iterations of the cast list; finally the witch, Gretel, and father were double cast. I was able to use the new hoops and petticoats from *Magic Flute* for the witches and Dew Fairy. The witches’ costumes were a fun challenge to make them from the same fabrics but dyed different colors. The prosthetics were a great idea but didn’t work for the singers.

Final count: 45 costume pieces, 23 costume accessories, worn by 10 actors.

***Henry V*** Total spent: $908.93 materials, $538 labor, $171 Dry cleaning = $1617.93

The role of Henry was double cast which required three extra costumes since they were radically different sizes and were French soldiers when they weren’t playing Henry.

We built 4 court costumes, 5 doublets, 16 English tabards and 12 French tabards. Each tabard was embroidered by Shanna Tucker and her $6,000 computerized embroidery machine.

18 pairs of chainmail sleeves were built by Mike Lewis. Leather doublets from *Richard III* had to be altered to accommodate the chain mail sleeves. It required 20 holes punched per doublet, 3 yards of lacing with 6 aglets each that we made ourselves. We also had to cut down the necklines and removed the old boning. We also utilized costumes from *Lion in Winter*, *Macbeth*, and *Man for all Seasons*. The show also required 6 crowns. We had to build two new ones. Brice Garcia spent 16.5 hours embossing the sheet metal and crafting the new ones.

Final count: 157 costume pieces, 109 accessories worn by 27 actors.

**INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

I am hoping this summer, now that I’ve gotten some distance from my two textbooks, to go back and do some editing/rewriting on them. I’ve been using them in class for two years now and have discovered their weak areas.

**Makeup** Last fall we had some extra time to incorporate one more project. I gave the students the choice of Gender Swap or Ethnicity Swap. The discussion that ensued over the appropriateness of Ethnicity swap made me rethink the whole idea. Hollywood movies and theatres all over the country are getting flack in the press for “white-washing” or casting white actors as non-white characters. As theatre artists we all agree that this is a bad thing, yet it keeps happening in big theatres and blockbuster movies where they can certainly afford to both find and pay actors of the correct ethnicity to do the role. Yet as I discovered while writing my makeup book that at MCC, over the last 20 years, we’ve cast dozens of white actors in ethnic roles; specifically 12 shows in which at least one character was played by an actor of a different ethnicity and of those, five shows in which the entire cast had to become a different ethnicity. I devoted an entire chapter to it in my book. Lin Manuel Miranda stipulates in his contract for *In the Heights* that **professional** theatres must cast ethnic roles with ethnic actors but that **schools** who do the show are not bound by the same rule. As the author, he wants to ensure that every community has the chance to do his show and learn something from it, even if it’s primarily a white community without enough Latino actors to fill all the roles. So the question for a makeup teacher becomes, “Do we teach our students that if you are white but cast as a POC, you should ‘brown up’ for the role with makeup or forgo a practice that is historically seen as ‘black face’ and therefore repulsive and racist?” I don’t know the answer to this. However, since I wrote that chapter two years ago, we have not “white-washed” any shows.

**Costuming** The new sewing machines did make an enormous difference in class this year. SyFy came out with a new show, *Cosplay Melee* this spring. I am hoping it gets renewed for a second season so I can incorporate it into my class, like I did with *Face Off* in Makeup. My Geekfest recruit, Brice Garcia, auditioned for Season 2 but has yet to hear back from them.

**Stagecraft II** This was the worst team teaching experience I’ve ever had this spring.I am so looking forward to team teaching this class with someone else next year. I hope that next year we will be able to send some of our students to represent us at Scholar Day once again.

**COLLEGIAL/MANAGERIAL/RECRUITING GOALS**

**Collegial** I served on three search committees this year: Scenic/Lighting Designer, Director/Choreographer, and Art. So far we have hired Chris Cole to be our new Scenic/Lighting Designer. I believe the Director/Choreographer position has yet to be advertised, but that the Art position is live now.

**Managerial**

* I submitted a proposal for a Professional Staff position. The position has made it to a budget revision list, so maybe I’ll be allowed to hire someone for the fall.
* Work study student, Darlisha Blaylock, who came in every day over spring break to help me with the opera last year, did it again this year. She also won our Outstanding Student in Design Award again this year. Freshman work study student Hannah Young worked more than 100 shop hours both fall and spring semesters and also came in over spring break to help me with the opera, as did Emily Foster.
* I also lost two more work study students after Christmas.

**Recruiting**

* Judging the costume contest at Geekfest was the most successful recruiting venture I’ve had. I will do this every year to get more costume technicians.
* I did a career day at Lorena High school for the first time. Hopefully they will invite me back next year.
* I participated in the MCC High School counselor fair. I handed out my business cards, season brochures, as well as theatre scholarship applications, and a one page summary of “How to become a theatre major at MCC” to all the counselors who attended.
* I went to two District OAP competitions. The 4A competition was held in Temple and included China Spring, Connally, Lorena, Robinson, La Vega, and Gatesville. The 3A one was held at MCC and included Blooming Grove, Grandview, Keene, Maypearl, Mildred, Palmer, Rice, and Rio Vista. I made contact with every single one of their directors and gave them information on our department and scholarship opportunities and asked them to pass on that information to any and all interested students. I named each award winning student and stated that they had won scholarships here for majoring in theatre. So far, almost all of teachers have replied to my email saying that they’ve passed the information on to the students. I’ve had two seniors email me back and I’ve sent them the scholarship application. One so far has turned it back in and will be attending MCC in the fall. I aggressively tracked all of those students (the ones who weren’t seniors) last year and reminded them of the offer I made and let them know it’s still good. Two of those students will be at MCC in the fall.