The EdTA Board of Directors and Home Office staff are pleased to again share with you highlights of our work and thoughts on our future.

Nearly every school district has been hurt by the current economic conditions, maybe you have as well. The Association was not immune to the downturn. However, with thoughtful planning for fiscal year 2008–09, we were able to again provide outstanding service and programming without compromising our standards or raising member fees. Thanks to strong board and volunteer leadership, a dedicated staff, and a determined membership, the Association is weathering the bad times. We celebrate the fact that the Association continues to be the leading voice for theatre education.

We are proud to report our careful stewardship of the financial health of the Association. During the year EdTA, like so many organizations, discovered that we were experiencing a measurable downturn that could not have been predicted. At fiscal year end, with total revenue coming in nearly at budget, we were able to conclude a financially successful year. The tough realities of 2008–09 led us to curtail budgets for the current year with the objective to focus on our most important activities. In June 2009, the Board of Directors approved a 2009–10 budget that restrained price increases and reduced expenses while maintaining services, programs, and staff.

Most importantly, we are proud of our accomplishments and progress in 2008–09. Most of that progress is detailed in the following report, but some of the more strategic elements include:

- Implementing the final touches of the Association rebranding that clarifies our face and voice.
- Creating a senior staff position for the director of educational policy to deal with national policy and government relations.
- Advancing our national stature by serving on the legislative brief writing committee, responsible for preparing the handbook sent to all U.S. legislators for Arts Advocacy Day.
- Continuing to host the EdTA Leadership Summit for chapter leaders.

As we begin to emerge from the difficult moments, there is much hope that our best days are ahead. This is due in no small part to you, the work you do, and the ways in which you have a positive influence on the lives of your students. Together we are “Shaping lives through theatre education.”

Sincerely,

Debby Gibbs
President, Board of Directors

Michael J. Peitz, CAE
Executive Director

ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Debby Gibbs  
_EdT A Board President_  
Tupelo (Mississippi) High School

Joe Norton  
_EdT A Board Vice President_  
Associate Director of Education & Outreach  
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS  
New York, New York

Tom Brown  
Vice President of Program Production  
Turner Classic Movies  
Atlanta, Georgia

Matt Conover  
Vice President of Entertainment  
Disneyland Resort and Disney Parks Casting  
Anaheim, California

Rachel Evans  
Assistant Professor, Theatre Education Program  
Kean University  
Union, New Jersey

Ben F. Martin  
Educator  
Lee’s Summit (Missouri) West High School

Robert L. Johnson  
Educator (ret.)  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Kenneth Washington  
Director of Company Development  
Guthrie Theatre  
Minneapolis, Minnesota
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING REVENUES
During the 2008–09 fiscal year, the Association achieved total revenues of $3,624,023, an increase of $139,119 or 4.0% from the prior fiscal year.

OPERATING EXPENSES
During the 2008–09 fiscal year, total expenses increased by $79,794 or 2.3%, to $3,521,937 compared to 2007–08.

OPERATING GAIN
EdTA’s operating gain, which excludes depreciation expense, was $102,086 for the 2008–09 fiscal year. In fiscal year 2007–08, the Association reported an operating gain of $42,761.

INVESTMENT FUNDS
The market value of the Association’s investment portfolio decreased by $392,640 during 2008–09, to $2,000,204.

PUBLICATIONS

Every year, EdTA produces nine issues of Dramatics and four issues of Teaching Theatre with the newest information from the world of theatre and education. In 2008–09, both publications covered timely issues of national interest, such as censorship, federal regulation of wireless microphones, aerial performance safety, and important developments in arts education. Specific highlights include:

DRAMATICS
- The largest annual College Theatre Directory ever published with 124 pages, profiling almost 300 college programs.
- Ten previously unpublished plays, including new work by Timothy Mason, Dominic Orlando, Carson Kreitzer, and Kathy Walat, plus four plays from the 2009 Thespian Playworks competition.
- New articles including a special issue on playwriting that also introduced a new series of writing exercises by playwrights Melanie Marnich, Lee Blessing, Janet Allard, and Carson Kreitzer; the continuation of a series about acting in musical theatre by Rocco Dal Vera and Joe Deer; a feature on vocal health; and design and production content covering rigging, lighting design, set dressing, and scenic painting.
- Feature-length articles that included a profile on directing guru Gerald Freeman and a stage manager’s perspective on big Las Vegas shows.

TEACHING THEATRE
- Celebrated its twentieth anniversary with a special issue examining the state of theatre education in the 21st century.
- An article about caring for young voices by Dr. Wendy DeLeo LeBorgne, an internationally recognized specialist in voice care and treatment, and Rocco Dal Vera, a voice coach for film and Broadway shows.
- An acting article by Peter King and Dana Kinsey on how to use classic literature to create monologues and building character through observation.
- Directing articles on creating the visual world of the play by Joe Deer; and storytelling guides for new directors by Michael Daehn.
- Two articles by Bruce Miller on pedagogical issues: one an opinion piece that discusses the need to value craft, and another that details concerns over the goals of today’s theatre students and suggested remedies.

EdTA ONLINE
We are constantly looking for ways to make our online home relevant and useful to our members, and to be an information destination for those with a general interest in the field of theatre education. The number of downloads from edta.org increased in 2008–09 by 14% compared to 2007–08.

During the 2008–09 year, EdTA began an ambitious three-phase expansion of its online capabilities.
1. We rebuilt the Thespian Festival registration subsite.
2. We began the process of building the capacity for professional members and troupe directors to conduct member business online.
3. We kicked off the process of redesigning and rebuilding the Association’s website, which is due to be launched in late 2010.
MEMBERSHIP

EdTA continues to grow the number, and types, of members that it serves. In August 2008, we launched the Affiliate membership class to provide adults at schools with Thespian troupes, who contribute to their school’s theatre programs, with the same benefits as all professional members.

- 15 emeritus members, a increase of 66.7% since its creation in 2007–08.
- 78 pre-professional members, no increase from the 2007–08 fiscal year.
- 550 professional members, a 12.7% decrease from the 2007–08 fiscal year.
- 411 Junior Thespian troupes, a 5.6% increase from the 2007–08 fiscal year.
- 3,523 Thespian troupes, a 0.2% decrease from the 2007–08 fiscal year.

Since EdTA first presented an annual report for the 2001–02 fiscal year, Thespian troupe totals have increased by 13.9%; Junior Thespian troupes have increased by 34.8%; and individual professional members have increased by 18.4%. Pre-professional members, a class created in 2004–05, have increased 151.6%.

*Note: membership totals presented in 2007–08 were incorrectly reported. The comparisons presented above correct those errors.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Each year, we offer our members the opportunity to participate in practical hands-on and face-to-face instruction—a vital component of the Association’s mission. We continue to explore ways to enrich our members’ educational experiences—whether they are seasoned educators or students. Our educational events are an important part of serving our membership.

- Chicago played host to 303 attendees for the 2008 EdTA Annual Conference. Keynote speeches were provided by Chicago Tribune theatre critic Richard Christiansen and Dick Deasy, the former executive director for the Arts Education Partnership. This event featured 55 workshops arranged into subject matter tracks: Practical Theatre, Technical Theatre, Curriculum, and Middle School Theatre. Plus, nine Professional Development Institute seminars were presented for attendees to earn continuing education or graduate credits in several topic areas.

LEADERSHIP

EdTA continues to represent its members through many collaborative partnerships and projects with fellow arts-minded organizations. A small sample of the work that we do includes:

- Presenting examples of quality theatre student work to EdSteps, a CCSSO project funded by the Gates Foundation, gathering evidence of student work across the curriculum into a single database, where it will be measured on a qualitative scale.
- Developing a strategic relationship with the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) organization, with the goal of having a more direct impact and influence on theatre education on the state level.
- Contributing to the National Expectations for Learning in Arts Education (NELAE) effort, which seeks to create a re-defined student arts learning content and skills framework (what students know and can do) that includes an assessment component in each arts discipline.
- Joining a coalition of performing arts groups and sports organizations in filing a challenge to the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) White Space Order concerning the use of wireless microphones and its impact on educational theatre institutions.
- Maintaining a leading or contributing relationship with the State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS); the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA); the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA) Foundation board; the Coalition for Theatre Education (CFTE); and Americans for the Arts as a co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day.
improvisation, the Chekhov technique, puppetry, mime, and design; three PDI sessions; nearly 500 students auditioning for a place in the National Individual Events Showcase (NIES); more than 450 students auditioning for college and Thespian scholarships; and 22 teams stepping up to compete in the 2009 Tech Challenge.

• The 2009 Junior Thespian Festival hosted 250 delegates for one weekend at Tupelo (Mississippi) Middle School where they took part in Adventures in Theatre, a theme inspired by 1950's comic book genres. Throughout the weekend, students participated in the only national event designed for middle school theatre students featuring individual event performance opportunities, one-acts, the Team Play-Create, and full-length productions.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Providing members with financial resources to defray the costs of educational opportunities is another way of advancing the Association’s mission. During 2008–09, EdTA and its affiliated chapters awarded a record amount of $229,277 in scholarships and grants, including:

• Chapter scholarships totaling $116,677, with EdTA matching $12,800 of the chapter funds.
• Thespian scholarships totaling $10,800, plus the $4,500 Melba Day Henning Scholarship, presented to Kelsey Hall from Jesuit High School in Portland, Oregon and the $2,000 Robert L. Johnson/Hector S. Cruz Scholarship, presented to Alexandra Tolleson from Temple (Texas) High School.
• The ITS Leadership Grant, presented to Sarah Harmon from Denver (Colorado) School of the Arts.
• The Doug Finney Festival Grants, presented to Paige Billiot from Las Vegas (Nevada) Academy; Cheryl Kays from Silver Creek High School in Sellersburg, Indiana; Britany Morgan from Jefferson West High School in Meriden, Kansas; and Lindy Pickens from Paris (Arkansas) High School.
• The Bob and Marti Fowler Future Theatre Educator Scholarship, presented to Halley Caskey from the American School of Dubai.
• The International Thespian Officer/Jhon Marshall Outstanding Student Achievement Award was presented to Gregory Prusiewicz from Divine Child High School in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. Grant Weston from Parkrose High School in Portland, Oregon received the International Thespian Officer/Jhon Marshall Outstanding Technical Student Achievement Award, as well as the Austin Yeatman Technical Theatre Scholarship.

AWARDS

The Association continues to spotlight the work and dedication of those individuals and groups who exemplify some of the best that the field of theatre education has to offer. It is important that the Association honors the inspirational work and extraordinary dedication that contribute to improving the environment for the future of theatre arts education.

• The 2009 EdTA Administrator’s Award was presented to Jennifer Dixon, principal of Woodburn (Oregon) Arts and Communications Academy; Dr. Daniel Riodan, principal of Reavis High School in Burbank, Illinois; and Timothy J. Sullivan, Jr., principal of Classical Magnet School in Hartford, Connecticut.
• The 2009 Founders’ Award was presented to playwright and screenwriter Jim Leonard (The Diviners, Anatomy of Gray).
• The 2009 President’s Award was presented to EdTA’s Director of Membership David LaFleche.
• The 2009 Outstanding School Award was presented to Buena High School in Sierra Vista, Arizona; Fort Worth (Texas) Academy of Fine Arts; Greensboro (North Carolina) Day School; Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, Ohio; and Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts in Ivins, Utah.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EdTA and our members continue to nobly represent the field of theatre education within the broader community by participating in community service initiatives and supporting organizations that serve a charitable mission.

- October 2008 marked the fifth year that the Association has conducted the Trick Or Treat So Kids Can Eat (TOTS-EAT) campaign through our student division, the International Thespian Society. Once again, we increased total pounds collected from the prior year and exceeded our goal for 2008. The 2008 TOTS-EAT campaign saw 317 troupes (representing 38 states) involving more than 9,000 students and adults collecting 309,500 pounds of food for those less fortunate. Since its launch in 2004, Thespian troupes have collected more than 1.2 million pounds (637.25 tons) of food for those less fortunate.

- Since 1999, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA) has evolved into a cause that our student members have adopted and taken to heart to support. And as a result of that work, EdTA and ITS have raised more money than any other academic organization or group, including those in colleges and universities. As of July 31, a total of $672,744 has been raised for BC/EFA by individual Thespians, Thespian troupes, and chapter organizations.

CHAPTER DIRECTORS
FROM AUGUST 1, 2008–JULY 31, 2009

ALABAMA
Martha Summey/Lisa Newton

ARIZONA
Linda Phillips/Denise Ferguson

ARKANSAS
Audra Bocksnick/Shane Bocksnick

CALIFORNIA
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Harold Easton
DONATIONS
The Educational Theatre Association and the International Thespian Society wish to thank the following individuals and businesses whose generous contributions helped to support the Association between August 1, 2008 - July 31, 2009:

LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS
Eric Brannen
Rodney Burnsworth
Debby Gibbs
Robert Henrichs
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John Kauss
Terry McGonigle
Christina Myatt
William Myatt
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Jay Seller
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The Finney Family

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Interactive Educational Video LLC

ROBERT L. JOHNSON/HECTOR S. CRUZ SCHOLARSHIP
Robert L. Johnson and Hector S. Cruz

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Robert Young

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Margaret Crosby
Jessica Drobot
Mitchell Kessler
Sarah McLillard
Carolyn Young

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Savannah College of Art & Design

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