UNH Faculty Research Excellence Seminar Series Continues on March 25
“The Emerging Field of Applied Theatre”

From antiquity to the present, theatre has often been used as a method of teaching and engagement. With innovations brought on by such theorist/practitioners as psychiatrist Jacob Marino (Psychodrama) and activist/theatre artist Augusto Boal (Theatre of the Oppressed), the traditional separation between actor and audience was removed and a new entity, the spect-actor began to emerge. This seminar will illustrate how new methodological approaches to applying theatre and theatre pedagogy are being developed as powerful educational and training tools for faculty, administrators and students. Attendees will experience the research in this field in “real time” as the seminar will actually become part of the development process of the presenters’ current collaborations at UNH.

Details

- Tuesday, March 25, 2013; 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
  - Presentations and interactive session: 4:00-5:30 p.m.
  - Networking reception with refreshments: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Squamscott Room, Holloway Commons, UNH in Durham
- RSVP: https://www.events.unh.edu/RegistrationForm.pm?event_id=15997

Presenters

Professor and Chair of the UNH Department of Theatre and Dance, David Kaye has worked professionally as an actor, director, designer and playwright since 1982. He started working in applied theatre in 2004, has published articles about the methods and techniques he has developed in journals from the US, UK, India and Russia, and has presented workshops both nationally and internationally. In 1999 he co-founded WildActs, the UNH Theatre for Social Justice Acting Troupe, which utilizes his applied theatre techniques, and last year he founded PowerPlay: Interactive Development, a professional applied theatre company. The company has projects with the Carsey Institute (focusing on training facilitators of public meetings), UNH ADVANCE (on issues related to bias and leadership), and for other clients throughout the state. David has served on the Association for Theatre in Higher Education’s Interactive Theatre Task Force since its inception, focusing on developing awareness of the field throughout the academy.

Mary Banach is an Associate Professor of Social Work at UNH. Her previous research examining the effectiveness of follow-up services for families who receive a diagnosis of autism or other neurological challenges for a child resulted in numerous journal publications and national presentations. This research area expanded both to examine the benefits of interdisciplinary co-leadership of groups for parents of children with disabilities and to explore factors leading to sustainability of support groups for parents, again resulting in national presentations and published articles. Future plans entail developing and investigating mentoring programs for parents who have a child with a disability. Mary's research also focuses on social work pedagogy. Specifically, she explores the effectiveness of using standardized clients to teach interviewing skills in social work practice classes. She conducts this research in association with the UNH Department of Theatre and Dance, using theatre students as standardized clients.
Jeffrey Allen Steiger is the founding Artistic Director of the CRLT Theatre Program at the University of Michigan and the Artistic Director of the Center for the Application and Scholarship of Theater. In addition to growing two major “theater for dialogue” programs, Jeffrey has served as a consultant and Artist-in-Residence for multiple institutions. He has used theatre to work with faculty, medical professionals, and administrators within and outside of the university community in a multitude of contexts. He has written and directed more than 25 plays and sketches performed at over 60 academic institutions including Harvard, Stanford and the University of Nagoya, Japan. Jeffrey’s recognitions include the TIAA-CREF Hesburgh Certificate of Excellence, the James T. Neubacher Award, and a leadership role in the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Interactive Theatre Focus Group. He has also collaborated with Robert Mankoff, editor of the New Yorker Cartoons, on using improvisation to explore Mankoff’s ideas regarding status and the psycho-biological roots of humor.

Jeffrey’s visit to the UNH campus is made possible by a National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant.