



JOHNSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CARLSEN CENTER

VolStar Vibe

Appreciation
Edition 2020

*A newsletter for the
volunteers of Johnson
County Community
College's Carlsen
Center Presents*

You may also view this newsletter at jccc.edu/volstars.



A Message from Emily Behrmann, General Manager

Dear Vol*Stars,
Hello! I hope this note finds you feeling healthy and finding ways to connect with friends and family, even if it's in a "virtual space."

It's been a while... All of us sure miss presenting shows and seeing each of you! It's hard to imagine that it has been more than five months since "the shutdown." Most Carlsen Center staff are working at home, except for our excellent crew! They've been back on campus since June, overseeing an installation of new intercoms and video screens in all of the dressing rooms. This will allow performers to see and hear what's happening on stage in real time while they have a moment in their dressing room to prepare or touch up hair and makeup while waiting for their next entrance cue. Our old system was original to the 1990 construction and hadn't functioned well for a long time. This upgrade is much needed, so we're grateful JCCC saw fit to go ahead with it!

The biggest news is that we'll have a new name soon! Brad and Libby Bergman made a \$1 million gift to rename the building and benefit students in the way of arts scholarships. You can read more about [them](#). Expect to see new signage and a branding rollout in the late fall or early winter.

As you probably know by now, our fall season has almost completely been rescheduled to Spring or Fall 2021. Programs that are happening this fall are being presented online. This includes New Dance Partners, Opus 76 Quartet and some new offerings.

- **New Dance Partners** will be in two parts:
 - **Part One** is a retrospective of past performances, updated with interviews with artistic directors and choreographers who were part of the creative team. This aired on Friday, September 18, at 7 p.m. You can watch the [performance here](#).
 - **Part Two** will be a cinematic showcase of the works created this fall. This film will air in late November or early December. We'll let you know when to tune in!

- **Opus 76 Quartet** will perform their works as listed on the website, featuring Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. The performance will be recorded for broadcast on October 20. Afterwards, we'll host a live Q&A with the members of the quartet.
- **New offerings** will be announced soon! Just to keep you in the know:
 - o We've purchased the rights to broadcast eight concerts from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center titled **Front Row: National**. These are now on the website. The first is scheduled for Friday, September 25, at 7 p.m., featuring pianist **Michael Brown**. His performance will be available on the website from September 25 through September 30. These concerts were recorded over the past three years at Lincoln Center, but have been updated with artist interviews showing them during quarantine, and finding out how they stayed focused on their art. We'll also hear how they chose the works they performed, what it was like to collaborate with their peers, and other fun information. The Carlsen Center was one of the first organizations to sign on to broadcast these recitals, so we are one of 15 national sponsors.
 - o You may remember the **Boston Brass** from their appearance in Yardley Hall a few years ago. They'll create a livestreamed performance that will play out on October 18! Mark your calendars. This concert will be streamed simultaneously to a location in 26 states - we represent Kansas.
 - o Do you like Broadway? Through a special arrangement with Broadway HD, we have a limited number of free three-month memberships we can share with you. We can send more information to those who are interested; Just let Ebeth know.

JCCC has a new president as of July 1. **Dr. Andrew Bowne** (pronounced like "town") has come to JCCC from Indiana. He is an arts supporter and has already expressed interest in attending shows once we start back up again. We will be back again once it's safe for us to gather. Until then, we will miss you! Take care of yourselves and your families.

Wishing you the best,
 Emily Behrmann
 ebehrmann@jccc.edu
 General Manager, JCCC Carlsen Center

We Appreciate our Vol*Stars!

Hours Awards

Even though the 2019/2020 season was much shorter than anticipated, many Vol*Stars reached important hourly milestones! Congratulations to:

1500 Hours
 Frank Hawk

500 Hours
 Lona Davis
 Jill Sigler
 Sharon Yandon

250 Hours
 Carolyn Eakins
 Ellis Megee
 Therese Mori
 Lynda Ochs
 Anne Shields
 Barb Stras

100 Hours
 Johnn Arnold
 Linda Falcone
 Sal Falcone
 Candace Walker



CONGRATULATIONS
Megan Weldon
2019-2020 Vol*Star
Scholarship winner

Megan Weldon is a 19-year-old from Olathe. She is in her second year at Johnson County Community College. She has been involved in theater since she was in preschool and has always planned on pursuing it as a career. Megan has worked on many shows throughout her life. Her main interest is acting, but since starting college, she has found herself interested in the management side of theater, as well. So far, at JCCC, she's worked on "Eurydice," "Farragut North," "Ming Lee and the Magic Tree," and is currently in the production "Defying Gravity." After this year, she plans on transferring to a four-year liberal arts college to pursue film acting.



It's a tie!

*Congratulations Vol*Stars of the Year:*

Kristin Gambill
and
Lynne Zagortz

If you'd like to send a congratulatory email, please send to:

Lynne Zagortz, Lzagortz@gmail.com

Kristin Gambill, ksgambill913@gmail.com



Meet Ian Mason, our new Chief Audio Engineer

Ian grew up in the suburbs of Kansas City as the child of creative parents who always encouraged and supported every artistic endeavor and blunder. His interests focused on music and sports. He played baseball, basketball and track, and played guitar and sang in bands. After high school, he attended JCCC but was unfocused and eager to get out and work in the “real world.” So, much to his parents’ dismay, after three semesters of community college, he ended up dropping out. This dramatic change helped push him to pursue audio engineering. However, he felt he needed to get out of the state to find more opportunities. He attended the Conservatory of Recording Arts in Tempe, Arizona, which helped him focus on recording and live sound. He took an internship, which led to a short stint working in a couple of recording studios in Los Angeles.

After trade school, he worked as a stagehand, recording assistant and freelance engineer before moving back to Kansas City with his wife, Rita. Ian recognizes that she has been a great supporter of his nontraditional career choices, and that kind of support sometimes

goes unrecognized. He started working at JCCC in 2004 as a general stagehand. Over the next 15 years, he took a lead audio role, working under former Chief Audio Engineer and friend, Scott Gregory. Their collaboration, along with a great crew and the help of leaders at the College, increased the capabilities of the Carlsen Center to achieve a quality standard for shows that few venues in our region reach. During this busy time, he also finished his undergraduate studies - his AA at JCCC and then his BA at the University of Kansas. This past spring, when Scott retired, he stepped into the role of Chief Audio Engineer.

Personal note from Ian: Now that I’ve operated thousands of shows and recorded hundreds of bands and concerts, I’m happy to be a part of the leadership team at the Carlsen Center (soon to be Midwest Trust) and am looking forward to facilitating great performances for years to come. I live in Shawnee with my wife, our two dogs, Quincy and Penny, and our three cats, Oliver, Hazel and Felix.

Art Education Updates for the 2020-2021 Season

From Kara Armstrong, Director of Arts Education

Visit our [Arts Education](#) page for more information.

- Carlsen Center Arts Education will be offering a digital performance of “Be the Change,” presented by raptivist [Joey FineRhyme](#). The program will be free for area schools. Both climate change and waste will be brought to life in memorable ways through a STEM to STEAM approach that includes key JCCC sustainability initiatives, along with how our response to the current pandemic is impacting the natural environment. A pivotal part of this program is Raptivism, a high energy approach that reinforces student learning through original rap music. Some of you may remember Joey’s “Be the Change” performances last year in Yardley Hall.



- The Carlsen Center is partnering with Mesner Puppet Theater to present a program called [“In the Workshop,”](#) an eight-episode digital series for pre-K and kindergarten. “Set in a vibrant maker space for artists, an assorted cast of puppet characters work alongside Alex and Da’Lene, co-owners of the workshop. This coterie of characters must learn valuable skills to work together and grow, such as emotional intelligence, empathy and resilience. The ‘Workshop’ is eclectic and electric, vibrant and inspiring, with no shortage of foibles, conflicts and internal struggles for young people to use as a mirror for their own social and emotional development.” Each episode is being filmed on our stages by the Carlsen Center crew. We are also underwriting area school’s participation in the program.
- Boston Brass has created a special performance initiative called “Arts Across America: Community, Together.” We plan to air that performance on Sunday, October 18, at 7 pm. The exciting piece for Arts Education is that when they are together, Boston Brass will also pre-record a 30-minute educational outreach workshop that we will share with local middle & high school music programs to offer a more impactful connection with our community. The ensemble’s goal is to reach at least one city or town in each of the 50 states. JCCC is representing Kansas!
- Carlsen Center Arts Education has two upcoming initiatives in partnership with StoneLion Puppet Theatre:
 - “Puppets Trash Talking” is a new virtual green initiative to teach environmental sustainability. [StoneLion Puppet Theatre](#) is producing a multi-level, multimedia project focused on pollution. With the help of their content committee, a group of teens and young adults, and various social media platforms, they will create a series of characters that will be rendered as puppets in video, film and live productions and appearances. Content will be uploaded and shared through various social media and college and community resources. There will be opportunities for students of all ages to engage with this work!
 - We have shifted StoneLion Puppet Theatre’s world premiere performance of “The Lost Treasure” from the Fall 2020 to Spring 2021. If we cannot gather, we will livestream this event.
- In March 2021, we will partner with Johnson County Arts and Heritage and the Johnson County Arts Council on the Veterans Story Collecting Project. We will work with local theatre teaching artists to tell veteran stories in a first-person narrative. We hope to have this program take place in person but will pursue digital options if we are unable to gather. We will work with local actors and teaching artists and NYC-based theatre artists/educators, Joe Salvatore and Keith Huff of Verbatim Performance Lab.