University Theatre Faculty
Mark D. Guinn, Associate Professor, Production Manager and Producer for the School of the Performing Arts. He is an anomaly within his profession. Dancing the sword’s edge between the artistic and production side of the stage, he has found that searching for a new style to light his meta-mattic sculptures. Twenty years later, with a reputation and production awards under his belt, ‘lighting’ and ‘direct’ shows from NYC to Yokohama and Memphis to Bardin, Mark continues to pursue Einstein’s observation, “The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to notice we are seeing.
The source of all true art and science.” Mark received the 2010-2011 University Senate Chair Award as the “outstanding professor of the year.

Paul B. Crook is an Associate Professor of acting and directing and supervises all student directing projects, in addition to directing and occasionally acting for the Department of Theatre. He also serves as the Director of the University of Louisiana at Monroe-Ouachita Center. Paul has previously served as the Director of Theatre for Andover College in Cathbiche, GA, as the Artistic Coordinator for the Secondstage Theatre, and Director and Dramaturge for the Directors’ Guild of America, a director for the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival in Durant, OK, and as the Managing Director and Producer for B & T Theatre, a professional summer theatre company that he formed with his wife, Mary; Fran, a theatre professor at Grambling State University. Paul and Mary Fran have three children.

Don Stevens is the Technical Director and has written, directed, and produced six shows for Big Bad Productions. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech’s Master’s program and received his second MA in English from UGA. Don was awarded the John C. Trulter award in 2003 and the Vera Alice Paul award in 2004. As one of the founders of CDTA (Cultural Theatre of New England), he has been involved in bringing new works by local playwrights to the Ruston area, and has been involved in productions with the University Theatre, the Ruston Community Theatre, Louisiana Tech University Theatre and Ruston Community Theatre as an actor, director and producer.

Directors Notes: Thoughts on Wilder
KENNETH ROBBINS

Our Town opened on Broadway after a failed out-of-town run in Boston. Thornton Wilder asserted the drama toing a new way we were to see the world and its inhabitants. He is often said to have been the creator of a new style of theatre called ‘realism’. He was not the first to attempt realism, but he was the first to succeed.

The original 1938 Broadway production was a blockbuster, receiving the Pulitzer Prize and other treated him as an innovator of its day, leading to critical and popular success. As an older man, he was known as “too delicate, too intimate, too common place.”

The question of why here and why now remains.

There is a conceded but viable reason for resurrecting this 73 year old play this year, in October 2011. The World as we know it seems to be in a state of disrepair and demonstrates through nostalgia the way we were as a people at the beginning of the 21st century, and it indicates that it is time for us to take a long hard look at our world and its inhabitants.

Bill Willisby, making his acting debut as Professor Williamroman in NTU’s production of Our Town is Professor and the Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He received his Masters of Architecture at Kent State University. We are very honored to have Mr. Willisby as part of our production.

ALUMNI PAGE

Rachel Anne Pace, playing the role of Mrs. Gibbs, is a junior Theatre Major from Covington, LA. At Tech she was the Marquess of Dorset in Richard III in 2009 and Ginnweeney in So You Think You’re Shakespeare? in 2011 for which she received a Tony Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Play. Mrs. Gibbs was part of the ensemble for Fiddler on the Roof and the O’Fallon Theatre’s production of Grapes of Wrath.

At Northlake Christian University, a theatre graduate student at Louisiana Tech University, sits in a theatre chair and has found popularity around the world since its premiere, in an interview that the theatre was searching for some reason to be performed in the age of video and television. This fall marks the 150 year since the dike was built, and the Dam was moved out.

In Our Town we wanted to do something to commemorate the resilience of the American character. Our goal was to bring a new world to our viewers and demonstrate through nostalgia to the way we were as a people at the beginning of the 20th century, and it indicates that it is time for us to take a long hard look at our world and its inhabitants.

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The original 1938 Broadway production was a blockbuster, receiving the Pulitzer Prize and received numerous awards, and its influence continues to be felt in all forms of theatre today.

This is my assessment. What’s yours?
Louisiana Tech Stone Our Town CAST continued...

Ryan Angers, playing the role of Salesman, is a sophomore major from Bossier City, LA. At Air Force Academy, he played the role of a Stage Hand and Captain Pipe in The Musical in 2011, for which he received Tech’s Top Ten Best and the Georges Award, KAB Man in the student-produced production of KAB Man and III. This summer at the Schenectady Amateur he was Ben Campbell in Trumpet in the Tent and Captain Pipe in The White Savage. Ryan is an Eagle Scout.

Steven B. Vick, playing the role of Sam Craig, is a freshman student major from El Dorado, Arkansas. He was the Assistant Stage Manager and set designer for Stone Theatre’s 2006 production of The Music Man. He was the Assistant Stage Manager for the 2011 production of All My Sons.

Brandon Gantt, playing the role of the youngest member of the Webb family, Wally Webb, is a freshman Theatre major from Greenville, SC. In 2010, he was the Assistant Stage Manager for Stone Theatre’s 2011 production of All My Sons.

Tyler Lee Lochey, as Jon’Nell Crowell, is a sophomore Theatre major from Tioga High School. Before transferring to Tech, he attended Morris Community College and was a student in the Drama Program at Illinois Community College, Alleman. He has performed in various theatrical roles including Jack Scan in A Moseley Family Reunion, Tyler in Romeo and Juliet at New Orleans Academy of the Arts, and Zelig in Circa Dell Hofstey in 2011. At Horn in the West he played the role of Toby Miller in 2011 and at the Prairie Dinner Adventure in Orleans, FL he was Benjamin Blue 2009-2010.

Holly in 2010, Con- code in Much Ado About Nothing, Gregory Phillips in All My Sons and in 2009; Arthur, Charlie, Psychiatrist, Billy, Billy Fred, Tony, Standish and Guest in The Din- ning Room. Previously, he directed a scene design project for Stone Theatre. Previously, he directed a scene design project for Stone Theatre.

At El Dorado High School, he earned the role of Banquo in Richard III in 2010, Con- code in Much Ado About Nothing, Gregory Phillips in All My Sons and in 2009; Arthur, Charlie, Psychiatrist, Billy, Billy Fred, Tony, Standish and Guest in The Din- ning Room. Previously, he directed a scene design project for Stone Theatre. Previously, he directed a scene design project for Stone Theatre.

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