

Middle States Reaffirms Kean's Accreditation

Kean Meets All MSCHE Standards

UNION — The Middle States Commission on Higher Education today voted to reaffirm Kean University's accreditation for a ten-year period, recognizing the University meets all fourteen standards that comprise the academic accrediting agency's "Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education."

The decision came during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission and means the university is no longer on probation. The Commission notified Kean University President Dawood Farahi of its decision on November 15; the Commission said its Statement of Accreditation Status was posted Friday, November 16 on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education website www.msche.org/institutions_view.asp?idinstitution=220.

"This is welcome and wonderful news for our students, their parents and guardians, alumni, benefactors, faculty and staff," said Dr. Farahi. "This has been a long and thorough process. Kean University has emerged from it as a stronger institution, more determined than ever to deliver a world-class education to our students."

The Commission's action comes after a Visiting Team appointed by MSCHE traveled to Kean in September; met with university officials, faculty and staff; reviewed programs and assessment systems; and concluded that Kean University met four commission standards where improvement was needed. The full Commission today essentially agreed with the Visiting Team report. In addition, the Commission requested that Kean submit a monitoring report in March 2014 that demonstrates how the university continues to progress in key areas related to academic and institutional assessment.

Kean Board Chair Ada Morell, Class of 1997, thanked members of the Commission for their valuable input during the accreditation process. The University, she said, is a better place thanks to the Commission's work because of the robust assessment systems established during the re-accreditation process.

"Everyone who cares about Kean and our students rolled up their sleeves and got to work to ensure this university provides the quality education and opportunity it promises," Chair Morell said. "I want to personally thank the President, Board members and all faculty and staff who committed the time and

resources needed to move Kean forward. I have no doubt we will continue along this successful path."

Per the Commission's action report, the University now returns to the standard 10-year assessment cycle. The University will submit its Periodic Review Report by June 1, 2017 and its next Self-Study Evaluation will take place in 2021-2022.

Dr. Farahi said the Commission's decision was the culmination of an extraordinary effort by many faculty and staff from a variety of disciplines and areas of expertise.

"Many people worked long hours to make sure that Kean University demonstrated its compliance with Middle States requirements," he said. "Their dedication to our students was truly inspiring."

Aside from the changes that were the result of the accreditation process, Kean University has made great strides in recent years as it seeks to enhance the learning experience for students. Among the achievements are: A 25-percent increase in the four-year graduation rate over the last five years; The University produces the most teachers in the state of New Jersey; The University recently implemented the state's first undergraduate degree program in Sustainability Studies; Kean was chosen as one of the top five most-diverse universities in the nation, as ranked by DiversityInc.; The University created the innovative New Jersey Center for Science, Technology, and Mathematics.



STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE... Anna Marie Chimento of Fanwood and student at the Midland School in North Branch, proudly wears her Student Council pin. Anna Marie represents her classroom at the monthly Student Council meetings. Midland School serves students with special needs from school districts throughout central and northern New Jersey.

WHS Helping Hands Fund to Assist WHS Teacher and Custodian

WESTFIELD - The Westfield High School (WHS) PTSO has identified three families from the WHS community who were displaced due to the storm. The PTSO reached out and delivered gift cards, through its Sunshine Committee, to these families.

The WHS PTSO has also been made aware of two staff members who lost their home and possessions in Super storm Sandy. These staff members, a custodian and a teacher, live in southern Jersey where the effects of the storm were more severe.

The WHS PTSO established the Westfield High School Helping Hands (WSHHH) fund the summer of 2012. WSHHH fund is to be used to assist families (including staff and students) in the WHS community who are suffering financially due to an unusual family circumstance

(such as super storm Sandy), serious illness or death in their family.

The WHS PTSO wishes to raise funds to aid the two staff families and asks the community to consider making a small donation to this worthy and WHS school community cause. To donate, make checks payable to the Westfield Foundation and note WSHHH, Sandy 2012 on the memo. Funds collected will be distributed to these two families. As this is a non-profit holding, all donations to WSHHH are deductible.

Checks should be mailed directly to the Westfield Foundation, P.O. Box 2295, Westfield, New Jersey 07091 Memo: WSHHH Fund, Sandy 2012.

For questions or more information, email the WHS PTSO at whspts@westfieldnj12.org.



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER...Members of the Home/Life Social Services Department, a section of the Woman's Club of Westfield led by Jane Walsweaver and Julie Nardone, gathered at the Masonic Lodge in Westfield recently to put together over 100 packages of Christmas cookies mixed with candies to be shared with the patients of Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights. This is a WCW project that has been done faithfully every holiday season over many years. Pictured, left to right, are: Anne Magnotti, Sally Brown, Nancy Yingling, Jane Walsweaver, Julie Nardonne, Pat D'Angelo, Sarah Choi, Anne Galante and Marjorie Wieseman.



SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON...The Woman's Club of Westfield (WCW), along with town educators and club friends, gathered recently at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield for the club's annual Scholarship Luncheon Fundraiser. Pictured, left to right, are: WCW Co-President Sally Brown, Westfield Superintendent of Schools Dr. Margaret Dolan, WCW benefactor Marie Gray, WHS Principal Peter Renwick and WCW Co-President Barbara Doane.

Academy for Performing Arts Presents *Metamorphoses*

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Academy for Performing Arts (APA) will present its 2012 fall show, *Metamorphoses*, written by Mary Zimmerman, this weekend.

The show is comprised of Ovid's everlasting myths with the central theme of change. The play is staged around and inside a pool of water.

Metamorphoses runs from Thursday, November 29, Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1, at 7 p.m. in the APA Blackbox Theatre at 1776 Raritan Road, in Scotch Plains. Tickets are \$10 and being sold at the door, or online at www.apafallshow.eventbrite.com.



Academy of Performing Arts Cast of *Metamorphoses*

Frank D. Isoldi Joins Exclusive Haute Living Real Estate Network

WESTFIELD - Frank D. Isoldi, a prominent real estate agent in the Westfield, N.J. market, has joined the prestigious Haute Living Real Estate Network. This exclusive circle of leading real estate agents is invited to bring opulent estates and luxury properties to Haute Living readers. Recognized for his market knowledge, his negotiating skills and top performing results, Mr. Isoldi assures that each buyer and seller's transactions are as painless and profitable as possible. *Haute Living* Magazine will feature Frank D. Isoldi as an exclusive Haute Living real estate professional.



Frank D. Isoldi

Haute Living Real Estate Network specializes in selecting top real estate professionals, creating the most prominent directory for exclusive listings. The network website is an online destination for all things real estate-related and features daily blog posts providing up-to-date news on affluent markets and real estate developments. Access all of this information and more by visiting www.hauteliving.com/hlrn.

A sales associate in the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Westfield East office, Frank D. Isoldi

has been ranked by the *Wall Street Journal*/REAL Trends report as being among America's Top 1,000 residential real estate agents and teams based on annual 2011 sales volume and transaction sides. Mr. Isoldi ranked No. 143 on *The Wall Street Journal*/Real Trends top 1000 list of sales professionals by transaction volume, closing \$49+ million in sales in 2011. Mr. Isoldi currently is ranked by the New Jersey Association of REALTORS® as the 1 real estate agent in Union County based on sales performance.

"Frank is known for his dedicated service to his clients through every step of their transactions and we applaud his achievements," said Hal Maxwell, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y. "This honor reflects how exceptional he is on both a local and national level."

To Learn More: Visit Frank D. Isoldi's HLRN Member Profile at www.hauteresidence.com/member/frank-d-isoldi/.

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MIRACULOUS PERFORMERS...Julia Linger of Cranford, left, and Samantha Lamparello of Watchung perform a scene from *The Miracle Worker* on stage at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison. The duo co-starred as Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan. Despite losing more than a week in rehearsal time due to Hurricane Sandy, the cast and crew put on a wonderful show.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT...Thirty members of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School community spent Tuesday afternoon, November 13, at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside packaging food for the Hurricane Sandy relief effort. Faculty and staff members joined students on the assembly line, where they packed more than 200 emergency boxes for victims of Hurricane Sandy. The emergency boxes included pasta, rice, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, soup, juice, milk, water and snacks.

POPCORN™ "Lincoln"

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By **MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER**
Film Critic

We knew Lincoln was a great man, a wit, an altruist, a template for humanitarianism and a darn good rasserler in his youth. But often lost is what a brilliant politician he was, maybe because of the negative connotation generally ascribed that occupation. In director Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," Daniel Day-Lewis magnificently rectifies that oversight.

Should you choose to venture with the 16th President of the United States during the last months of the Civil War, be prepared for two and one-half hours of the most intelligent, thoughtful and provocative entertainment to come down the cinema pike in recent time. While seeing it won't earn you an M.A. in history, one should be granted a credit or two.

This is responsible stuff. And though loaded with life's humor, usually via the title character's pungent anecdotes, truisms and observations, there is little Hollywoodization here to make the smart and weighty go down easy. OK, it isn't for everyone. Yet it is a testament to Mr. Spielberg's brilliance that he makes such heady material so accessible.

There's a whole bunch going on at once, both in the narrative so splendidly realized and in the grand but deceptively simple process that presents it. The filmmaker sings a paean to the tradition of historical movies, acknowledging the pageantry of the ages, and yet happily skips all the baroque surplus thanks to an instinctive economy of storytelling.

An award-worthy script by Tony Kushner, adapted in part from Doris Kearns Goodwin's book, is obviously interpreted with due reverence by a stellar cast. It can get a little complicated, especially if you've been out of school for a while. However, in time the memory is jogged and you figure out who's who, by word, deed and even body language.

The scenario: It's early 1865 and, while it's fairly certain the North will win the war, the nature and structure of the peace that will follow pose numerous questions and enigmas. Although the union will be preserved, Mr. Lincoln sees his work far from done. Granted, the Emancipation Proclamation fulfilled a military goal, but slavery is still not abolished.

Hence, honest Abe has now turned most of his attention and energies to the proposed 13th Amendment. Passed by a friendly Senate, its future in the House of Representatives is precarious. What thus follows is a world class primer on advice, consent, everything Machiavelli taught, a little Medici and maybe a few moves and stratagems from Caesar.

Lincoln, driven by moral certainty, doesn't actually say the end justifies the means. But when he concedes to his associates that one

ploy in particular is a lawyerly tactic he first ventured back on the circuit in Illinois, we take it as a sly wink cordially inviting us into his confidence. We are aboard to see justice done, and feeling all ennobled for it.

Doing the great man's bidding and thereby framing for us the length and breadth of Mr. Lincoln's diplomatic brilliance is Secretary of State William Seward, convincingly realized by David Strathairn. Sully his hands where the President cannot, we're literally brought to the back room where two scawag go-betweens add comic relief.

The negotiations and brinksmanship recall the warning of the pundit who said folks should avoid seeing two things made: laws and sausage. Indeed, it's tough going for the emancipator. And as the work proceeds, one can't help make analogies to current, well-meaning politicians, and appreciate the loneliness that can often attend a moral mission.

Spielberg, through Daniel Day-Lewis's all-encompassing command of both the myth and the man, subtly pedestals the protagonist, evidencing the admiration earned even from his most ardent political foes. We check ourselves, rationally sure that he was but human, yet remain in awe of this down home soul whose abilities seem otherworldly.

Creating the time and temper of the intriguing milieu is a solid supporting cast led by Sally Field as the troubled and often maligned Mary Todd Lincoln. But the pick here for a secondary Oscar is Tommy Lee Jones as Thaddeus Stevens, abolitionist, congressman and the cleverly embodied proof that politics makes for strange bedfellows.

However, a nomination for the major male statuette is sure to be garnered by Daniel Day-Lewis. In the vernacular of the texting generation, his portrayal is awesome...totally. The performance, a veritable lesson in method acting worthy of Brando, uncannily captures not only what is known of Lincoln, but enchantingly assumes his spirit as well.

Too bad for those who will avoid this epochal gem because they don't care for history, preferring instead to repeat its mistakes. This is a sturdy monograph certain to win the muse Clio's approval. Vigorously reconstructing the watershed era in question, "Lincoln" also shows us that divisiveness can be overcome when good people put their minds to it.

"Lincoln," rated PG-13, is a Touchstone Pictures release directed by Steven Spielberg and stars Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field and Tommy Lee Jones. Running time: 150 minutes

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