CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS--The Theatre Department formally sponsors two campus organizations.

UCM Players--Anyone active in Theatre, regardless of major, is welcome to join Players. Meetings are held each month. Activities include service projects, fund raising and social events, and selection of annual awards to students for their Theatre work.

Theta Alpha Phi--A national honorary fraternity for Theatre workers, major and non-major alike. Membership is by election; candidates must have had a number of roles or backstage positions in productions. With Players, Theta Alpha Phi sponsors the annual Theatre Awards Banquet.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Professional organizations can be of benefit to the serious theatre student. In time they can help you find a job through their placement services. Two national theatre organizations provide this service, ATHE and USITT. Locally active organizations include the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri. Most organizations have reduced membership rates for students, which provides you with full membership benefits. Professional membership not only looks good on a resume, but also makes a positive statement of your commitment to your profession and your support to other theatre professionals.

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTF) The goals of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival are:

- To encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theatre programs
- To provide opportunities for participants to develop their theatre skills and insight; and achieve professionalism
- To improve the quality of college and university theatre in America
- To encourage colleges and universities to give distinguished productions of new plays, especially those written by students, the classics, revitalized or newly conceived; and experimental works

The Central Theatre Department regularly enters associate or participating productions for adjudication in the regional festival. Central students are eligible for participation in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarships, the Barbizon Award for Theatrical Design Excellence, and numerous playwriting awards. Department faculty and students regularly attend the regional festival during the month of January each year. National website: [www.kennedy-center.org/education/actf](http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/actf) Regional website: [www.kcactf5.org](http://www.kcactf5.org).

Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri (STAM) The Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri is an organization which promotes communication and cooperation among members of the speech communication and theatre professions in Missouri and that works to increase professional stature and to improve teaching and scholarship in the communicative arts and sciences.
STAM serves its membership in many ways:

- Holds an annual convention to share papers and programs which present the latest research and offer practical suggestions for teaching.
- Publishes the Missouri Speech Journal, a Newsletter and an annual Membership Directory.
- Acts on issues concerning speech, theatre and mass communication education.
- Works closely with state, regional and national professional and educational organizations affiliated with speech, theatre and mass communication education.
- Participates in selecting the Speech Advisory Committee of the Missouri State High School Activities Association.
- Maintains active involvement with the State Department of Education in Core Competency legislation in Missouri.
- Offers award incentives to encourage excellence in teaching at all levels.
- Provides scholarships.
- Hosts the Missouri Theatre Gallery.
- Website: [www.stamnet.org](http://www.stamnet.org)

**Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)**--The Association for Theatre in Higher Education is an organization of individuals and institutions that provides vision and leadership for the profession and promotes excellence in theatre education. ATHE actively supports scholarship through teaching, research and practice and serves as a collective voice for its mission through its publications, conferences, advocacy, projects, and through collaborative efforts with other organizations. ATHE’s 1,800 members include post-secondary faculty in theatre and related fields, graduate students, and theatre and performance artists in universities, commercial venues, and community-based and alternative theatres. Members receive a variety of benefits including subscriptions to publications, reduced rates at the national conference, a listing in the ATHE directory, a members only email list, and a chance to participate in specific interest groups. Website: [www.athe.org](http://www.athe.org).

**United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT)**--The mission of USITT is to actively promote the advancement of the knowledge and skills of its members by:

- promoting research, innovation, and creativity by sponsoring projects, programs, and symposia;
- disseminating information about aesthetic and technological developments;
- providing opportunities for professional contacts and networking;
- producing the USITT Annual Conference & Stage Expo;
- participating in the development of industry standards;
- promoting and sponsoring international alliances and activities;
- advocating safe, efficient, and ethical practices;
- sponsoring exhibits of scenery, costumes, lighting, sound, stage technology and architectural designs;
- recognizing excellence and significant contributions in the performing arts and entertainment industry.

USITT is dedicated to the professional development of men and women who are an integral part of the performing arts community. Established in 1960 by a dedicated group of theatre professionals and educators, USITT has grown from its modest beginnings in New York City to a truly international organization. Website: [www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org).
University/Resident Theatre Association (U/RTA) The University/Resident Theatre Association is the country's oldest and largest consortium of professional theatre training graduate programs and associated professional theatre companies. Founded in 1969, U/RTA provides a variety of service, management and informational programs to its members, and to non-member students, theatre professionals and producing companies, while serving as the primary liaison between the professional and educational theatres. U/RTA encourages the professional training of artists, and of future teachers in the performing arts for all levels of education. Each winter the University/Resident Theatre Association holds a series of auditions and interviews involving hundreds of the country's outstanding undergraduate and advanced theatre students. The National Unified Auditions and Interviews are conducted in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco, with candidates coming from around the world. Candidates interested in acting, design (scenic, lighting, costume, sound), directing, theatre technology, stage management, playwriting and theatre management, are provided the opportunity to vie for numerous positions with graduate schools, and for seasonal employment with summer theatre companies, Shakespeare festivals and other professional producing organizations. Membership in U/RTA is not required for students to participate. Website: www.urta.com.