

The Little Apple® New Year's Eve Celebration and Ball Drop 2006-2007 Performers and Crew Biographies

Ed Klimek – The Emcee

Ed is the former two-time mayor of Manhattan, Kansas and has spent ten years on the City Commission. He has been the Emcee for the Little Apple® New Year's Eve Ball Drop for four years. Ed's two sons are also participating in the celebration as sign-changers for the Broadway sign-changing ceremony.

Sarah Noll – Singing “God Bless America”

Sarah is currently a junior at Manhattan High School. She has been involved with music, acting, and dancing, and for nine years, Sarah has been taking voice, guitar and piano lessons. The largest crowd Sarah has performed in front of was 13,500 for a K-State women's basketball game. She will be performing for the second year in a row in the Tribute to the Troops segment of the Little Apple® New Year's Eve Celebration and Ball Drop.

Dwight Tolar – Singing “Welcome!”

Dwight is a K-State instructor who has been teaching Performance, Movement and Voice courses in the Theatre Department. He has been a professional actor across the country for 15 years. He will be singing the “Welcome!” song during the Welcoming segment of the show.

George Stavropoulos – Welcoming Segment Emcee

George is a senior in Theatre at K-State. He was born in Manhattan, grew up in Salina and returned to Manhattan to attend K-State. He has recently been seen in productions of *Macbeth*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, and will be seen in upcoming productions of *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* at K-State's Nichols Theatre.

Andrew and Brandon Klimek – Sign Changers

Andrew is a seventh-grader at Anthony Middle School in Manhattan, and Brandon is a junior at Manhattan High School. They are the sons of Ed Klimek, the Emcee for the celebration. They will be changing the street sign from Moro to Broadway as announced by the Mayor's proclamation.

Dean Lynton – Drummer

Dean is a junior at K-State working on a Bachelor of Music degree. In addition to being in K-State's Latin Jazz Ensemble, he is involved with two other bands, “Liars of Local Interest” and “Raucous Mire”. Tonight, Dean is the drum soloist.

Clayton Applegate – DJ

Clayton is the owner of Applegate Music Productions and is currently working as a Music Educator Representative for Flint Hills Music in Emporia, Kansas. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Emporia Municipal Band.

Marci Maullar – Director of Welcoming Segment

Marci is the Managing Director of K-State Theatre, and has been at K-State for 19 years. She is currently teaching Theatre Management and Fundamentals of Acting. She has directed 3 plays at The Manhattan Arts Center including *The Appletree*, *Black Comedy*, and *Same Time Next Year*.

Mike MacFarland – Writer and creator of “Welcome!”

Mike is the writer and composer of the “Welcome!” song performed tonight by Dwight Tolar. Mike composes music for television, radio, film and theatre. He also teaches music to inner city children. In addition, Mike plays the keyboard, guitar, and computer for a band named “Apollo 13”.

Major General Carter F. Ham – Speaker, Dignitary assigned to press the button activating the ball drop

General Ham has a long and distinguished history serving our country. Although his service spans back to the 1970's his more recent accomplishments include the following: In January 2004, General Ham assumed command of MultiNational Brigade – North in Mosul, Iraq serving there until February 2005. Returning from Iraq, General Ham served as the Deputy Director for Regional Operations, J-33, The Joint Staff. General Ham assumed command of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas August 1, 2006. General Ham's awards and decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal (3rd award), the Legion of Merit (2nd award), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (6th award), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), the Army Achievement Medal (3rd award), the Combat Action Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

Bob Huggins - Speaker and K-State Men's Basketball Coach

Coach Huggins is the new Men's Basketball Coach at K-State. His coaching career includes: Graduate assistant coach at West Virginia (1977-78); Assistant coach at Ohio State (1978-80); Head coach at Walsh College (1980-83); Assistant coach at Central Florida (1983-84); Head coach at Akron (1984-89); Head coach at Cincinnati (1989-2005). Coach Huggins also has a long list of coaching honors that include: National Coach of the Year by Hoop Scoop in 1992; Playboy in 1993; Basketball Times in 1998; ESPN.com in 2002; The Sporting News in 2005; Earned the Ray Meyer Award as the Conference USA Coach of the Year in 1997-98; 1998-99 and 1999-2000; Unanimous choice as the Conference USA Coach of the Decade.

Hal Dace – Videographer

Hal has been the videographer for The Little Apple® New Year's Eve Celebration and Ball Drop for four years, and has been the main contributor of the event's video news releases. Hal was born and raised in Manhattan, Kansas. For 20 years, he worked on hundreds of films (not an exaggeration) for the BBC, and virtually every other broadcaster in the UK (including NBC and ABC), as well as many independent production companies, mainly as a film editor but also as a producer, director, and camera operator. Hal founded Handmade Productions and has made numerous TV commercials and corporate videos.

Kate Watson – Co-founder of the Little Apple® New Year's Eve Celebration and Ball Drop

Kate is a Marketing and Business Development Consultant but also enjoys community volunteer work. She is the co-founder of the Little Apple® New Year's Eve Celebration.

Steve Levin – Co-founder of the Little Apple® New Year's Eve Celebration and Ball Drop

Steve is a resident of Manhattan and an owner of Varney's Book Store, which is the lead sponsor of the event. He is a co-founder of the Little Apple® New Year's Eve Celebration.