



On Saturday, October 15, 2011, Gareth Conners, founder of Creative Conners, Inc. (a major provider of automation control systems for regional theatres and universities nationwide) held a day-long workshop with graduate and undergraduate students in theatre technology and scenery automation. During his visit, he shared anecdotes of his career designing automation systems for scenery design, and the specific ways in which these experiences led to the design of the Creative Conners line of motion control equipment for theatre.

In the afternoon, he worked with students to examine the design of the Creative Conners Stagehand, an all-in-one TCP/IP control interface and motor drive (configurable for both AC and DC motors). Conners walked students through the functionality of the system at the electronic component level, explaining the choices his company has made in circuit boards, control boards, microcontrollers and other internal electronics. Finally, he demonstrated how those choices led to the design of the proprietary Windows software that functions as a simple user-interface for easy programmability and repeatability of scenery automation.