

GONZAGA DANCE 2024-2025



GONZAGA DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

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Associate Professor, Dance Chair
Robert and Marion Oster Endowed
Chair of Dance

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Letter from the Director

Hello Gonzaga Dance Fans! We are all excited to be starting a new Academic Year! You will read in these pages about some of the glories of this past spring, such as presenting Pacific Northwest Ballet, our exciting new Assistant Professor hire, touring throughout the region, as well as what we have in store this year.

Gonzaga Dance is ever evolving based on the needs of our students, our patrons, our alums and all those that 'follow' us. Part of this evolution is we will be moving to an annual newsletter. As always, we are open to hearing about what is most interesting to you about what we have going on.

Please read to the end, as we are announcing a special celebration this year in conjunction with our annual Spring Dance Concert. This year we will be celebrating "The First 25 Years of Gonzaga Dance"! It is hard to believe that it all began in 2000, and now, a quarter of a century later we have a thriving Dance Department, with dance majors and minors, service learning programs, and presenting series! Please set aside time in your calendars for April 25-27 to come celebrate with us. It would mean the world to get to all celebrate together.

-Suzanne Ostersmith



RECRUITMENT TOUR Four students, above from left to right, Caroline '27, Isabella '26, Anna '24, and Talia '25, worked with Suzanne to create and tour around the region presenting a performance called *Consider Dance*. In the show, the dancers showcased select choreographic works from their experiences with Gonzaga Dance faculty and guest artists, woven with stories of how they decided to attend Gonzaga and find a home with Gonzaga Dance. The group travelled to Portland, Vancouver, and Seattle performing for over 7 different audiences - Classical Ballet Academy, Vancouver School of Arts and Academic, King's Way Christian School, Northwest School of Art, Creative Dance Center, Taproot Theatre, and All That Dance - before concluding their tour in Spokane in front of an audience of prospective students. We are very encouraged by the response and excited to see how this recruitment tour will impact Gonzaga Dance in to the future.



ALUMNI FEATURE: KAYLA CROW '21 I completed my bachelor's degree in dance, psychology, and economics, with a minor in Entrepreneurial Leadership studies. I am so thankful to Gonzaga for creating the space to allow me to explore all of the subjects I was interested in, and also to have the amazing curriculum and community teaching how they all intertwined.

In every subject I studied, I had wonderful mentors among my professors, but especially in dance. Suzanne has created the most welcoming program for people to learn about and experience dance from all different levels, and it was so wonderful to have her as a mentor during my time at Gonzaga, and even now post college.

When I interviewed with the Gates Foundation a year and a half ago, they were very intrigued by my dance degree and by my high-level of projects relating to the dance program. Not only was it intriguing and unique that I had "dance" on my resume, but my experiences in leadership, organizing events, and building community through the dance program at Gonzaga really stood out to them as well.

My next adventure will start in the fall of this year in a part-time graduate program at the University of Washington, in addition to continuing my work at the Gates Foundation and teaching part-time at All That Dance in Seattle.





ZAG DANCE This year's ZagDance program was one of our biggest yet. With 16 Gonzaga Dance students in the Strategies for Dance Instruction class, we hosted sixty-five 4th and 5th graders from 5 local Title 1 schools each week on campus for a free creative movement/dance class.

We gathered in Magnuson Theatre in December for our final show and our 65 kiddo's families had the theatre overflowing! This academic year will be our first in many years offering the Strategies for Dance Instruction class in both the Fall and the Spring semester.

This increase in our offerings will double our ZagDance expenses. We are now expecting the program to cost \$6,000. Please consider making a donation to support healthy snacks for these children as well as a commemorative t-shirt they'll wear during their performance like the ones pictured here.



SUPPORT GONZAGA DANCE

There are multiple funds to contribute to the momentum of Gonzaga Dance at this time. The Suzanne Ostersmith Dance Endowment supports world class professional experiences for our students, while other funds can be spent at the director's discretion on dance education and other program needs.

Please consider making a donation by visiting us online at gonzaga.edu/dance (support us) or email dance@gonzaga.edu for more information.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET We were so proud to present Pacific Northwest Ballet in February at the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center for two sold out performances. The journey leading up to these performances was exciting and intentional and came from cultivating relationships from when Suzanne worked at Pacific Northwest Ballet (PNB) in the 1990s. We hosted PNB for a number of years as they held auditions for their summer intensives (see photo), and Suzanne continued the conversation with Artistic Director Peter Boal. Ultimately, he said "We are not Seattle Ballet, we are Pacific Northwest Ballet and it only seems appropriate to tour to Spokane". Our marketing campaign was the strongest effort ever, bolstered by local Dance Fans, Gonzaga Dance reached more target audiences than ever before. From our partnership with the Museum of Arts and Culture, to ads in as many Arts and Culture performances in the region, we were grateful for the community support in spreading the word about this momentous occasion. Our audiences were graced with a mixed repertory performance that included classical ballet such as Stowell's Swan Lake, to contemporary like Jiri Killian's Petite Mort. You will see that our season this year includes THREE professional companies. Under new leadership at the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, they are taking the lead and we are presenting partners. The three companies this year are BodyTraffic, ODC, and Alonzo King LINES. Looking to the future, we would love to host Pacific Northwest Ballet again and plan to continue that conversation.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT We are delighted to introduce you to Cynthia Gutierrez our new Tenure Track Assistant Professor! After an extensive national search last year, Cynthia was selected by the arts-wide Search Committee and offered the position by the College of Arts and Sciences Dean to begin this fall semester.

Cynthia earned her MFA in Dance from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and taught at Western Oregon University in Monmouth Oregon for 14 years.

She is an experienced and sought after teacher with an extensive record in guest teaching and commissioned choreographic works from across the nation and internationally. She has been awarded grants from various foundations including the McKnight Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, and The Arizona Commission on the Arts. She is the Northwest Regional Director for the American College Dance Association where she has been a long-standing member of the Equity and Justice Committee. Cynthia is Artistic Director and Founder of Company Movimiento which produces contemporary modern and jazz work through a LatinX and social justice lens.

Cynthia has taught just about every course Gonzaga Dance offers, and we are excited to have her expertise, enthusiasm, and experience on our faculty. This fall she is teaching Jazz Dance (Latinx), Introduction to Dance, Dance: Culture and Art, and Senior Seminar.

Please welcome Cynthia!





Pictured Back Row Left to Right: Lauren Wolfe, Mara Neary, Anna Wright, Sydney Zinnecker, Mia Person.
 Front Row Left to Right: Libby Barkhurst, Carolyn Chadbourne, Lily Sager, Olivia Kennedy, Julia Konovalov, Ireland Luiten, Maria Scott

SENIOR CELEBRATION Congratulations to our Gonzaga Dance Class of 2024. The students to the left graduated with Dance Honors as a part of the National Honors Society for Dance Arts - a program we began participating in under the leadership of Breanna Johnson '14. We also celebrate (not in the photo) additional graduating minors Ellie Holliday, Caroline Jenkins, and Carolyn Premo. Over the years seniors often include dance in Senior Research Projects from other departments, and this year, we collected and displayed various projects. The following students combined dance with their other academic interests for their capstone or Thesis projects. Topics include interdisciplinary research on dance with the fields of history, social sciences, technology, and more! Carolyn Chadbourne - Dance and History, Lily Sager - Dance and Environmental Science, Maria Scott - Dance and Psychology, Anna Wright - Dance and Communication Studies, and Sydney Zinnecker - Dance and Physics. This work was displayed in the lobby at the Spring Dance Concert and Senior Showcase and it was delightful to see the younger students and general audience inspired by the way dance can tie to the variety of fields.

THE FIRST 25 YEARS In 2000, Gonzaga's Dance program was born. A quarter of a century later, we are celebrating the first 25 years of Gonzaga Dance, a symbol that articulates the exciting future ahead. We invite you to join us in this celebration at the 2025 Spring Dance Concert. Mark your calendars for April 25 and 26th, 2025. The Theme for the Spring Dance Concert will be "The First 25 Years" as we reminisce on special moments in OUR history throughout the show, highlighting our Gonzaga Dance journey. Alumni, please join us for a full immersive Gonzaga Dance weekend. We'll have several events for you to join including classes, tours, meals, and Dance Brunch! Email dance@gonzaga.edu for RSVP details.



GONZAGA DANCE

2024 - 2025 SEASON

Celebrating the First 25 Years of Gonzaga Dance



Dance Season Opener

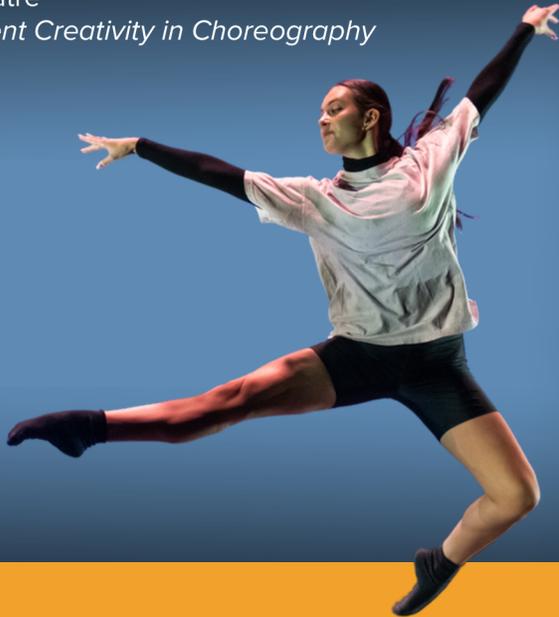
September 21, 7:30 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
Featuring Ishita Mili and IMGE Dance
Storytelling Through a Global Vocabulary of Movement

60x60

October 4, 6:00 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
Creative Short Works by Students, Faculty, and Alumni

Student Choreography Showcase

December 5 & 6, 7:00 p.m.
Magnuson Theatre
Visionary Student Creativity in Choreography



Musical Theatre Dance Revue

January 24 & 25, 7:00 p.m.
Magnuson Theatre
Choreographed and Produced by Students

Celebrate EveryBODY Screendance Film Festival

February 12, 6:00 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
Fundraising for Dance for Parkinson's

Student Choreography Showcase

April 11 & 12, 7:00 p.m.
Magnuson Theatre
Visionary Student Creativity in Choreography

Spring Dance Concert

April 25 & 26, 7:30 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
*Faculty Choreographed Works From a Variety
of Dance Genres Celebrating the First 25
years of Gonzaga Dance*



MYRTLE WOLDSON
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AT GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

DANCE
LIVES HERE!



BODYTRAFFIC

October 19 at 7:30 p.m.



ODC

January 31 at 7:30 p.m.



Alonzo King LINES

March 29 & 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Box Office: 211 E Desmet
(509) 313-2787 | gonzaga.edu/ticketcenter
gonzaga.edu/dance | dance@gonzaga.edu | [@gonzagadance](https://www.instagram.com/gonzagadance)

