

# GONZAGA DANCE FALL 2021



## GONZAGA DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

**Suzanne Ostersmith, MFA**  
Associate Professor of Theatre &  
Dance; Dance Director

**Pamela Erickson**  
Lecturer of Theatre & Dance, Director  
of Summer Dance Intensive

**CarliAnn Forthun-Bruner, MFA**  
Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Sarah Glesk**  
Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Joseph Lyons, MA**  
Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Karla Parbon, MA**  
Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Halle Goodwin, MSOL**  
Assistant Director of Dance

**Darci Bierman, MPA**  
Program Assistant

**Anshuman Bhatia, MFA**  
Visiting Professor, Production  
Manager

**Leslie Stamoolis, MFA**  
Associate Professor, Costume Design

**Kim Heide**  
Costume Shop Manager

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Gonzaga Dance is excited to welcome returning and new students for what promises to be another challenging yet glorious year of dance. We are very proud of the way our faculty and students excelled through the challenges of COVID 19 last year and have high expectations for what this year may bring.

In the following pages learn more about the great accomplishments of the spring and summer, as well as the plans for our Gonzaga Repertory Companies this year, Dance Club, and our newest adjunct faculty member Joseph Lyons who brings professional experience from New York and Disney.

At the end of the spring semester, students and faculty surprised me with a celebration in recognition of my 20 years at Gonzaga! I am quite grateful for these two decades of wonderful students, faculty, and this institution of Gonzaga University. Hard to believe that in these twenty years we have formed the Dance Program, Dance Minor, Dance Major, Interdisciplinary Arts Minor, Dance Endowment.....etc! I am certain of the power and importance of dance in the lives of our students, alumni, and our community. Thank you for dancing along with us!

- Suzanne Ostersmith

## SPRING RECAP

### Love Your Body Week with Julianne Hough!

This year we celebrated a week of body positive programming and concluded with an event that included Julianne Hough. Under the leadership of Kayla Crow '21 the students had panels, performances, and class visits that kept the spirit of taking care of the whole self alive. New this year was the Screendance festival, coordinated by Karla Parbon, and we look forward to this continuing into the future. Look for the new name Dance as Cura Personalis in keeping with our Jesuit roots.



### Gonzaga University Repertory Dance Company

The Spring Repertory Company toured to several public elementary school sites with the final performance at the Salish School of Spokane. The interactive performance guided students through a creative movement warm up, creating solos that tell a story, and a discussion about the choreography the company performed. While much of the tour was able to happen in person with protocols in place, the company also successfully visited one site remotely.



### Introducing Dance Club

With the guidance of GSBA and thoughtfulness of our students, Dance Council and Boundless Dance Club have joined forces to form Dance Club. Dance Club will continue to lead events such as 60x60, Snowflake Showcase, Dance as Cura Personalis/Love Your Body Week, and will also support the coordination of Orientation, Dance for Parkinson's and Boundless Dance Classes! The leadership team is made up of 16 dedicated dancers excited to support the thriving Dance Program.

Jessica Vye '24 and Gillian Witstock '23



### Student Choreography Concert and Spring Dance Concert

10 Choreographers worked with 40 students under strict COVID protocols to bring this year's Student Choreography Concert to fruition. Challenges with both dancers and choreographers in quarantine and isolation didn't hold us back. With a full audience of socially distanced students and a livestream audience at home, the show was a success! The 19th Annual Spring Dance Concert helped to conclude and celebrate this challenging and amazing year. Fully produced with amazing lights, costumes, choreography, and dancers. We filled our socially distance audience with dancers, friends, and Gonzaga community members.



### Musical Theatre Workshops and Performance

Students Kalleigh Wagner '21 and Ryan Hayes '22 brought us a Musical Theatre Workshop series, featuring guest artists from near and far via Zoom. Dancers gathered in the studio every other Saturday learning more about Musical Theatre Dance and the industry. Kalleigh and Ryan concluded the series with a performance showcasing what they'd learned through the workshops and independent study.



### New Dance Courses

Pam Erickson taught Applied Dance Field Instruction, a new course for our Pedagogy Concentration. This spring class takes students beyond ZagDance and into local studios for shadowing and teaching. Suzanne Ostersmith began teaching Dance: Culture and Art which is a Fine Art and Global Studies Core Course in which students are introduced to four social dance forms (with hoops because of social distancing) and their migration through cultures and time. Karla Parbon revamped our Urban Dance course to Pop Culture Dance to better reflect the field and the intention of working to honor the history of hip hop and commercial dance.



### Mock Auditions

With the new DANC prefix for our course numbers (instead of THEA) we have structured our technique courses to now have I, II, III levels. So we held our first placement auditions. Guest artist, Lauren Hovik, led a barre warm up and challenging contemporary choreography to 23 students in attendance. All students in attendance and those who watched the recordings, submitted an audition package. Faculty reviewed the submissions, offered feedback, and recommended classes for each student in the fall.







## FEATURE STORY



“ It was an amazing experience, being able to work with so many incredibly talented artists to build this work in Spokane, but being able to tour it in Florence and work with even more artists made the experience more rewarding than I could imagine.  
 Zoe Driml – Morris Workstudy Scholarship Recipient and tour company member GIF '21

## FLORENCE TOURING COMPANY & BLACK LIVES MATTER CONFERENCE

**Black Lives Matter As a Global Human Rights Movement**

**Gonzaga in Florence Human Rights Symposium**  
 An integration of law, sociology, and dance  
 Refectory of the Basilica di Santa Croce  
 Florence, Italy—June 21, 2021 8:00am-5:30pm CET  
 Center for Civil and Human Rights Keynote Speaker:  
 Paul Butler, Albert Brick Professor in Law  
 Georgetown University Law Center  
 Email: GIF@gonzaga.edu by June 18  
 for Zoom registration or in-person RSVP

When Gonzaga Law School Faculty, Brooks Holland, approached Suzanne about a collaboration between Law and Dance, she wasn't certain about how everything would unfold, but in the end was gratified, educated, and impressed by the commitment, vulnerability, and learning that occurred with the community and dance students.

Each summer Gonzaga Law School, in partnership with Gonzaga in Florence (GIF), hosts a human rights conference in Florence Italy, and for this year the subject was Black Lives Matter as a Global Movement. Gonzaga Dance now tours to Florence, Italy every other summer and we were anticipating returning in 2021. Suzanne reached out to Seattle Professional Dance Artist Noelle Price of Pricearts to see if she would be willing to collaborate on a new work about this challenging subject matter for the conference. Because of the current make up of our dance student body, we agreed that it was completely inappropriate to try to embody the Black Experience. So together with the company of students we explored such challenging subject matter as White Privilege and Power, Institutionalized Racism, and Difficult Conversations. We spent the spring semester developing the work that was presented in Magnuson Theatre on April 10th and then toured to Italy.

In Florence the students took two courses, rehearsed, and then performed Pay the Price five times. They performed in the brand-new courtyard at the GIF Campus for both the student body and then the Italian Faculty. The conversations that flowed from the poignant subject matter was an important part of the tour. The company also performed the half hour work at the Life Festival in Anconella Park, Florence, the opening event for the Law School Conference and then for the Conference itself. The Conference was held in Santa Croce under a spectacular fresco from the 1200's.

Pay the Price was accompanied by live cello by Kevin Hekmatpanah from the Music Department, with an original work by Shuying Li, new professor from the Music Department, and we were all delighted that Noelle Price was able to join us in Florence. Being vulnerable with this subject matter was a tremendous learning experience for the students and Suzanne alike and we were grateful for Noelle's grace as we navigated our learning.



## MORE TO CELEBRATE

American College Dance Association's annual conference was presented online this year. Karla Parbon choreographed with students to create a ScreenDance Film Submission in place of ACDA's traditional live concerts. It was selected to be presented in the virtual Gala - A huge honor!

This is only the second year (2020 being the first) that Gonzaga has been recognized in the Gala and we are so proud!



Senior Dance Majors and Minors '21



Theatre & Dance Grads '21

The class of 2021 was 8 Dance Majors and 9 Dance minors!



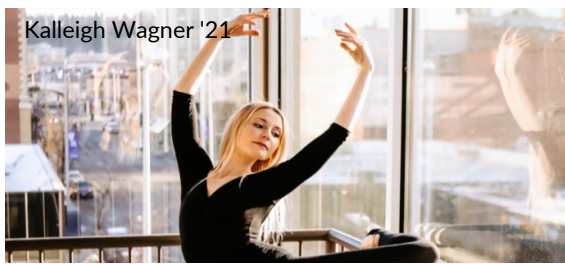
Summer Dance Intensive Students '21



Senior Dance Honors Students '21

The 2021 Summer Dance Intensive was held July 26th through August 6th under the direction of Pam Erickson. A total of 55 students ages 8 to 20 participated in classes and workshops, and enjoyed getting to dance in our beautiful facilities with our outstanding dance faculty. Students came from around the region and as far away as Mexico City!

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences recognized two Dance Majors for Academic Excellence and Citizenship. Kalleigh Wagner in Dance Performance and Suzanna Bilderback in Dance Pedagogy



Kalleigh Wagner '21



Suzanna Bilderback '21



Andrea Braccamonte '21

Andrea Braccamonte '21 graduated with a double major in Physics and Dance. She now works for STEM to Dance in NYC.

The Suzanne Ostersmith Dance Endowment supports world class experiences for our students. Thanks to our donors for your contribution. Please consider giving to the endowment. Email [dance@gonzaga.edu](mailto:dance@gonzaga.edu) for information on making a donation or visit us online at [gonzaga.edu/dance](http://gonzaga.edu/dance).



See the back page for our exciting Dance Season!

**LOOKING  
AHEAD**

Ryan Hayes '22



Brooke Geffrey-Bowler '22



Claire Colombini '21

Ryan Hayes '22 and Brooke Geffrey-Bowler '22 began looking ahead by participating in Summer Dance Experiences with other institutions. Ryan toured with the Human Rights Company in Florence and then returned to the states to study at the Joffrey Ballet in their two week Musical Theatre Intensive while taking classes at Steps on Broadway, followed by a three week commercial dance intensive at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Brooke studied with the professional dance company Fort Wayne Ballet in Fort Wayne, Indiana and at the Gonzaga Dance Intensive to continue to develop her technique as she intends to pursue a career in dance post-grad. Ryan and Brooke are both excited for their Senior year as they continue training and preparing for the world of professional dance.

**Gonzaga University Repertory Dance Companies**

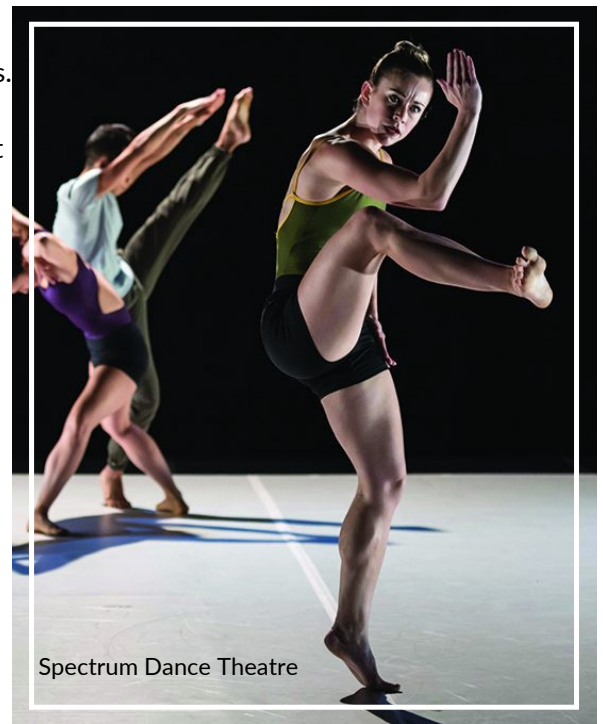
Auditions will be held for our Blue, White, and Red Repertory (Rep) Companies. Blue Rep, led by Sarah Glesk and Pam Erickson, will focus on creating an interactive performance to share with High School students centered on Ballet and Contemporary choreography. White Rep, led by Karla Parbon, will focus on ScreenDance. Red Rep, led by CarliAnn Forthun-Bruner, will continue to explore Indigenous Contemporary themes with an interactive tour targeting elementary students and Native American Communities.

**Spectrum Dance Theatre Residency and Dance Presents!**

Spectrum Dance Theatre company members, Seattle, will be in residency with Gonzaga Dance during the end of September, and then the entire company will perform in November in Dance Presents! We are hopeful that we will be able to offer this concert beyond Gonzaga Dance students, and additionally sell tickets to regional dance enthusiasts

**Snowflake Showcase**

Student led - Snowflake Showcase - was unable to be presented last year as Gonzaga University sent students home after Thanksgiving break due to covid caution. We are optimistic, however, that Showflake Showcase will be back!



Anna Wright '24



Mia Cretarolo '22

Along with our new Course designation DANC, This fall we're introducing new courses in ScreenDance, taught by Karla Parbon, and Musical Theatre Pedagogy, taught by new Faculty member Joseph Lyons.



# GONZAGA DANCE 2021 2022 SEASON



**October 1st 7:30 – Free**

**Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center**

Informal showcase featuring Guest Artists from Spectrum Dance Theatre along with Dance leaders and Faculty. Learn about opportunities, performances, and ways to engage with Gonzaga Dance during this evening of celebration.



**October 8th 6:00 – \$8**

**Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center**

This informal concert of 60 second pieces is presented by the Dance Club. Student work will be shown through live performance, Screen dance, and student composed music! This entertaining and fast-paced concert is sure to delight.

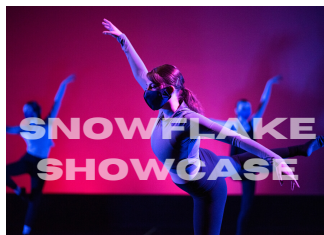


**November 20th 7:30**

**\$20 general, \$15 student**

**Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center**

Spectrum Dance Theater was founded to bring dance of the highest merit to a diverse audience composed of people from different social, cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds. Join us for the professional Dance event of the season.



**December 3rd & 4th 7:30 – \$8**

**Magnuson Theatre**

Celebrate the season with the Dance Club winter concert. Featuring work from student taught classes, Academic classes, and the premiere works for the Gonzaga Repertory Dance Companies (GURDC), there is something for everyone in this annual, student produced event.



**February 14 - 17, Donations accepted**

**Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center**

Join in celebrating our bodies with a week of caring for the whole person through dance. Presented by Dance Club and benefitting Dance for Parkinson's. Monday | Panel, Tuesday | Performance. Wednesday | Annual ScreenDance Film Festival



**April 8, 9 7:30 – \$8**

**Magnuson Theatre**

Enjoy the variety of work presented by the Student Choreography class of 2022. This concert is sure to impress as students showcase creativity, vision, and leadership through completed dance works performed by students.



**April 22 @ 7:30**

**April 23 @ 2:00 and 7:30 – \$15**

**Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center**

Enjoy a fully produced concert with works by our Jazz III, Modern III, Ballet III, Musical Theatre Dance and GURDC. This audience favorite will be particularly entertaining as we reflect on the past 20 years.