

GONZAGA DANCE

FALL 2023



GONZAGA DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

Suzanne Ostersmith, MFA
Associate Professor, Dance Chair
Robert and Marion Oster Endowed
Chair of Dance

Pamela Erickson
Lecturer Summer Dance Intensive Director

CarliAnn Bruner, MFA
Adjunct Dance Faculty

Sarah Glesk
Adjunct Dance Faculty

Joseph Lyons-Wolf, MA
Adjunct Dance Faculty

Karla Parbon, MA
Adjunct Dance Faculty

Halle Goodwin, MSOL
Assistant Director of Dance

Nola Petrucelly, PT, LMT
Consultant, Physical Therapist

Leslie Stamoolis, MFA
Associate Professor, Theatre Chair

Phil Male, MFA
Production Manager

Kim Heide
Costume Shop Manager

Charlie Monte
Technical Director

Clara Buck
Marketing/PR Assistant

Letter from the Director

As we look forward to meeting our incoming students, revel in the excitement of the new academic year, and prepare for our rich dance season of productions, it is always a great practice to reflect on the semester before. Enjoy reading about the spring highlights in these pages and seeing the beautiful photos.

This coming year we will be busy with our record number of incoming freshmen declared as majors and minors. We have 109 students who expressed interest in taking dance class, and a total of 64 declared majors and minors in the program. The students will get the pleasure of dancing on a new marley dance floor in our main studio and learning from professionals from Ballet Fantastique and Pacific Northwest Ballet.

Gonzaga Dance will also have a seat at a new table as there has been a restructuring of leadership such that I am now the Chair of Dance! We have Dual Chairs for the Department of Theatre and Dance. This will make many alumni happy for the recognition of dance! Yea Gonzaga Dance!!!

-Suzanne Ostersmith



SPRING SEMESTER kicked off in **January** with a student directed Musical Theatre Dance Review. **February** brought our Annual Celebrate EveryBody week with the Screendance Film Festival and a special master class and performance from Cleo Parker Robinson Dance. In **March** 16 students represented Gonzaga Dance once again at the American College Dance Association Conference (ACDA) at the University of Utah. We used to call **April** Dance Month, but now every month is dance month. We presented the Student Choreography Concert and the 22nd annual Spring Dance concert featuring a FOG machine and the first Tap performance in a very long time. We concluded the semester production season in **May** with a special guest Derek Hough!



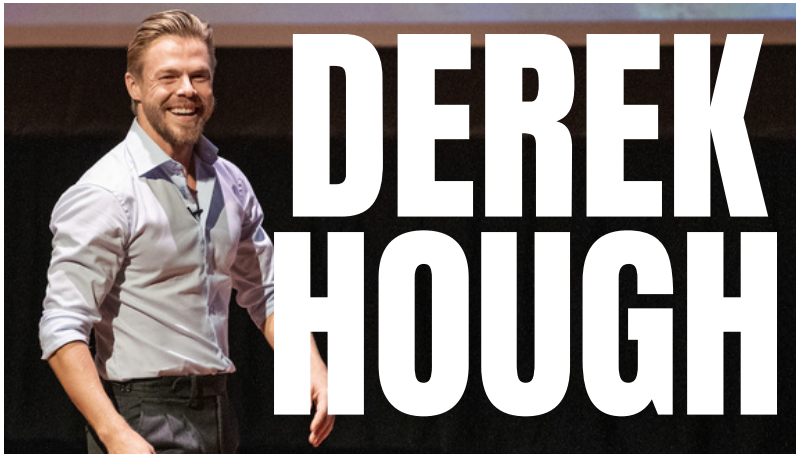
SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE

We welcomed our largest class of Summer Dance Intensive students yet with 30 Seniors, ages 13-19 and 35 Juniors ages 9-13. Students joined us from all over the northwest to take classes from faculty and special guest artists like alumni Ryan Hayes ('21) who is finishing his time at the Steps Conservatory on Broadway in New York City.



DANCE SCIENCE AND WELLNESS LAB

The lab is open for business! We are elated to have a Physical Therapist on staff. Nola Petrucelly joined us, beginning in the fall, for a couple hours a week holding open office hours and visiting classes. A former dancer herself, Nola's expertise in dance injuries has been a game changer for our students, including Senior Dance Major, Kate Millet (shown here), as she prepares to apply for PT School. Through the fall Nola will continue serving the program through office hours, visiting classes, and hosting workshops.



Bruce Hough (ORGL, 2019) and his Emmy award winning son, Derek Hough, paid a visit to Spokane to share their father-son creation, "Lessons in Leadership From the Art of Dance" at the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center. As a School of Leadership Studies alumnus, Bruce spoke to the ways in which the Organizational Leadership program teaches students to apply leadership to life, family, and career through the lens of Dance with Derek's help.

The busy May day, just before the end of the semester, started with students at North Central High School. Gonzaga Dancers were ready in Zag apparel to help lead and manage nearly 300 students from schools all over the district, as Derek shared a very relevant message about bullying and taught some dance moves. That afternoon, over 50 Dance Majors and Minors grooved with Derek in a lively Master Class. And that evening, as a part of the show with Bruce and Derek Hough, even more students worked behind the scenes, danced on stage, and asked Derek questions about his experience and advice for them as leaders and dancers.

The Houghs engagement was a great opportunity to widen the Gonzaga Dance audience reach, locally and nationally. We are grateful for the generosity of the Houghs as their in-kind donation to make these moments possible were valued at 100K.

This is one of our students most memorable experiences since they've been at Gonzaga with so many calling it the BEST DAY EVER.



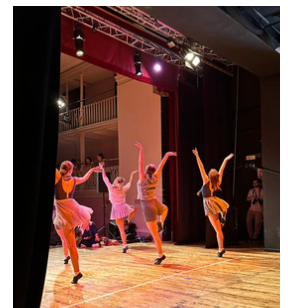


Jazzin' - a Rooted History of Jazz Dance and Music was developed by 19 students and Suzanne over the Spring Semester. Partnering with the Music Department, 2 of the students were musicians that played the live music for the performance tour. Studying abroad in Florence is a transformative learning experience, and also having the opportunity to perform in various settings and learn from Italian Dance Professionals is a dream come true for our students.

In addition to learning renaissance dance from a local scholar, and working with a professional from Florence Dance Center, the students performed in the following tour:

- May 23** Jazzin' - Gonzaga in Florence Courtyard in collaboration with Gonzaga Choir
- May 30** Jazzin' - Marble Hall, Florence
- June 9** Jazzin' - Two performance at Vicchio Theatre, in a village outside of Florence
- June 21** Renaissance Dance - Certosa Monastery for start of Conference on Medieval Italian history from the Cloister
- June 23** Angelo Egarese work - Florence Dance Festival at Santa Maria Novella
- June 25** Jazzin' - Florence Dance Festival at Santa Maria Novella

The final weeks of the semester, Gonzaga Dance Alumni joined us for the performances and an opportunity to experience Florence.



CONGRATS CLASS OF 2023



We are thrilled to share seven Majors and eight Minors have graduated, in addition to one Major and two Minors graduating in December. **Avani** and **Lily** have begun graduate school in Dance Therapy at the Pratt School in Brooklyn. **Bailey** is loving/adjusting to married life, working at Bellingham Retina Specialists as a technician to gain clinical experience for medical school applications, and hopes to eventually support high school cheer squads or teach dance at her old studio. **Zoe** has moved to New York City where she is teaching middle school science and occasionally subbing dance classes on the weekend. **Gillian** is teaching dance at her home studio in Petersburg, AK as she continues to pursue her secondary education teaching certification. **Alaina** taught ballet at her local studio in Minnesota this summer. She is now a weather anchor and reporter in Missoula, Montana, hoping to find open classes and attend performing arts in the area. **Brooke** is working for a Retina specialist in Bellingham and studying for the MCAT. We are so proud of all of our graduates.

FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS - This newsletter we are highlighting these four and you can look forward to learning more in the Spring about the rest of our team.

Pam Erickson has been teaching with Gonzaga Dance since 2003. This fall Pam is teaching Dance History, Ballet, and a new course, Intro to Dance. Pam will also be directing the Ballet Repertory Company working with Ballet Fantastique.



Leading company class and rehearsal in preparation for Dance Presents! on October 26th.



Suzanne Ostersmith is our founding director and began at Gonzaga in 2000 creating the Dance Major and two minors during her time here. This fall Suzanne will be teaching Interdisciplinary Arts, Dance: Culture and Art, Senior Seminar, and

Advanced DanceProduction. She will also be directing a touring company through the fall as they prepare to perform in Portland and Seattle as part of a recruitment trip.

Karla Parbon joined the team in 2008. This fall Karla is teaching Jazz, Contemporary/Modern, and Advanced Composition: Screendance. Karla is also directing the Film Repertory Company as they produce a new Screendance to be premiered at the Annual Screendance Film Festival in February.



Halle Goodwin is an alum of our dance program and joined us as Assistant Director in 2020. This fall Halle will continue advising Dance Club leadership add their various programs and productions. She will also be integral in the planning and marketing of our guest artist events with Ballet Fantastique and Pacific Northwest Ballet.



DANCE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

Professional Development Day

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 Hosted at Gonzaga University with Gonzaga Dance



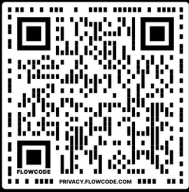
DANCE PRESENTS! BALLET FANTASTIQUE

October 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
Welcoming back Brooke Geffrey-Bowler, Class of 2022



PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

February 16 and 17, 2024
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center



GONZAGA DANCE 2023-2024 SEASON

Dance Season Opener

September 23, 7:30 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Celebrate EveryBODY Screendance Film Festival

February 13, 7:30 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

60x60

October 6, 6:00 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Student Choreography Concert

April 12 and 13, 7:00 p.m.
Magnuson Theatre

Spring Awakening

November 16-18, 7:30 p.m.
November 19, 2:00 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

22nd Annual Spring Dance Concert

April 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m.
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Snowflake Showcase

December 1, 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.
Magnuson Theatre



More Info: gonzaga.edu/dance
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There are multiple funds to contribute to the momentum of Gonzaga Dance at this time. Suzanne Ostersmith Dance Endowment supports world class professional experiences for our students, while other funds can be spent at the director's discretion on enhancing student experiences.

Please consider giving and talking to Suzanne about how you can make an impact.

Email dance@gonzaga.edu for information on making a donation or visit us online at gonzaga.edu/dance.