

GONZAGA DANCE FALL 2022



GONZAGA DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

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

Pamela Erickson
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CarliAnn Forthun-Bruner, MFA
Adjunct Dance Faculty

Karla Parbon, MA
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Sarah Glesk
Adjunct Dance Faculty

Jospeh Lyons, MA
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Assistant Director of Dance

Nola Petrucelly, PT, LMT
Consultant, Physical Therapist

Leslie Stamoolis, MFA
Associate Professor, Theatre Director

Kim Heide
Costume Shop Manager

Charlie Monte
Shop Manager



Letter from the Director

Happy start of a new Academic School Year! Even if you don't work in academia, my guess is you can remember the excitement of the start of the school year. Hopes, dreams, fears, and excitement all coalesce into an energy that we hope will keep us thriving through the semester.

In this newsletter we reflect on the exciting work that was done in the spring as well as set our sights on the rest of this fall semester and year. So it seems appropriate, in a world not always filled with such news, to share great news from Gonzaga Dance and have the cover of our newsletter include this great photo from our Dance Brunch at my home in April. Many alums have happy memories of Dance Brunch and it was challenging to get creative with new versions in the last two years. The joy and energy is palpable in this photo! Faculty, current students, and alums joined together to celebrate the 20th Annual Spring Dance Concert.

We hope our stories and photos of dance in these pages lighten your load a little today.

-Suzanne Ostersmith

SPRING IN REVIEW



Captured by Karla Parbon



Photographed by Zack Berlat



Photographed by Audrey Parks

Our week-long body-positive programming through dance has become an important part of our Season. Around Valentine's Day we hosted **Dance as Cura Personalis Week** (aka Love Your Body Week - Stay tuned for new attempts to find the right name.) Directed by student Emily Hunter '23, this year we held a panel discussion and workshops, but also enjoyed performances by our Repertory Dance Companies while in the middle of their tour. Red Rep toured to Elementary Schools, Blue Rep to local Studios, and White Rep's work was featured by the American College Dance Association, seen by over 500 audience members outside of Gonzaga and shown in our annual Screen Dance Festival. This year's film festival was also present on Film Freeway which took applications of films with the theme of caring for oneself from across the nation.

Student Choreography Concert was back with 13 pieces choreographed by Dance Majors and Minors followed by this year's **Spring Dance Concert**, our 20th Anniversary, and featured choreography from Ballet III-Pam Erickson, Jazz III-Sarah Glesk, Contemporary/Modern III-CarliAnn Forthun-Bruner, Choreography-Karla Parbon, Musical Theatre-Joseph Lyons.

We hosted 40 dancers, ages 9-19, in our studios the last week of July and the first week of August for our annual **Summer Dance Intensive**. It is always a great chance to dance hard, make friends, and learn from our fantastic faculty in our beautiful studios.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Gonzaga Dance could not present the rich season we do without collaboration with our colleagues in Costuming! Leslie Stamoolis, MFA is Associate Professor, Theatre Director and the head of Costuming and works with Kim Heide, Costume Shop Manager to make the beautiful costumes that grace our dancers. Each year, Suzanne and Leslie meet to discuss the overarching goals of the Dance Season and touring shows and then Leslie and Kim meet with choreographers (Faculty, Guest Artists, and Students) to develop a design. Student Dancers are called in for measurements, fittings, and the result are professional quality costumes seen here at Gonzaga, on tour in the community, and at regional conferences. Thank you Leslie and Kim!!!



Photographed by Scott Martinez



Leslie Stamoolis and Kim Heide in the Costume Shop. Photographed by Zack Berlat

SABBATICAL



This spring Suzanne was on Sabbatical, and she made the most of it! Her areas of research were the Rooted History of Jazz Dance, other university dance programs, visioning for the future for our program, and visiting Gonzaga Dance Alums everywhere she went!



She traveled to the South where she researched and learned more about the origins of Jazz Dance, the artistic contributions of the enslaved, and development of Jazz Music. Traveling through Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina was eye opening. The result of her study will come to life in Spring 2023 when she collaborates with a Music Department colleague, Mellad Abeid to develop a work about the intersections of Jazz Dance and Jazz Music that students will then tour to Florence, Italy for the summer session.



Visiting various university dance programs from BYU (who flew her out to evaluate a junior faculty), USC, University Alabama etc. was very eye opening for affirming the rich opportunities we provide our students, but also ways we can strengthen our program. More on that later.



A final highlight of this semester of rest, reflection, and research was that everywhere Suzanne went she got to connect with Gonzaga Dance Program Alums and hear about their success and journeys since graduating from Gonzaga. Across the country from Alabama to Portland, and New York to Roslyn, she was grateful. Please do keep in touch Alums!



GONZAGA DANCE CONTINUING TO REACH

This year was a year of reflection as we moved farther from the grips of the pandemic and celebrated 20 years of Spring Dance Concerts. As this thriving program has continued to grow, we have maxed out the facilities we use with classes, rehearsals, and programming. There is a need to EXPAND.

Thankfully the Human Physiology Department that used the building next door is moving to the new UW/Gonzaga Medical Center making room for Dance to take over as the Dance Annex. This building will be used to house our dance faculty and staff offices, conference spaces, and work study spaces. We are very grateful to be able to provide space and desks for our faculty that have all been sharing a single office for years.

This summer's renovations have also included changing the 'storage studio' into a proper studio #102! This will be the site of our new Dance Science and Wellness Lab. This new classroom will boast a sprung floor and more windows replacing the garage door. The new studio provides space for more classes, rehearsals, and a lab for "prehab" conditioning! We are also excited to bring in Physical Therapist, Nola Petrucelly to help us develop this important programming.



Photographed by Lily Wang



On April 23rd, as a part of our 20th Anniversary Spring Dance Concert celebration, we celebrated Suzanne's receipt of the Robert and Marion Oster Endowed Chair of Dance and we unveiled the vision for a larger dance center at a wonderful event graciously supported by Jerry Rosen and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Over 80 Alums, donors, dignitaries and friends all gathered to celebrate the momentum of Gonzaga Dance. We are encouraged by the support of the University in our dreams of supporting our dancers with facilities that meet our growing needs.

REACH with Gonzaga Dance

- R - Rigorous yet Joyful
- E - Energized and Thriving
- A - Accessible and Student Driven
- C - Creative and Community Oriented
- H - Holistic Dance Education



LOOKING AHEAD

The Seattle International Dance Festival was held in June and was directed by Cyrus Khambatta of Khambatta Dance who we have hosted as a guest artist/company. Cyrus invited our director to curate their Spotlight on Seattle Evening Concert in this year's festival. After vetting the applications, Suzanne chose four companies to perform. Of those four companies, Ashley Menestrina has been invited to come to Gonzaga for our Fall Artist Residency. They will teach multiple classes throughout the week as well as set a new work on our Gonzaga Repertory Dance Company (GURDC). At our **Season Opener, September 24th** audiences will see Ashley and her company dance the work that led to their selection, a lecture demonstration about the experience of the week, information about the Dance Season, and preview work from GURDC.



Photographed by Scott Martinez



Photographed by Halle Goodwin



Photographed by Zack Berlat



Photographed by Scott Martinez

With a dynamic set of new Board Members for the Dance Club, next up will be audience favorite **60x60 during ZagFam Weekend, Oct 7**, directed by students. And while not to be seen until the Spring, we will be holding auditions and again representing Gonzaga at the American College Dance Association at University of Utah. Sarah Glesk will be choreographing, as well as two students, Zoe Driml with Mara Neary, presenting work in an ACDA conference for the first time since we hosted in March 2020. Other elements in process for the spring is a ScreenDance choreographed and directed by Karla Parbon, a Musical Theatre Dance Revue directed by students and advised by Joseph Lyons, and a new course called Freshman Dance Experience taught by Pam Erickson.

In November we are delighted to present Ririe-Woodbury from Salt Lake City. They will perform in **Dance Presents!, Nov 19th** and GURDC will get to present the finalized work by Ashley Menestrina, under the company direction of CarliAnn Forthun-Bruner. And December will wrap up the semester with Student Directed **Snowflake Showcase, Dec 2**.



Photographed by Scott Martinez

GO GRADS!

Our four 2022 Dance Majors are all taking their love of dance to their careers. Ryan Hayes continues in his conservatory program at Steps on Broadway after two professional performance jobs this summer. Maria Carter is taking a year to work so that she can then pursue her master's in psychology, planning to focus on disordered eating specifically in the dance world. Brooke Geffrey-Bowler has accepted a position as Corps de Ballet in Ballet Fantastique in Oregon and Anna Gyure is working for the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center and dancing in two local companies Vytal Movement Dance and Ripples Dance company while teaching in area studios. Congratulations to you all!!

GONZAGA DANCE 2022-2023 SEASON



Dance Season Opener

September 24, 7:30pm
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
Featuring Artist Residency Guest Ashley Menestrina

60x60

October 7, 6:00pm
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
Sixty dance works, each sixty seconds long

Dance Presents!

November 19, 7:30pm
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
Featuring Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company

Snowflake Showcase

December 2, 6:00 and 8:00pm
Magnuson Theatre
End of Semester Dance Showcase

Musical Theatre Dance Revue

January 27 & 28, 7:30pm
Magnuson Theatre

Celebrate EveryBODY

February 11-15
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center Screendance film
festival, fundraising for Dance for Parkinsons

Student Choreography Concert

April 14, 15 7:30
Magnuson Theatre

21st Annual Spring Dance Concert

April 28, 7:30 and 29th 2:00 and 7:30
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Spokane Summer Dance Festival @ Gonzaga

Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center



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Photographed by Scott Martinez

There are multiple funds to contribute to the momentum of Gonzaga Dance at this time. Suzanne Ostersmith Dance Endowment supports world class experiences for our students, while other accounts can be spent at the director's discretion or put towards bringing the Dance Center to fruition.

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.