

# GONZAGA DANCE

SPRING 2023



## GONZAGA DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

**Suzanne Ostersmith, MFA**

Associate Professor; Dance Director  
Robert and Marion Oster Endowed  
Chair of Dance

**Pamela Erickson**

Lecturer, Summer Dance Intensive Director

**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

**Nola Petrucelly, PT, LMT**

Consultant, Physical Therapist

**Leslie Stamoolis, MFA**

Associate Professor, Theatre Director

**Phil Male, MFA**

Production Manager

**Kim Heide**

Costume Shop Manager

**Charlie Monte**

Technical Director

## Happy New Year!

This past year I was invited by the Seattle International Dance Festival to curate their Spotlight on Seattle Concert in the hopes of finding good guest artists for our residencies. It was quite an honor, and after vetting the applications, I chose four companies to present. From that concert, we selected Ashley Menestrina to join us in September. Our students got to perform her work sharing a split bill with Contemporary Company, Ririe-Woodbury for our Dance Presents! concert in November. More information inside, but the partnership with such organizations reap wonderful benefits for the students, faculty, and our whole program.

You will get to read more about our Dance Science and Wellness Lab, but I also wanted to mention the incredible game changer that was taking over the Dance Annex (previously Human Phys. Building). Between these two buildings, we now have three studios, offices for faculty, and meeting spaces to meet the needs of this ever-growing program. As evidence, this spring we will graduate 15 seniors (7 majors and 8 minors)!

Please stay involved with Gonzaga Dance, as there are so many ways....attend concerts, donate to the endowment, travel with us to Florence in June, read the newsletter and share with a friend!

-Suzanne Ostersmith



### Professionals Make an Impact

Ashley Menestrina, a Seattle-based professional choreographer, was selected by Suzanne, at the Seattle International Dance festival, to be our Fall Guest Artist. Menestrina set choreography on the Gonzaga University Repertory Dance Company, and with support from Faculty Director, CarliAnn Bruner, GURDC performed along side Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, a professional company from Utah, in our annual Dance Presents! concert supported by the Dance Endowment.

### Future looks Bright

We welcomed 88 first year students into dance classes this fall, and 34 are interested in majoring or minoring, our biggest class yet! Faculty, Pam Erickson, led a group of students in a course to help them get the most out of the Dance program during their first semester. Nine first year dancers were also selected by faculty to work with Suzanne as dance was invited to be a part of Gonzaga Choir's Candlelight Christmas Concert.



### Enrich with Guest Artists

In addition to previously mentioned Ashley Menestrina, the students were also exposed to Mexican Folklorico and traditional Mexican masks with Felipe Horta, Bharatanatyam, a traditional dance from India, with Devika Gates, and Hip Hop with GU Community member Christina Thomas. We also hosted the Dance Educators of Eastern Washington fall conference where dance educators and students participated in a weekend of workshops and lectures on rest, recovery, and resiliency.

### Pedagogy in Action

Strategies for Dance Instruction, the course that teaches Zagdance, an afterschool dance program for 4th and 5th graders of local Title I schools, had its biggest class yet with 14 GU students and almost 50 ZagDancers. Pedagogy students are required to take Applied Dance Field Instruction in the Spring where local studios become part of the classroom. Meanwhile, dozens of students are teaching in local studios and for our Boundless Dance classes.



### New Faces and Spaces

We were so excited to open our new Dance Science and Wellness lab in the Theatre Dance Studios. We hired Nola Petrucelly, a local Physical Therapist, to work with dancers a couple hours per week. This Spring, she'll be holding weekly drop in hours, giving guest lectures in dance courses, and be available around productions. Dance major, Kate Millet ('24), is shadowing Nola as she prepares to apply to PT School.

### Looking to Spring

Spring highlights we are looking forward to include student directed Musical Theatre Dance Revue at the end of January and our annual valentines programming, this year titled Celebrate EveryBODY! This year's week of body acceptance programming will feature a performance from professional company, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance and our annual Screendance film festival where two companies, preparing for ACDA will showcase the choreography they will be taking to the University of Utah for our first ACDA trip since we hosted in 2020.



## Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company

February 11, 7:30 p.m.  
MWPAC



\$5 off ticket with code GUDANCE

## Summer 2023 Gonzaga Dance *in Florence*

A group of 20 students will be spending 6 weeks in Florence with Suzanne this summer touring a piece about the evolution of Jazz Dance. And this year, we're inviting Gonzaga Dance alumni to join us!



GONZAGA DANCE PRESENTS

# SPRING DANCE CONCERT



FRIDAY, APRIL 28 7:30  
SATURDAY, APRIL 29 2:00, 7:30

A variety of advanced student dance companies performing faculty choreographed work



MYRTLE WOLDSON  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

GONZAGA  
UNIVERSITY

Box Office: 211 E Desmet | (509) 313-2787 | [gonzaga.edu/ticketcenter](https://gonzaga.edu/ticketcenter)  
Learn More: [gonzaga.edu/dance](https://gonzaga.edu/dance) | [dance@gonzaga.edu](mailto:dance@gonzaga.edu) | [@gonzagadance](#)

## GONZAGA DANCE SPRING '23 SEASON

### Musical Theatre Dance Revue

January 27 & 28, 7:30 p.m.  
Magnuson Theatre

### Celebrate EveryBODY

Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

### Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company

February 11, 7:30 p.m.

### Annual Screendance Film Festival & Student Performance

February 15, 7:30 p.m.

### 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 p.m.  
Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center



*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](mailto:dance@gonzaga.edu) for information on making a donation or visit us online at [gonzaga.edu/dance](https://gonzaga.edu/dance).