



WKU DANCE PROGRAM

CREATING THINKING ARTISTS

NEW BEGINNINGS.... The 2014-2015 academic year proved to be yet another exciting year for the WKU Dance Program. As we celebrate the commencement of 7 graduating dance majors, we also mark a new beginning for many within the program. Associate Professor Clifton Keefer Brown chose to step down from the duties of Dance Program Coordinator this year. He will be focusing on several new scholarly and creative pursuits while continuing to teach for us. We are proud to support him as his focus shifts to these exciting new opportunities. Associate Professor Amanda Clark has accepted the position of Coordinator and is looking forward to continued growth within the program. Assistant Professors Lisa Draskovich-Long and Eric Rivera have bid farewell and are moving on to new teaching opportunities in California and Virginia. We wish them, as well as Adjunct Instructor Angelica Burgos, all the best and thank them all for their years of service at WKU. The Dance Program will be working over the summer to hire a combination of Visiting Professors and Adjuncts for the upcoming year. As we transition into a new academic year, we would like to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the success of the past year!

SUMMER INTENSIVES

The WKU Dance Program was pleased to have four prestigious summer programs hold auditions on our main campus.

JOFFREY BALLETS SCHOOL

DEEPLY ROOTED DANCE THEATER

NUTMEG BALLETS

RUTH PAGE SCHOOL OF DANCE

Over 50 dancers from WKU and the Bowling Green community auditioned for each program and several were accepted and awarded scholarships for summer 2015.



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PERFORMANCE

A Holiday Extravaganza

featured a condensed version of *Cinderella*, choreographed by Associate Professor Clifton Keefer Brown. The second act consisted of Disney inspired choreography by Associate Professor Amanda Clark and Assistant Professors Eric Rivera and Lisa Draskovich-Long. A children's costume parade and post-concert photo opportunity



with Cinderella and Prince Charming and Elsa and Anna, sponsored by the NDEO-WKU Student Chapter, engaged a new generation of fans.



Evening of Dance 2015 featuring

Dance Composers of Color ended the WKU Dance Company's 2014-2015 season. The concert highlighted the work of guest artists Cornelius Carter and Karen Callaway Williams, both of whom were part of the Dance Composers of Color supported by the WKU Honors College and Provost's Office. The production also included an array of choreography by the full time dance faculty.

DANCE PROJECT 2015

The Program's annual student choreography concert is a highlight for student choreographers. Once again, dance alumni were invited to return and set their own original choreography on our current students. Not only was this an opportunity for alumni to have their choreography performed, but it was a chance for our newer students to make personal connections with former students. It was certainly a great experience for all involved!



PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

GUEST ARTISTS....The Dance Program was delighted to have three esteemed guest artists visit WKU to teach master classes and set choreography on the WKU Dance Company for performance in *Evening of Dance 2015*. These opportunities afforded students the experience of participating in a professional audition and rehearsal process along with technique classes taught by nationally and internationally recognized dance artists. Guest Artists were sponsored by the WKU Honors College, Provost's Office, Potter College Dean's Office and the Department of Theatre & Dance.



Cornelius Carter

Professor / Director of Dance Program;
Artiist Director Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre



Karen Callaway Williams

Internationally Recognized Tap Dance
Performer / Master Teacher



Victor Alexander

Director, Ruth Page School of Dance;
Co-Director, Ruth Page Civic Ballet

INASIDE CHOREOGRAPHIC SPONSORSHIP EVENT



In March, faculty members Amanda Clark and Lisa Draskovich-Long each had choreography accepted into the 2015 Choreographic Sponsorship Event of the jazz dance company, Inaside Dance Chicago. Clark presented her solo work entitled *Empty Arms*, danced by sophomore dance major Dagny Hamilton. Long's submissions included *3-2-Tango*, performed by Nathan Fister, Mara Brand and Hannah McCarthy, and *Skirting the Line*, with soloist Alexandra Tucker. This was a great opportunity to feature our faculty's creative work and the talents of our dancers. The weekend also provided an impromptu reunion of WKU dance alumni!

DANCE IN ITALY



In May, sixteen dance majors, two dual credit students, and two local high school students embarked on a journey to Italy with Associate Professor Clifton Keefer Brown. The dancers spent ten days abroad based in Civitavecchia, the port city of Rome. Each day, the dancers had a ballet class and then rehearsals at the Balletto di Civitavecchia. They also had the opportunity to take two technique classes, flamenco and contemporary, at the school, allowing them to get a unique taste of dance in the Italian culture.

Their training and experience culminated in the dance concert, *Overseas 2015*, in which our WKU dancers performed five pieces choreographed by Professor Brown. This concert was held in the beautiful Teatro Comunale Traiano, where the dancers met the challenge of performing on a raked stage for the first time. This concert gave students the incredible experience of sharing an international stage with Italian dancers that quickly became friends.



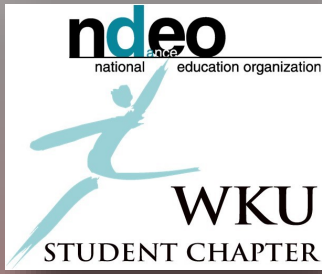
During this trip, the group also took two day-trips to sightsee in Pisa and Rome. The students had the once in a lifetime experience to enhance their dance educations while gaining cultural enrichment with immersion in the Italian culture and making lifelong connections with fellow dancers in this foreign country.

“...I’m speechless. Nothing can compare to being immersed into a new culture.”

- Samantha Pennella, sophomore



“Dancing in Italy was truly a dream come true...To experience such beauty around me and to know that I am contributing to the rich art of Italy that came before struck inspiration within me.” *- Dagny Hamilton, sophomore*



NDEO—WKU Student Chapter

This year the **National Dance Education Organization WKU Student Chapter** successfully completed several new activities working towards fulfilling its mission.

These events helped us to increase awareness of dance through community engagement as well as enrich the dance educations of members of the community and our students on a global scale.

A few of these achievements include conducting two dance camps allowing children to experience the joy and art of dance and perform in a showcase; Creating “Dance Craze” events offering free dance classes to students on campus to introduce more people to the world of dance; Hosting a hip-hop master class with Safiyyah Rasool, director of Safiyyah Dance Company in Louisville; Presenting a lecture on dance history and leading a movement experience for all of the students at Butler County Middle School.

With these successes, the Student Chapter was able to support student travel to the Tennessee Association of Dance Festival, the Dance Program in bringing in guest artist Victor Alexander, and fourteen members to study abroad in Italy this summer!



SUMMER 2015

Each summer, our dancers attend intensives to further their training. Many have been awarded scholarships for programs this summer.

Following are some of the programs our dancers will be attending this year:

- * Joffrey Summer Program
- * Inaside Summer Intensive
- * Christopher K. Morgan
- * Broadway Dance Center
- * The Lexington Theatre
- * Orlando Ballet Intensive
- * St. Louis Tap Festival
- * Colorado Ballet Academy

16 Students will perform in Italy



SAVE THE DATE!

National Dance Program Auditions

October 17 2015

February 6, 2016

A Holiday Extravaganza featuring Sleeping Beauty

November 20-22, 2015

Last Chance to Dance

November 23, 2015

The Dance Project

February 12-14, 2016

Evening of Dance

April 29 - May 2, 2016

Last Chance to Dance

May 3, 2016