



Dance at Illinois University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 907 1/2 West Nevada Street Urbana, IL 61801-3810

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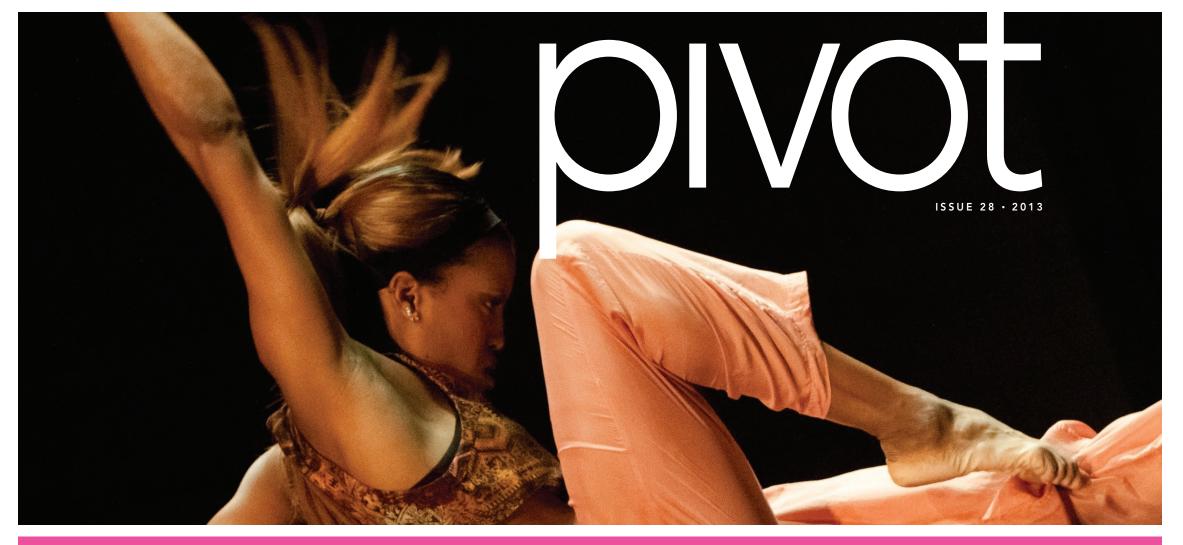
ARTS



dance at illinois

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

LOCATE CENTER. AND GO FROM THERE.



p2 hybridity p6 featured alumni p10 future plans AND MORE INSIDE>

hybridity by professors Jan erkert, Sara Hook, & CYNTHIA OLIVER

Hybridity at its most basic is a notion of mixing. It is the combining of disparate components, to create another anew.

As our Dance Artists work to posit choreographicthinking, movement based research and embodied theoretical inquiry as critically important to the cultural, political and environmental issues of our times, we have chosen to frame Pivot and our upcoming season on the concept of hybridity.

the combining of disparate components, to create another anew. A term initiated by scientists and expansively theorized by postcolonial and cultural theorists, it has come to be known as a symbol of the contemporary era, a place of national, racial, gendered, aesthetic, and disciplinary blurring, whereby subjects and objects resist essentializing.

In Dance at Illinois, we are taking up the notion of hybridity this year to look at the ways contemporary dance has (always) engaged hybridity, has built its tenets upon it (whether acknowledged or not), and has committed to wrestle with it.

The articles in Pivot this year focus on our engagement with this messiness. Read about the collision of visual and performing arts as Tere O'Connor, Jennifer Monson and Renée Wadleigh share time and space with one of our cherished partners—the Krannert Art Museum.

We are sure to see the choreographic pot stirred in performances at Brooklyn Academy of the Arts and LaMama in NYC, and residencies of students and faculty in Columbia and Chile, as our faculty and students move fluidly between the academic and professional worlds. And, alumni Josh Ford (BFA '07) and Lauren Vandivier Ford (BFA '08) Hybridity at its most basic is a notion of mixing. It is create a portrait of the American dance studio, where young dance artists begin their journey into our collective borrowing.

> Our resident faculty, many of whom regularly delve into the messiness of hybrid constructs, are planning to create Big Tiny Little Dance for our upcoming November Dance. This will be an hour-long immersion in a multi-level, complex choreographic conversation between our faculty artists, each impacting the final product under the directive to "wreck, erase, or extend" each others' contributions.

Media artist John Boesche and fashion designer Susan Becker will lead student design artists through a similar process. Guest Artist Jennifer Archibald and Visiting Lecturer Elijah Gibson will also create new dances from the combining of multiple ideologies, elements, and points of entry. With roots in the traditions of hiphop, jazz, and contemporary dance, we look forward to these artists as they mix anew.

Please enjoy Pivot 2013!



Charles Gowin (BFA '16) in Ming Hsuan Szu Tu's Micro Love

looking back/looking forward

LOOKING BACK: 2012-2013

Dance is a live embodiment of global connectedness passed from body to body, generation to generation, culture to culture. To learn a dance, a technique, a style, we must live in each other's presence and move together. Dance at Illinois' vibrant guest artist program is core to our history and our program.

Darrell Jones, circa Bebe Miller and Ralph Lemon, moved our senior class by creating bpm, which was chosen for the ACDFA Gala performance. Our students chose ballet guru Janet Panetta to inspire us with her deep insight into the functioning of the human body. And, alumnus Sheldon Smith, Co-Artistic Director of Smith/ Wymore Dissappearing Acts, created Good Tattoo for a Fifty Year Old Man as our Beverly Blossom/Carey Erickson Alumni Awardee. Local improvisation and theater experts Lisa Fay and Jeff Glassman, capoeira expert Denis Chiaramonte, and the inspiring Ni'Ja Whitson created pieces for our Lecture Demonstration class who performed these eclectic works for elementary schools in our community.

Our long history with Taipei National University of the Arts was renewed through the exchanges of Laura Moschel and Ysaye McKeever, Ming-Hsuan Szu Tu and Yi-Han Chen. We were also fortunate to engage with some of our alumni

who returned to campus. Tricia Weidmann (BFA '03), Laura Chiaramonte (MFA '09) and Angela Fleddermann Miller (MFA '08) taught courses in our department; Paige Cunningham (MFA '07), Grace Courvoisier (BFA '11), William McClellan (BFA '00), and Aaron White (BFA '11) choreographed solos on our BFA seniors; and Katherine Roarty (BFA '11), a representative of Broadway Dance Center (NYC), auditioned our students for scholarships.

LOOKING FORWARD: 2013-2014

With expertise in jazz, hip-hop and tap, Elijah Gibson, former dancer with Gus Giordano in Chicago will bring a new vibrancy to our mix as a Visiting Lecturer. Guest Artist Jennifer Archibald, founder and Artistic Director of the Arch Dance Company, will create a new work for our students. As a frequent collaborator in the contemporary performing arts, Lighting Designer Joe Levasseur, will inspire our collaborative design team. Born in Venezuela, David Zambrano, will wow our students with his unique approach to physical training called Flying Low Dance Technique. Lastly, our Beverly Blossom/Carey Erickson Alumni Awardees will be Elby Brosch (BFA '12) and Jessica Cornish (BFA '12) who will be working on a project with Professor Linda Lehovec.





student involvement

Dance students are intimately involved in campus activities, ranging from registered students organizations, dance groups, the FAA ambassador program, which helps with new student recruitment, to being active members of sororities and fraternities. Senior Alison Rhoades received the Senior 100 Award for her work on campus:

I chose the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaigr for various reasons, one of the most prominent being the opportunity to immerse myself in a variety o organizations and projects. My time with the Krannert Center Ambassadors, Dance for People with Parkinson's, and as an Administrative Intern with the Dance Department has expanded my interests and career possibilities as a dancer.

During my final semester at Illinois, I worked with a fellow classmate to develop a creative movement class series specifically for the Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana. I gained the confidence to initiate this project after working as a shadow with the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG). The shadow program, sponsored jointly by MMDG, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and Dance at Illinois, offers an outreach fellowship during their university residency in addition to the shadow program. It was through this fellowship that I worked alongside company members at the Cunningham Children's Home, as well as Dance for People with Parkinson's—a program I continued to volunteer for throughout my senior year. Overall, I was able to synthesize my experiences in student marketing, dance outreach, and administrative work with my training, teaching, and performing practices here at Illinois, making me more well-rounded, versatile, and prepared for the professional world of dance."

BY ALISON RHOADES (BFA '13)







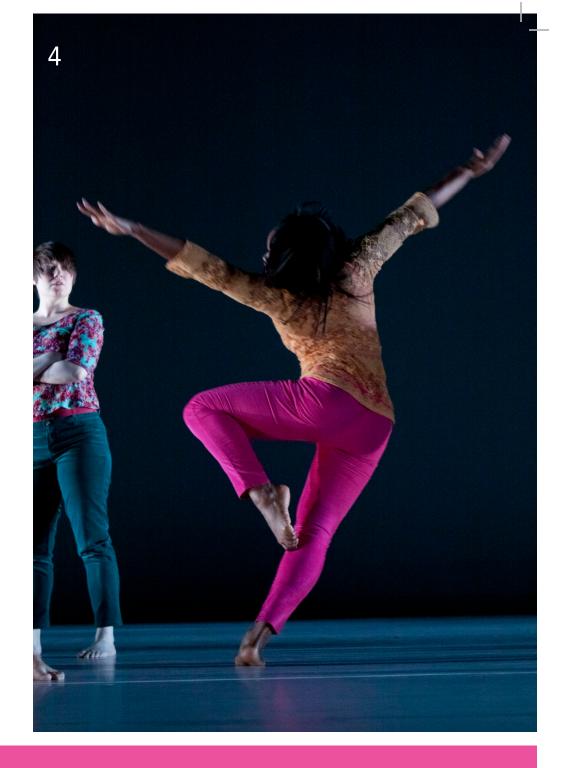
integrated research

Our mission statement promotes the idea of "...integrated approaches to choreographic, performance and scholarly research." So what does that mean? When teaching and learning becomes a web of activity, the academic and professional worlds collide with an explosion of activities. These are only a few of our examples:

Jennifer Monson & Friends/NY/Urbana premiered at La Mama in NYC this summer featuring work created and performed by faculty, undergraduate and graduate students and artists who shared artistic lives in both New York City and Urbana, Illinois and come from three New York City dance generations—the 60's, 90's, and 2000's. Each of these artists brought a fiercely physical and intellectual rigor to their work as they shaped energetic forces on multiple scales.

Professor Linda Lehovec returns to Chile to choreograph a second work for *Duoc UC*, a professional theater/dance school, directed by alumna Francisca Silva (BFA '02). Alumni and students from Duoc and Dance at Illlinois will perform in Santiago and Champaign as Lehovec creates an evening length work for this international mix of artists. Professor Sara Hook created a solo with Racy Brand (BFA '12), which continued to develop at Bates Dance Festival 2012 where Ms. Hook was on faculty, which was then performed by Racy at Gowanus Art +Production in Brooklyn in 2013.

- Choreographer/Writer/Director/Performer Cynthia Oliver created BOOM!, a 17-minute duet with alumna Leslie Cuyjet (BFA 03), which premiered in Ishmael Houston-Jones Parallels in Black Series at Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, 2012 and at New York Live Arts, 2013. Photo, Julieta Cervantes.
- Undergraduates Skylee Trimble (BFA '16) and Abby Brandolino (BFA '13) created work for elementary and high school students from local studios Art in Motion and Twist and Shout. Pictured: Dancers from Art in Motion Dance Studio, Champaign, IL..
- When 5 Come Together was created by Professor Kirstie Simson in collaboration with graduate students Nico Brown (MFA 14), Steven Moses and Rhea Speights (MFA 15).
- Professor Renée Wadleigh and graduate student Renée Archibald (MFA '13) collaborated with media wizard John Boesche to create ---- L to R: Rhea Speights (MFA '15) and Tiffany Norris (BFA '13).





STAY CONNECTED ALUMNI—WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submit your update on our website and join Dance at Illinois' group on Facebook. We invite you to share your story and help each other find resources, jobs and other opportunities. Please visit our website for the latest news on our alumni! www.dance.illinois.edu/for_alumni/alumni

featured alumni BY JOSH FORD

josh ford (BFA '07) & lauren vandivier ford (BFA '08)

We implement ideologies we learned during our time at Illinois in our daily teaching. The teaching workshop, dance history, and kinesiology classes have been especially helpful from which to draw material and lessons. In Louisville, there are a lot of dance studios and we wanted to stand out and bring something fresh and new to the area. We firmly believe the training and experiences we had at Illinois are what give us a competitive edge.

We are currently in our fourth year at Louisville Dance Alliance. In that short time we have grown to a studio of about 150 students. We have recreational students as well as professional-track students who wish to pursue dance at the collegiate level.

Having our own studio space has allowed us to form our own professional dance company: the Vandivier Ford Dance Company. We just had our fourth annual company performance this May, and we love that we have an outlet to work with local professional dancers. Seeing our company dancers has also played a large role in motivating and creating a love for modern dance in our students.

We know that we wouldn't be as successful today if we didn't have the Illinois experience. We received a well-rounded dance education; from traditional technique classes to new, experimental movement ideas. Illinois gave us the tools to think about and approach dance, movement, and teaching in a new way and that has made all the difference in our studio.

OPENSTUDIO2

BY KATHLEEN HARLEMAN, DIRECTOR OF KRANNERT ART MUSEUM

Tere O'Connor recently participated in the UCLA symposium Dancing with the Art World which was presented by the Hammer Museum and the UCLA Department of Art. Symposium organizers succinctly summarized the intersection of these two worlds—dance and the visual arts:

"While dance has long intersected meaningfully with the visual arts, the past 5-10 years have witnessed an explosion of dance being presented in an art context. From Move: Choreographing You at London's Hayward Gallery (2008) to Dance/ Draw at the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston (2011) to Danser sa vie at the Centre Pompidou in Paris (2012), landmark exhibitions at major museums have explored the relationship between dance and the visual arts.

"A growing number of choreographers have been featured in solo museum exhibitions and contemporary art surveys, while contemporary artists increasingly incorporate dance, dancers, and choreography into their practices. Such examples evidence an expanding institutional interest and investment on the part of the visual art field in producing, historicizing, and even collecting dance. Dance appears to be a new object of fascination in art; at the same time, dancers and choreographers are moving to locate their work in museums and galleries, the art market, and art schools."

These words resonate with O'Connor, because for more than five years, dance and the visual arts have intermingled frequently at Krannert Art Museum (KAM). During this time Dance at Illinois faculty and students have significantly expanded the museum's reach in terms of artistry and audience.

The interface between dance and art at KAM will be even more exciting in Fall 2013. OPENSTUDIO2 celebrates three major initiatives directed, choreographed, and performed by illustrious Dance faculty and their celebrated colleagues from across the country.

Tere O'Connor will premier a new duet for dance artists Cynthia Oliver and David Thomson. Commissioned by KAM, the duet is the third work in O'Connor's Bleed project that looks at the multiple strata of information comprising a dance. Jennifer Monson will perform Live Dancing Archive, an evening length solo performance, video installation, and digital archive.

Renée Wadleigh's Dance On Video Installation features world-class contemporary dance artists from the United States and abroad whose work embodies current concerns and developments in the visual arts.

OPENSTUDIO2 is sponsored in part by Frances P. Rohlen siting Artists Fund/College of Fine and Applied Arts; Lorado t Lectureship on Art Fund/College of Fine and Applied Arts; epartment of Dance; School of Art + Design; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; and Krannert Art Museum.



Check our Performance Calendar on page 14 for more details



"Illinois gave us the tools to think about and approach *dance*, *movement*, and **teaching** in a new way and that has made all the difference in our studio.

dance at illinois









BFA Class of 2013: back row L to R: Monica Remes, Tiffany Norris, Susan Powers, Alison Rhoades, Kathryn Williams, Chad Miller, Jazmyne Wilson, Ashley Cizmar, Ysaye McKeever; front row L to R: Mary Albano, Lauren Vermilion, Andrea Chim, Allison Grissom, Jasmine Wilson, Laura Moschel, Jade Peeples, Abby Brandolino. Not Pictured: Mallory Rubin.

future plans

Congratulations to the entire senior class. In addition to producing Perspectives, three concerts of stellar original work, the seniors worked with quest choreographer Darrell Jones on the creation of bpm. This dance was performed in November Dance and selected for the gala concert at the American College Dance Festival Association's regional conference in Mankato, MN. We were very impressed by the level of maturity, commitment, and skill these young artists demonstrated throughout the entire year.

This year's graduating BFA students will be heading to NYC, Atlanta, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Louisville (KY), Greeley (CO), and as far as Taipei, Taiwan! Their plans include performing in companies, teaching, directing dance companies, interning with major arts presenters, engaging with the community, and pursuing certifications in yoga, fitness instruction, screendance and more. Many plan to attend graduate school in the future for studies as broad as Dance Movement Therapy, Dance Pedagogy, Gender and Women's Studies, or Law, but for now as one recent graduate said, they are committed to "doing anything and everything involved with dance."

Action, Community, Self-Reflection BY SARA HOOK

As I look back, it is clear that the seeds of each of their individual artistic missions were embedded in this experiment. The three elegant ladies who graduated with the MFA degree in Dance this past May began their trajectory here by collaborating on a work entitled "Within This Field" presented at the Krannert Art Museum. This piece asked the audience to come close, to stand with the performers, and to have an intimate experience. As I look back, it is clear that the seeds of each of their individual artistic missions were embedded in this experiment.

These three represent the kind of student we aim to foster: the artist/leader - the active, self-reflective, contributor to the field of Dance. They will lead by choreographing, teaching, producing, performing and writing, all through their particular lens, painstakingly

This fall, Renée Archibald will move to Walla Walla, Washington where she has been named the first more powerful.

Assistant Professor of Dance at Whitman College. As founding Director of Dance, she will be responsible for developing the curriculum for a brand new Dance Majors program. Kathleen Kelley will be a new Assistant Professor of Dance and Technology at Montclair State University in New Jersey where she will be tasked to contribute to a re-design of the BFA curriculum. And, Tamin Totzke will be travelling to Mongolia, China, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan as part of the Triptych Journey Project and then continuing on to Cambodia to teach at the Artist Residency Center, Epic Arts.

Renée, Kathleen, and Tamin have demonstrated the type of supportive micro community we hope our MFA candidates will develop with one another and have been model students who contributed enormously to the departmental, campus AND local specified and re-ignited during their three years here. community. Now, they continue to broaden their tracks out again to "THE FIELD". They have literally gone IN in order to go back OUT—more clear and



L to R: MFA Class of 2013 Renée Archibald, Kathleen Kelley, Tamin Totzke

internship program

At Dance at Illinois, students have a unique opportunity to work in arts administration under the mentorship of our Assistant to the Head Jacqueline Kinsman, who not only runs the program with precision and skill but also has her M.F. A. in Dance. Her duel knowledge of the arts and business and her passion for guiding young people has inspired many of our students to work in command central (the dance office).

This year Ms. Kinsman coached four stellar dance majors, all seniors, who learned valuable skills that landed them jobs right after graduation. Alison Rhoades helped with alumni relations and website management and is now headed to Colorado to stir up the local dance community. Mary Albano, now working as an Intern at Audience Architects in Chicago, supported our recruitment efforts and was an ambassador for our program at our High School Summer Intensive. Lauren Vermilion, who was always eager to step in where help was needed, is now an intern at the American Dance Festival, surrounded by major artists from the field. Mallory Rubin took leadership in strengthening our alumni relations and is now working at Broadway in Chicago.

OF THIS PROGRAM, MALLORY SAYS:

"I am forever grateful for my internship experience in the Dance Office. From developing creative initiatives and experiencing the successes and failures of these projects, I have gained tremendous leadership and management skills."



With a highly talented faculty, and under community building, making dance a vehicle the skilled leadership of Professor and Department Head Jan Erkert, Dance at Illinois has become widely known for outstanding instruction, ongoing innovation the accomplishments of our dance students in performance, and creative local, national and international collaborations. Our dance faculty constantly seeks to push traditional discipline on stage, in the classroom, and boundaries in the art form and to create new forms of movement, novel connections, and sense of adventure are inspiring. unique audience experiences.

In these pages you will read about the continue to support the department. Because extraordinary accomplishments of a faculty which is deeply committed to bringing dance Dance is able to continue innovating. not only to well-known stages, including our own Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, but into non-traditional and frequently Professor and Dean unexpected venues and spaces. One aim is to define dance as an integral part of

for exploring shared histories, cultures, music, and social and environmental concerns. The College of Fine and Applied Arts is proud of and faculty, in particular the standard of excellence and accessibility they bring to the online. Their dedication, passion, focus and

I deeply appreciate the generous donors who of this support, the Illinois Department of

be a pivotal force—donate now!

DANCE PARTNERS

Through small and interactive gatherings, salons, and unique events with dance artists, educators and students, the Dance Partners will create intimate and playful experiences to achieve the following goals:

- Raise public awareness of the particular form of critical thinking that the experience of dance brings to our collective breadth of knowledge
- Assist the Dance Department in raising funds to establish grants, scholarships, endowments, and fortifying the historically important guest artist program
- Enhance the national exposure of our already highly respected dance department

When I view dance the experience seeps in to touch my memory and my subconscious taking me on an introspective journey as I consider how I have been touched and why I am thrilled to be a charter member of the Dance Partners Council. I invite you to join us on a journey of your own."



Dance Partners Co-Founders Fran Ansel and Diane Baker

"Why I am interested in helping dance? I see the need; have the expertise and like the people and the mission. By giving back, I grow."

—Diane Baker

We look forward to meeting you and having you become part of Dance Partners. Please join us!

www.dance.illinois.edu/support-dance-at-illinois/how-to-donate

12 pivot

contributors

Listed below are donors to the department of dance from January 1, 2011 through May 15, 2013. We realize there may be mistakes or omissions from this list. We apologize and invite you to contact us regarding corrections: (217) 333-1010.

Peter Linda Krivkovich

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Jin-Wen Yu

Rhea Speights (MFA '15) & Monica Remes (BFA '12) Awarded in recognition of outstanding performance.

Moe Family Dance Award (Est. 1996)

Kathleen Kelley (MFA '13)
Awarded in recognition of potential for unique contributions to the profession.

Vannie L. Sheiry Memorial Scholarship (Est. 1994)

Wanda M. Nettl Prize for Student Choreography (2002)

12–13 scholarship recipients

Nico Brown (MFA '14)

Awarded in recognition of outstanding choreography.

Patricia Knowles Graduate Travel Award (Est. 2006)

Angélica Angulo Soledad (MFA '15)

Award designated for an outstanding MFA candidate to be used for travel and study that deepens his/her artistic life.

Beverly Blossom and Carey Erickson Alumni Award (Est. 2007)

Sheldon Smith (MFA '91)

Enables an alumnus to return to campus to teach, perform, choreograph and otherwise enhance Dance at Illinois.

Scholarships for Dance Projects (Est. 2010)

These scholarships support dance research and/or study for BFA and MFA students seeking to further their creative, performance, and/or scholarly work. Students are selected based on a diverse range of aesthetics within projects that demonstrate rigorous inquiry, individual voice, and curiosity.

Lisa Carducci Memorial Scholarship

Laura Moschel (BFA '13)

Award designated for a summer project.

Mary Elizabeth Hamstrom Award

Niall Jones (MFA '14)

Awarded to a graduate student for summer study.

Senior Magnolia Award

Jade Peeples (BFA '13)

Awarded to a graduating senior who has shown the most growth and development throughout his/her four years.

Alumni Outreach Award

Mallory Rubin (BFA '13)

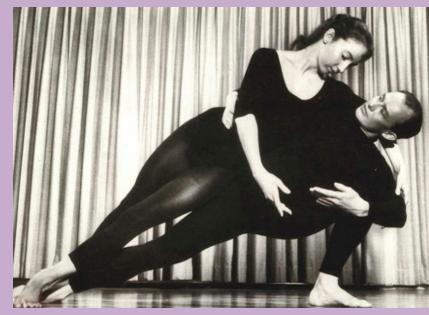
Awarded in recognition of her contribution to alumni relations.

Outstanding Undergraduate Performance Award

Jasmine Wilson (BFA '13)

Undergraduate Excellence and Achievement Award Alison Rhoades (BFA '13)

Allison Grissom (BFA '13) Ysaye McKeever (BFA '13) Johanna Meyer (MFA '14) Angela Pittman (MFA '15) Katie Williams (BFA '16)



Wilis Ward and Jan Stockman perform Ward's Aubade, 1962

transitions

We are sad to announce the passing of Jan Stockman Simonds, Dance Department Head, 1968 – 1971. She taught dance at Barnard College, Columbia University until 1961 when she left New York to take a dance teaching position at the University of Illinois – Champaign-Urbana. In 1968, the U of I Administration asked Jan to take over the task of organizing and leading the newly established Department of Dance in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. Jan was Head of the Dance Department until 1971 when her husband, Charles (Chuck) Simonds, finished his PhD and the couple moved to Houston, Texas. Jan Stockman Simonds passed away on April 14, 2013 following a long battle with breast cancer.

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faculty/staff list & magazine credits

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Guest Artists 2012-2013

Patricia Weidmann, Visiting Lecturer

Kirstie Simson, Assistant Professor

John Toenjes, Associate Professor,

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Renée Wadleigh, Professor

Music Director

Grace Courvoisier (BFA '11)
Deanna Doty
Lisa Fay and Jeff Glassman Duo
Dun Huang Dance
Kevin lega Jeff
Darrell Jones
David Marchant

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Magazine Credits

Jacqueline Kinsman, *Editor*All photography by Natalie Fiol, unless otherwise noted.

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in her Walking a Thin Line
Back Cover – Ashley Cizmar (BFA '13) in When I Find
it, You'll be the Last to Know by Leila Henry (BFA '11)