

Spring 2023

WKU[®] Dance

CREATING | THINKING | ARTISTS



.....DANCE ON THE HILL.....

We were so excited to welcome our dancers back on the Hill this spring semester! Our dancers were eager to dance again in the long semester we had planned. This semester has been full of great opportunities and we are so proud of all of our dancers' accomplishments. This was a great semester and we cannot wait to see what the next year brings!

Inquiries about the WKU Dance Program may be directed to Amanda Clark, Dance Program Coordinator, at amanda.clark@wku.edu.

Photo credits go to Jeff Smith, Shura Pollatsek, Brinlee Price, and Meghan McKinley



TRAVEL

Our dancers had the opportunity to travel to Florence, Alabama, and perform at the **North Alabama Dance Festival**. Dancers began rehearsing for this performance as soon as the spring semester started! Our Guest College Performance featured pieces from faculty, students, and our previous Guest Artist, Nathan Fister. We had such a great trip with the company and an enjoyed all of the new dancers we got to meet while at the festival!



Our dancers also had the opportunity to attend the Southeast Conference of the **American College Dance Association**. We traveled to Gainesville, Georgia where we took classes and performed on the Brenau University campus. Dancers performed in showcases with work by Assistant Professor Anna Patsfall and dance majors Lauren Gore and Cordelia Newton. The classes we took covered genres all the way from ballet to Pure Barre and our professors also had the chance to teach! We are extremely grateful for the grants we received from WKU to help our dancers travel for this amazing opportunity!





Student Scholars

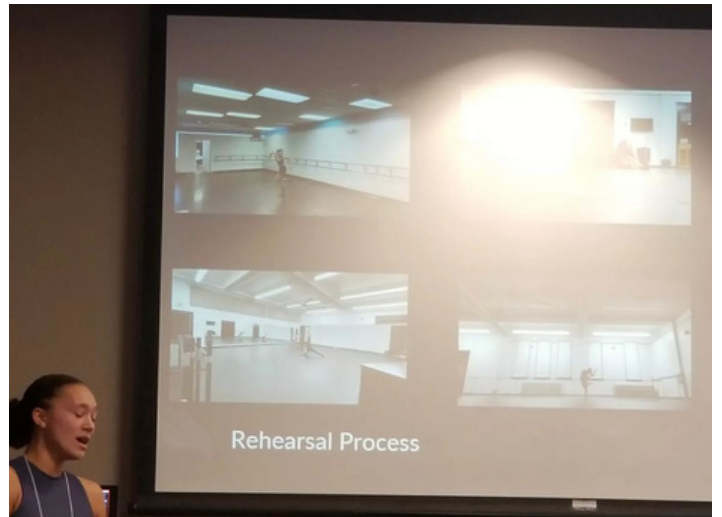


Our dancers love to research! This semester we had three students present their research at the WKU Student Scholar Showcase.

Kaleigh Hampton presented her FUSE research titled "How Gravity Affects Anatomical Structures in Dance."

Julia Woolums presented her FUSE and Capstone research titled "The Reality of Bipolar Disorder: A Dance Film to Bring Awareness to the Misconceptions of Mental Health." Julia was also the recipient of the **Capstone Experience Project of the Year!**

Sophia Jones presented her FUSE research titled "Conceptualizing Tap Choreography."





Guest Artists

This semester, we enjoyed many master classes and rehearsals with Rich Ashworth! The classes were in tap and house dance. In addition to having technique classes with him, our dancers got to learn his repertoire. It was such a great experience, and we are so glad we got to take classees from him!

Richard Ashworth (Milwaukee, WI) is an educator, choreographer, and performer whose interest in technical foundation and corresponding social cultures have made him a resource in the social and percussive African Diaspora dance communities. Richard attended the University at Buffalo, receiving a BFA in Dance in June 2007. After graduating, Rich performed aboard Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Seas and upon returning to the States, danced in several crews for live performances and industrials including for artists such as Flo Rida and The Goo Goo Dolls. Rich has performed, choreographed, and toured with several internationally celebrated dance companies including Lehrerdance (dir. Jon Lehrer), Chicago Dance Crash (dir. Jessica Deahr), Be The Groove (dir. Stephanie Paul) serving as educational director, and Chicago Tap Theatre (dir. Mark Yonally), where he served as a choreographer and rehearsal director. As an educator Rich has been on the faculty of several dance based organizations including Dance Masters of America, Flow 40 Dance, Beyond the Stars dance convention, and Interdanza of Mexico. Rich has served as a choreographer and lecturer at Hope College, Salve Regina University, and Carthage College. Rich most recently attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, achieving a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance in May 2021. He now lectures at UWM, Carthage College, and continues dance-based community outreach through Danceworks MKE.



This semester's guest artists were funded
In part by the **Mahurin Honors College**
and the **Potter College Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion Grant.**



Performances on the Hill

Evening of Dance



Throughout the spring semester, we worked on our production, *Evening of Dance*. Held in Russell Miller Theatre, this performance showcased the versatility of our dancers. In this faculty, student, and guest-choreographed concert, dancers shared styles of ballet, modern, tap, jazz, and house dance. This performance showed off the athleticism, poise, and passion our dancers have. We love to see the hard work of all the choreographers, dancers, and our tech crew come together!



The Dance Project



The Dance Project is an adjudicated student-choreographed concert held at the beginning of every spring semester. Choreographers work with their casts from August until December for the final adjudication, and if chosen, their piece moves to The Lab Theatre of Gordon Wilson Hall. The talent executed by our students is unreal and we are so proud of their hard work and artistry!



Performances on the Hill

Last Chance to Dance

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Last Chance to Dance is an informal student-choreographed showcase put on at the end of each semester. In the spring, Last Chance to Dance is headed by the Choreography I class and also serves as their final project presentation. The dancers work all semester to learn choreographic tools before putting their knowledge to the test in this final performance. Other dancers in the program are also encouraged to share new works and receive feedback from faculty.



The Menagerie

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Some of our dancers had the opportunity to perform in *The Menagerie*, a collaboration with multiple departments in Potter College. Our dancers were with vocalists, film-makers, actors, and many more PCAL artists! This was the first time a show had combined this many departments at WKU, and we are overjoyed to have been part of it!



NDEO

The National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) WKU Student Chapter executive board was led by President Chelby Woods and Vice President Sophie Jones.

Throughout the year, officer Grace Becker and the rest of the fundraising committee organized several successful fundraisers, including **Tropical Smoothie Cafe, T&D March Madness, Evening of Dance Flower Sales, and a night with the Bowling Green Hot Rods!**

The money raised helps provide guest artists and residencies to enrich our dancers' educations in the Department of Theatre & Dance!



In order to achieve our goal of spreading our love of dance across campus, NDEO participates in several festivals throughout the year that cater to both current and prospective students of all interests. This semester we took part in **Herstory**.

Additionally, we hosted our semesterly *Kick the Clocks*, which were a huge success! **Kick the Clock** is a twenty-four hour dance festival in which dancers are tasked to create a dance to be performed in just twenty-four hours. *Kick the Clock* is open to students of all majors and levels of dance experience, and we were so excited to welcome students from an array of departments to share in the love of dance!

Finally, our members were able to share our excitement for *Evening of Dance* through a department-wide Spirit Week! This was such a fun way for our dancers to spend their last few classes of the semester.

Additional NDEO member events included:

- **MajorRedz Master Class led by senior Dance Major Dominique Rice**
- **Mentournament**



Outreach

Throughout this semester, Professor Amanda Clark and dance students were able to share our love of dance at Potter Gray Elementary School. We had the great opportunity to pop into a few Friday enrichment classes and the students always said they loved their time with us!



The WKU Dance Program would like to give our biggest congratulations to our graduating seniors. Class of 2023, you have given us some of our greatest laughs, amazing performances, and most of all, your leadership in the program. We love you all and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!