



Newsletter 2016

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Welcoming New Professors



The WKU Dance Program was happy to welcome two new faculty members to our dance program for the 2015-2016 school year! Meghan McKinley joined us as a Visiting Instructor of Dance. She is a modern dancer, choreographer, and educator, who received her BFA degree in dance performance from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and earned her MFA in dance performance and choreography at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In February, Meghan took a group of students to Louisville to perform her piece 'Drive' in DECA presented by Moving Collective. She also choreographed for the WKU Dance Company's spring concert and fall WKU Symphony collaboration. After a successful first year, Meghan will be returning next year as an Assistant Professor of Dance.



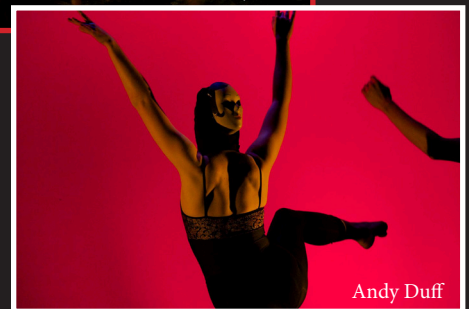
Andy Duff



Andy Duff



Kylene Stephens is a returning WKU Dance Program alumna. After working in Chicago, she joined us this fall as an Adjunct Instructor. This year she choreographed for the WKU Department of Theatre and Dance's production of *Guys and Dolls* as well as for the WKU Dance Company's spring concert. We are delighted that Kylene will also be returning for the next academic year.



Andy Duff

2015-2016 Performance Season

A *Holiday Extravaganza* featuring *Sleeping Beauty* marked the first time the WKU Dance Company performed a jazzed up version of a full-length ballet. With all-original contemporary jazz choreography by Associate Professor Amanda Clark, this condensed version of the famous ballet enchanted audiences. A children's costume parade and post-concert photo opportunity with Aurora and Prince Désiré, sponsored by the NDEO-WKU Student Chapter, allowed this young generation of fans to join us onstage.



Evening of Dance 2016 ended the WKU Dance Company's 2015-2016 season. This exciting concert featured choreography by guest artists Jon Lehrer and Andrea Shelley, as well as works by faculty members Amanda Clark, Clifton Brown, Meghan McKinley, and Kylene Stephens. A variety of dance styles included ballet, modern, jazz, and tap, offering a glimpse at the diverse dancers that our program produces.

During *Dance Project 2016*, student choreographers entertained sold out audiences in this annual student choreography concert. Once again, dance alumni were invited to return and set their own original choreography on our current students. Our students and alumni presented a diverse body of work that included modern, contemporary, ballroom, and tap dance. This was a wonderful opportunity for past and present students to connect and explore their own artistic voices!



The WKU Dance Company collaborated with the WKU Symphony in both the fall and spring semesters. In November's *Holiday Pops* concert, our dancers performed *Nutcracker* variations featuring choreography by faculty members Amanda Clark and Meghan McKinley and student Christa St. John. The spring concert *It's Time for Two* featured a collaboration between WKU musicians, dancers, and actors as all performed excerpts from the classic *Romeo and Juliet* with choreography by Christa St. John. This was an incredible opportunity for a variety of artists to work together in a single performance!

Guest Artists



Banning Bouldin is artistic director of the contemporary dance company New Dialect in Nashville, Tennessee, named Nashville's Best New Dance Company in 2014. Banning received her BFA from New York City's Juilliard School and spent eight years working internationally. In 2010, she was listed with her Rumpus Room Dance colleagues in Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch." Banning hosted an incredible three-hour master class at WKU this fall.

Andrea Dawn Shelley has danced as a principal artist with Maximum Dance Company, Miami Contemporary Dance Company, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, and State Street Ballet and is now a Co-Founding Director of iMEE Dance Company. During her visit to our campus, she taught a wonderful contemporary ballet master class, and created a new work on the WKU Dance Company titled "Window of Appearances" for *Evening of Dance 2016*.



Jon Lehrer received his B.F.A in Dance from the University at Buffalo. As a professional, Jon has danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, Paul Sanasardo, John Passafiume Dancers, in Merv Griffin's "Funderful" and the Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. He also spent ten years with Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, during which he worked as dancer, rehearsal director, associate director, and resident choreographer. He now runs his own dance company, LehrerDance, which is based in Buffalo and travels all over the world. Jon taught master classes for our WKU dancers as well as restaged his work "Chukchi" on the WKU Dance Company for *Evening of Dance 2016*.

Denise Vale joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1985, attaining the rank of principal dancer. She now works as the Senior Artistic Associate for the company. When the Martha Graham Dance Company visited WKU to perform, Vale taught a master class for our WKU dancers. This incredible opportunity was supported by the WKU Cultural Enhancement Series.



Brian Grant has danced professionally with Dayton Ballet and Louisville Ballet and is the founder and CEO of BMBallet Productions. Our NDEO WKU Student Chapter sponsored a master class with Brian Grant for our WKU dancers this spring.

NDEO Student Chapter

This year the WKU Student Chapter of the National Dance Education Organization created more opportunities for the WKU and Bowling Green communities to experience the art of dance. The mission of our NDEO WKU Student Chapter is to increase awareness of dance through community engagement as well as enhance dance students' educations by creating opportunities for further dance study, research, and performance.

Highlights from student chapter activity this year include:



Providing free Dance Craze events on campus for WKU students



Supporting the WKU Dance Program in bringing in guest artists Jon Lehrer, Andrea Shelley, and Brian Grant



Hosting three successful children's dance camps



Forming a partnership with the WKU Best Buddies Organization to provide a dance class for the buddies

Awarding three NDEO WKU Student Chapter Dance Education Scholarships

Presenting a lecture and movement experience at local area middle schools

NHSDA Student Chapter

The WKU Student Chapter of the National Honors Society for Dance Arts gave members the opportunity to learn and grow as artists, students, and leaders in their community. The members upheld an above average GPA and gained points toward induction into the NHSDA. This year, the chapter held events such as a Resume and Reel Workshop and the All-Arts Improv Jam. Three students were inducted into the NHSDA at the end of this year, and two students graduated with Honors.

NHSDA RESUME AND REEL WORKSHOP

Friday, October 16th
Gordon Wilson 200A
3:30-5:00p.m.

Join Visiting Instructor Meghen McKinley for an informative workshop sponsored by WKU's student chapter of NHSDA!

Learn how to effectively craft a professional resume and performance reel! (Make sure to bring a copy of your current resume for tips.)

ALL-Arts Improv Jam

Hosted by the National Honor Society for Dance Arts WKU Student Chapter
May 5, 2016
4-6 pm
The Faculty House
(log cabin by Subway)

Calling all WKU student artists!
This is your chance to meet new people, expand your artistic horizons, observe, listen, learn, and collaborate

All musicians, visual artists, photographers, dancers, and art enthusiasts are welcome to attend this event!
For more information:
hannah.mccarthy760@topper.wku.edu

Dance Showcase

In the fall, we initiated the Dance Showcase to offer an exciting opportunity for students to present their dance technique classwork to the department! All levels and all genres participated in this informal showing of class combinations and composition projects at the end of the spring and fall semesters. Over 150 dancers and observers attended each semester's showcase!



Summer Studies

The WKU Dance Program was pleased to once again host prestigious summer program auditions on our main campus. Auditions for Joffrey Ballet School, Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre and Nutmeg Ballet were held throughout the semester. Several WKU and Bowling Green community dancers were accepted and awarded scholarships for summer 2016.

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
- LehrerDance Summer Intensive
- Orlando Ballet Intensive
- Martha Graham Summer Intensive
- American Tap Dance Foundation
- Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre
- New Dialect Summer Intensive



WKU Dance Intensive

We are thrilled to host the first WKU Dance Intensive in summer 2016! This intensive is designed for intermediate to advanced high school dancers (grades 9-12) as a unique opportunity to explore college level dance, campus events, and the WKU experience. Following the mission of the WKU Dance Program, students will be challenged as “thinking artists,” with a variety of classes to enhance their technical and artistic skills. Programs of study will include ballet, jazz, and modern dance technique classes along with improvisation, dance history, and world dance forms. Daily discussions and events will highlight special interest topics designed to help prepare and inspire the pre-professional dancer. The week long intensive will culminate in a performance featuring choreography by university faculty and guest artist Jon Lehrer.