

# Dance Program



PHOTO BY JARED OLSEN

The UW Dance Program educates performers, educators, arts advocates, and cultural leaders. At its core lies the recognition of art as the confluence of theory, practice, and creativity. With a commitment to respecting the individual, the Dance Program fosters inquiry and engages the community in open-minded exchange.

## STUDENTS (AUTUMN 2010)

- 45 Undergraduate majors
- 75 Undergraduate minors
- 6 Graduate students

## DEGREES AWARDED (2009-10)

- 12 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 3 Master of Fine Arts degrees

## STUDENT AWARDS (SINCE 2008)

- 2 Mary Gates Leadership Scholars
- 8 Mary Gates Research Scholars
- 1 A&S Dean's Medalist in the Arts
- 5 A&S Undergraduate Research Awards
- 12 Annual Dean's List (2009-2010)

## Education

Whether students are considering a performing career, teaching, exploring dance related fields, or pursuing dance as a liberal arts foundation for graduate studies, they are provided a broad and stimulating educational experience in the UW Dance Program. The Dance Program offers majors in Creative Studies and Dance Studies, each culminating in a Bachelor of Arts degree. The rigorous curriculum features courses in western concert dance and world dance practices, anatomy, teaching methods, history, aesthetics, research methods, ethnography, music for dance, creative process, choreography, repertory, production, integrated dance praxis and theory, and somatic practices. All BA graduates receive an OSPI approved dance endorsement for those pursuing a state teaching certification.

Undergraduate alumni work in local arts organizations such as Pacific Northwest Ballet and On The Boards, as dance instructors, public and private school educators, as performers and choreographers in local and nationally recognized dance companies, and as physical therapists.

The dance program offers one of the most respected and innovative Master of Fine Arts degree programs in the country, geared specifically for professional dancers in transition. In exchange for financial support and tuition waivers, MFA candidates

teach an array of courses to majors, minors and non-majors, thus expanding and enriching our teaching faculty and the undergraduate experience.

Graduates from our MFA program hold tenured and tenure-track positions in dance departments across the nation. MFA alumni have also pursued careers in performance, choreography, filmmaking and arts administration, and are recipients of numerous awards including the Bessie Award, the Guggenheim Fellowship, NEA and National Dance Project Grants.

The Dance Program was awarded the UW's Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence in 2002, and boasts two UW Distinguished Teaching Award recipients among its small but outstanding faculty. The program is also a leader in implementing a system of learning goals and assessment for the dance major and in establishing a culture of inclusion that promotes diversity. More than 2400 students enroll in dance courses each academic year.



Associate Professor Jennifer Salk (right) teaching. Photo by Mary Levin.



Bliss Kohlmyer dancing in Jane Dudley's *Harmonica Breakdown*. Photo by Steve Korn.

## Faculty

Recent Dance Program faculty honors and grants include:

- 1 Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence
- 2 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards
- 1 Donald E. Petersen Endowed Professorship
- 1 Thomas L. and Margo Wyckoff Endowed Faculty Fellowship
- 5 NEA/Dance USA National College Choreography Initiative Awards
- 1 Fulbright Foundation Senior Specialist Award
- 1 Conference on Research in Dance (CORD) Outstanding Publication Award

## Outreach

The Dance Program produces four concerts annually:

- ▶ The Chamber Dance Company (CDC): contemporary and historical modern dance works performed by the UW's resident professional dance company, founded in 1990. The annual concert is presented in Meany Theatre; CDC also presents several outreach performances each year in the Dance Program studios.
- ▶ The Faculty Dance Concert: performance and choreography by UW Dance faculty and guest artists.
- ▶ The Dance Majors Concert: choreography by and for undergraduate dance majors.
- ▶ The MFA Concert: choreography for undergraduate dancers created by MFA candidates in dance (in collaboration with graduate students from other disciplines).

Undergraduate students teach youth in central Washington middle and high schools (funded through Two Valleys/One Vision: Gear Up).

Dance Program graduate students and faculty provide pre-performance lectures for UW World Series Dance audiences.



Assistant Professor Jürg Koch. Photo by Mary Levin.

## Research

Faculty present research at national and international conferences, including the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science, National Dance Education Organization, Conference on Research and Dance, and the Society of Dance History Scholars. Recent faculty scholarship includes articles and essays in *Dance Research Journal*, *The Journal of Dance Education*, *Theatre Research International*, *International Dictionary of Modern Dance*, *Ballet Review*, and in the books *I See America Dancing*, *The Routledge Dance Studies Reader 2nd ed.*, *Writing About Dance*, and the newly released *Glamour Addiction: Inside the American Ballroom Dance Industry*, *Experiential Anatomy in Dance Technique* (DVD), and the *Chamber Dance Company Archive Collection* (DVD Documentary Series).

### FACULTY

- 1 Professor
- 2 Associate Professors
- 2 Assistant Professors
- 1 Emeritus Professor

### AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

- Anatomy for Dance
- Art-making and Community Development
- Ballroom and Latin Dance
- Biomechanics
- Choreography and Performance
- Cultural Studies
- Dance and Politics/Censorship
- Dance and the Hollywood Musical
- Dance Ethnography
- Dance Preservation and Reconstruction
- Experiential Anatomy in Technique Class
- Feminist Theory
- Interdisciplinary Performance Methodologies
- Social Dance History
- Teaching Methodologies for Mixed Ability Populations
- Writing and Dancing

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