



AMERICAN COLLEGE DANCE FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Fall - 2009

Welcome to the ACDFA Newsletter - Please take a look inside

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From William to Williams... Passing the Gavel

The President of the ACDFA Board of Directors serves a four-year term, preceded by one year as President Elect and followed by one year as Past President.

Message from the Outgoing President

Dear ACDFA Membership:
ACDFA is now 37 years old. My first experience with our association was 20 years ago as a student – when the



William Seigh
Outgoing President

organization was just a teenager. Later, I joined the faculty of a Mid-Atlantic region university and took my own students to ACDFA conferences. Since that time, I have lived in two other regions; attended conferences in seven regions; attended national festivals at universities, in New York City, and at the Kennedy Center; hosted a conference; and served on the ACDFA Board of Directors as "the Handbook Person," Secretary, and President. I am honored that, through ACDFA, I have the opportunities to support and enhance dance education, the presentation of

choreography and performance, and the exchange of ideas in many vital ways.

In my years with ACDFA I have seen adjudications go from gymnasiums with gymnastic mats marking the wings, to fully produced concerts. There have been small conferences that adjudicated 13 works and large ones that adjudicated 54. I have seen gala concerts change as dance in higher education has changed, truly reflecting the evolution of theatrical dance. It is a joy to travel to conferences throughout the country and experience the character and dynamism of the performances as the unique spirit of each region reveals itself in student and faculty choreography. Consistent is the shared passion for dance, learning, and connecting with each other in

the classroom, hallway, theatre, and back stage. Through ACDFEA we know we can count on wondrous exchanges among students from different schools, the inspiration of faculty colleagues and other professional artists, and the shared pleasure in returning to a hotel room tired from so much great dancing. The creative potential, artistic excellence, and camaraderie I have experienced across the country is astounding.

It has been a privilege to serve this organization. I know that through the dedicated and outstanding leadership of the ACDFEA Board of Directors, our incomparable Executive Director, and your passion for dance, ACDFEA will continue to promote, produce, and support the best in college dance well beyond its next 37 years. I look forward to our dancing together again.

William Seigh
President, ACDFEA
Keene State College



Holly Williams
Incoming President

Message from the Incoming President

How thrilling to see this newsletter - an opportunity for us to share beyond the heightened moments of our ACDFEA regional conferences.

As many of us face unforeseen economic difficulties, witness program trimming and continue to experience worrisome signs of university distress, that sharing of our strengths becomes more important than ever - and encouraging.

I've long been humbled by ACDFEA's commitment to honor and celebrate the place of Dance in the academy. I am touched by the evident collegiality when faculty find each other at conferences. I also deeply respect the process of adjudication as a tool for honing the choreographic process. When students from large universities and junior colleges come together to admire each other's work, share a dancing moment in classes, and rally together in the name of this most transient of the performing arts, I know the memories are preserved and often transcendent.

As incoming President I will witness ACDFEA's continued growth and importance to the field. But, I have big shoes to fill - William Seigh's gracious and firm vision has provided for an ACDFEA that models collaboration. We all support each other and find solutions while leaving open opportunity for reflection, divergent opinions and discussion. Thank you, William, for your kind leadership.

I've been an adjudicator, an adjudicated choreographer, a conference host, a van driver, and a board member. As a graduate student (yes, a very long time ago) I even wrote my thesis on the ACDFEA adjudication process. For many years I've seen this organization from almost every angle. Now, as President, I look to our treasured board members for guidance, our brilliant executive director Diane DeFries for clarity, and our thousands

of (rockin'!) students for inspiration. The view of the organization from this angle will be the very best view of ACDFEA, I've no doubt.

Holly Williams
University of Texas at Austin

What's in a name?

You may have noticed that "ACDFEA Newsletter" isn't the most attention-grabbing name for a regular communiqué from the national office. We are an organization filled with creative people; dancers choreographers, musicians, designers... "newsletter namers."

Please send your suggestions for a more appropriate name for our newsletter to the national office.

We would love to offer a \$1,000,000 prize for the winning entry, but to our dismay, that line item had to be cut from the budget. So for the sheer pleasure of sharing your creativity with others, send us your suggestions.

Thank you!



One word referenced frequently during the three days of national Board of Directors' meetings last May was *communication*. Questions concerning how we get information to our membership, to the administrators at our various institutions, to our students, and to the greater dance community - academic and professional - resurfaced again and again. Most often these questions arose when discussing individual instances of *lack* of communication.

Out of these conversations the Board of Directors voted to create a new position on the Executive Committee, that of Vice President for Membership.

This new member of the Executive Committee will facilitate more effective and continual communication with all of our constituents. While this seems a

daunting task - it is none-the-less a challenge we believe is worth pursuing.

We are seeking ideas, strategies, and needs, from all of our membership as we address moving our communication plans

forward. What information would be most helpful for you to receive? When would the delivery of this information be the most timely? What types of

information would you like to have readily available to share with your faculty and administrators? What information are our students seeking - summer workshops, intensive programs in technology,

somatics or arts management? What suggestions do you have for gathering and disseminating these types of information? Do you have examples of proven effective communication models that you believe would serve our organization?

In short, how can we better serve you, our membership, and provide the information you need in an effective, consistent and timely manner? Please forward your suggestions via email to Diane DeFries, Executive Director, at acdfa@verizon.net.

Thank you!

New Policies for 2010

The ACDFEA National Board reviews policies and procedures for the organization and brings feedback from all of the regional meetings to the annual national meeting. The following changes to policies were discussed and acted upon at the national board meeting in May 2009 and take effect with this year's conferences.

- After long discussion and hearing from each region's representatives concerning the policy allowing non-student musicians to perform on stage, the Board voted to return to the original policy vis-a-vis non-student performers. Effective with conferences this year, ***all visible performers in adjudicated works must be students from member institutions.*** ACDFEA encourages institutions to create performance opportunities for all dance forms; however, the purpose of the adjudicated concerts at conferences is to feature student performers.
- Out of respect for all participants, please do not post, publish, or electronically disseminate (i.e. YouTube, Facebook) any materials from the conferences including, but not limited to, images and/or video of master classes, rehearsals and/or performances, informal dance/improvisation events, etc., unless you have express written permission from the subject(s) and all necessary copyright permissions. This would include music playing in the background of any video footage.

National Festival returns to the Kennedy Center

The 2010 National Festival will be held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. again this year. The performances will be in the 513 seat Terrace Theater, constructed in the late 1970s as a Bicentennial gift from the people of Japan to the United States. While the relatively small house makes distribution of tickets a very difficult and time-consuming process, the distinction for our students to perform at the Kennedy Center in the nation's capitol holds great allure. Details of the National Festival will be fleshed out in detail sometime next semester, but in the meantime please mark the dates on your calendar now - May 27-29, 2010.

I look forward to an America, which will reward achievement in the Arts as we reward achievements in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens.

- John F. Kennedy

At Amherst College, October 26, 1963

Nine Amazing Conferences across the country in 2009

The highlight of the year for many of our member institutions is attending an ACDFEA Regional Conference. The feedback we receive from attendees always includes comments on the joys of taking classes with so many other dancers from around the country and the opportunity to open their eyes to choreographic styles and performance qualities, which may be different from what they experience at their own institutions.

These regional conferences continue to be invigorating and "recharging" experiences for students and faculty alike. Nine very successful conferences were held in the spring of 2009. Total attendance at regional conferences was **4,288 people**. The conferences ranged in size from 306 participants at the Central Region Conference hosted by Hendrix College, to the largest conference hosted by Texas A&M University in the South-Central Region with 590 participants.

Register now for 2010 Conferences

Conferences will be held in all 10 regions this year. Each conference promises to have its own unique character and experience. As you know, conferences provide multiple opportunities for students and faculty alike to share in the dance experience. Viewing the work of our peers from other institutions, taking classes in various dance forms, attending panel workshops and adjudicator feedback sessions are all invaluable experiences. Please register early to secure your spot at one of this year's conferences. **Visit acdfa.org today!**



Regional Conferences

2009

Central



Hendrix College hosted the Central Region Conference with over 300 participants. Bill Evans, Gabri Christa, and Cornelius Carter were the wonderful team of adjudicators. The responses to the adjudicated works as well as the master classes offered by the adjudicators heightened the experience of the conference participants. There were 28 works featured in the adjudicated concert series, and 15 pieces on the informal concert.

East Central



The East Central Regional conference brought together dancers and faculty from 25 universities across the country with over 540 participants. A trio of talented coordinators made the conference a success with adjudicators Nora Chipaumire, Tom Evert, and Joanna Mendl Shaw. The University of Akron hosted a very large conference with 42 adjudicated works and 2 informal showings.

Mid-Atlantic



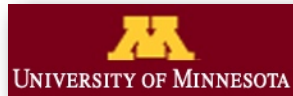
Hollins University hosted the conference with 452 participants. Courses were varied as were "extra" social gatherings and very informal showings of works, hosted by Hollins students. There were 41 dances adjudicated and 2 informal concert showings held. Conference adjudicators were Patricia Casey, Tarek Halaby, and Francesca Harper.

New England



The University of Maine, Orono, hosted the New England Region ACDFA Feb. 26-28, 2009. Over three hundred conferees, representing twenty-three colleges and universities attended the three-day conference. Claire Porter, Nicholas Leichter, and Alison Chase, anchored the conference as our adjudicators. Three adjudicated concerts accommodated 33 dances and two informal concerts were also presented.

North Central



The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Dance Program hosted the 2009 North Central Regional ACDEFA Conference March 18-22, 2009. Nineteen Colleges and Universities were represented, with 400 registered participants. The conference featured three wonderful adjudicators; Diane McIntyre brought an historical perspective; Tommy DeFrantz brought an interdisciplinary perspective and a strong awareness of technology; and Sara Hook provided a pedagogical and postmodernist compositional eye.

Northeast



Penn State hosted a great conference featuring adjudicators; Gerri Houlihan, Heather Cornell, and Keith Thompson. There were 534 participants representing 29 schools in the Northeast region. The conference included 81 classes, one informal concert, four adjudication concerts, one Gala and one Welcome Concert, which featured the work of the guest artists and adjudicators. We organized a student night out at one of the 'all-ages' clubs in the downtown corridor. The club donated the use of the space, a DJ and paid for security. The student social event was a huge success and the turnout was great.

Northwest



The wonderful panel of adjudicators who brought extra life to this conference included Susan Hadley, Peter DiMuro, and Cleo Parker Robinson. The 476 participants hailed from 29 schools in 10 different state. The conference opened with a concert featuring the Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble performing a tribute concert to Katherine Dunham. This proved to be an inspiring event as it provided conference participants with a clear sense of artistry, energy, joy, professionalism, and a history of dance and ended with the participants and the performers uniting in dance.

Southeast



Adjudicators Maura Keefe, Mark Borchelt, Ursula Payne stayed busy adjudicating 46 works in four concerts. There were over 560 participants from 32 institutions. Along with the classes and adjudicated concerts, this conference included two additional concerts featuring invited guest artists. Another focus of the conference was Integrating Diversity in Dance Education. To that end there were several faculty panel presentations and other offerings to focus on the conference theme.

South Central



The conference hosted by Texas A&M included an amazing number of dancers all in one place. Over 650 participants from 41 schools filled the conference with movement and energy. Going beyond the call, this conference hosted an "out-of-region" adjudicated concert with three separate adjudicators. There were a total of 58 dances adjudicated and 21 works performed on informal concerts. The valiant adjudicators included; Anjali Austin, Kathy Casey, Rebecca Lazier, James Martin, Allison Orr, and Vincent Thomas.



evidence of things (un)said

Choreography:

Charles O. Anderson

Photo:

Matthew Wright

Are you who I think you are?

The national office makes every effort to get correspondence to the right person at each institution. However, with frequently changing course assignments for faculty we sometimes get left out of the loop about who should be getting the information your school needs. Even if you are not the "official" voting member from your school, there are things that you should know.

Each member institution has a name listed as the Institutional Liaison with ACDFA. The liaison receives all communication from ACDFA and is responsible for disseminating information to and collecting information from other faculty. This includes materials for ACDFA Board of Directors positions (call for nominations, receiving faculty input for ballots and returning the ballot to the national office); invoice for future dues; and general regional conference information and other communication from the national office.

It is very important that we have the correct liaison contact in our database since we only contact one person at each institution. It is equally important that they understand their role in the process. Please talk with your department chair and/or colleagues to ascertain who should be the institutional liaison for your school. Then contact Diane DeFries at the national office with any questions about the liaison position duties and to update our records with the current contact. Thank you!

Have you noticed audiences less familiar with the skills of being an audience member and more well-versed in text messaging?

We have all seen it, been frustrated by it, and felt at a loss of how to proceed - witnessing rude, or uninformed at best, behavior from audience members. This topic surfaced several times at the board meeting and we are curious about what you might be doing to help ameliorate the situation at your own schools. Do you give pre-curtain announcements, instructions in the program, signs in the lobby or at the ticket booth? What has worked for you and why? Please share your insights so that we can pass them

along to all of our membership. With the ever-increasing ease and popularity of multi-tasking with powerful mobile phones, this trend will only continue unless we find an effective way of educating our new audience members how to watch and enjoy live performance. Please pass your ideas and suggestions along to the national office.



From the Executive Director:

Greetings from the ACDFA national office. On behalf of the organization, I extend appreciation to the ten schools that are hosting this year and to all the schools bringing students, faculty and choreography to the conferences.

ACDFA membership has grown steadily over the years, attesting to the vitality of the organization. We currently have 316 member institutions in 47 states, Canada and Taiwan. Members provide the heart and soul as well as the nuts and bolts of this organization. Obviously, members fill our conferences with extraordinary choreography and performances; master classes; and artistic, pedagogical, and social exchange. Perhaps less obvious is the vital role that members play as hosts of conferences. ACDFA relies on its membership to host conferences and I want to encourage each member school to consider hosting a conference in your region. It can be a gratifying experience and without conferences, what are we?

You, the membership, are ACDFA and the national office is here to cultivate and strengthen the organization with your input and participation. Please feel free to contact the national office as well as ACDFA board members at any time with your comments and concerns.

I look forward to seeing many of you at conferences this spring and at the National Festival in May.



Quotable Quotes

Each year students and faculty have the opportunity to hear esteemed adjudicators discuss dance, the choreographic process, the fine nuances of performance, and their own personal takes on aesthetics. Many of these conversations, though limited in time, are rich in wisdom and insight.

These quotes found their way to the National Office - please send us your favorites from the 2010 conferences.

In a dance, a good image is worth 10,000 steps.

Christopher D'Amboise, Univ. of Florida, 2008

*Once you've entered the space, it's a seduction.
How are you going to get me to go with you?
With a solo you have to woo me, court me, marry
me and then you have the power to dump me.*

Nora Chipaumire,
University of Akron, 2009

*[In making a dance, you
need] to go fearlessly where
no one has asked you to go.*

Nora Chipaumire,
University of Akron, 2009

*[Many choreographers are suffering
from] OID: obsessive invention
disorder. Go deep rather than wide.*

Tom Evert,
University of Akron, 2009



How to Register for Conferences - Do It Now!

All conferences opened for registration in the past few weeks. The East-Central Region, Mid-Atlantic Region and Central Region Conferences have already reached capacity and are now closed. The Southwest Region and South-Central Region Conferences have filled all of their Adjudication slots, but are still accepting registrants for the other great aspects of attending a conference. It promises to be a banner year for participation and we are anxious for you to take part.

This is the first year that all regional conferences are using the same online registration system. Some of you are already familiar with RegOnline from previous years and some will be experiencing it for the first time. Please take a few minutes to read the instructions for registering and the instructions for re-entering the system to update information. Hopefully, if you read the instructions all will go well, but don't hesitate to contact Diane DeFries at the national office with questions or problems with the system if they arise. Phone: (301) 670-2820, email acdfa@verizon.net. **Important Reminder: Registration is not guaranteed until the host institution receives your payment!**

1. Only one person from each institution should register for the school. Ideally this should be your school's faculty representative attending the conference.
2. Visit www.acdfa.org and select Regional Conferences > Conference Registration
3. READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REGISTRATION PAGE
(the caps were added just to catch your attention there)
4. Register your participants and dances. Check for various payment options provided by the specific conference and quickly get your payment submitted
5. Have a great time at the conference!



Important Reminder:
Registration is not guaranteed until the host institution receives your payment!

Yes, this is the second time you've read this note... *it is very important.*

Grid
Choreography: Cecil Slaughter



ACDFA Goes Green

ACDFA is trying to raise awareness and consciousness about environmentally friendly practices at ACDFA conferences. The Green Committee of the national board has already forwarded suggestions to conference hosts for helping their participants have a great time at the conferences while still being environmentally friendly. Now we are asking for everyone's help to accomplish this goal.

Ways to Help Make Conferences Greener

1. Look for information from the host institution in your region about efforts already underway to

“green” the conference. Each region may have a different approach based on their vicinity and on-campus resources.

2. Be prepared to share. Providing full conference packets for each participant uses an enormous amount of paper. In an attempt to cut down on consumption of paper, some hosts may be giving one or two copies of information per school. Circulate the material among your peers and colleagues. Materials will be posted on conference boards as well.
3. Bring a reusable water bottle. This may sound very simple, but it will make a big difference. Plastic water bottles create small-scale environmental disasters. American demands for plastic water bottles requires the use of more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel approximately 100,000 U.S. cars for a year. When you add to this the transportation

required to ship the bottled water to retailers the oil involved escalates even more. Finally, the plastic bottle is used only once, and then disposed of in the land fill or recycled (a very difficult and costly item to recycle). The solution is to go back to the way we used to do things... drink tap water. It's clean, cheap, and safe. If you wish to carry water with you, try using a stainless steel water bottle to avoid any potential problems with bisphenol A leaching into your drink from plastic water bottles.

4. If your hotel offers the option of using the same linens rather than changing them everyday, do it. If the hotel does not offer that option, speak to the manager to request it. Shorten your shower - Every minute you cut from your shower is roughly 5 gallons of water. The less time your shower takes, the lower your impact on the environment. You can imagine the savings with so many dancers staying in the hotel taking shorter showers!
5. Coordinate the trips back and forth from the hotel, classes, meals, and concerts to minimize driving. Walk whenever possible. 60,000 gallons of gasoline would be saved each day if just 6 percent of those who drive less than a mile would walk instead.
6. Recycle all conference materials. Save as many memories from the conference as you would like, but if you're going to throw something away – aim for the recycle bin instead of the trash can.
7. Reuse, Recycle, and Reduce.

Additional Resources

www.bluegreenmeetings.org/
www.thegreenguide.com/
www.treehugger.com/gogreen.php
www.thedailygreen.com/



Conferences Benefit All

Incubus Choreography: Ivan Pulinkala

When I attended conferences, I truly got my first taste of what it was like to act as a professional. I found immediate camaraderie with students who woke themselves up to get to that early class and skipped their lunches to hear that one extra seminar...I became addicted to my annual retreats to the American College Dance Festival Conferences, and I miss them more than any other aspect of my college experience. I remember how I couldn't walk after taking Capoeira for the first time. I remember crying and embracing a class full of strangers after an amazingly emotional Dunham class on the last day of a festival. I remember being blown away by a piece at the Dance Technology Concert, and even more excited to take the choreographer's class the next day. And I will always remember the two-hour conversation I had with the arts librarian at the University of Buffalo, who inspired me to do something unique with my passions for dance and scholarship.

(recent graduate)

My time at the American College Dance Festival Conference was some of the most fun, enriching and rewarding days I've experienced as a student. I was inevitably tired and sore every night from the physical exertion, but it was worth it. I learned types of dance that I'd never tried before, such as hip-hop, African dance and Contact Improvisation. I was also introduced to different styles of Modern dance. Dancing with students from other universities, I felt like a member of a large artistic community...It was nice to know that our school is also part of a college dance community.

(current student)

In Appreciation

Often the words "In Appreciation" are followed by a long list of donors who make the work of the organization possible through their generous donations. While ACDFFA is not adverse to accepting monetary donations - it is largely the donations of time, energy, passion, and enthusiasm that keep this organization moving forward. Thanks go to the generous host for each of the regional conferences and to the tireless efforts of faculty, student volunteers and administrators who make those conferences each so successful. Great thanks go also to the Board of Directors for their service to the organization. Special thanks are in order for board members whose terms are finishing and to others who are stepping up to serve.

Board Members rotating off the board:

South-Central Region: Shelly Cushman (University of North Texas)

Southeast Region: Lisa Fusillo (University of Georgia)

Board Members coming onto the board (starting November 1):

East-Central Region: Elizabeth Shea (Indiana University)

New England Region: France Hunter (Roger Williams University)

South-Central Region: Carissa Armstrong (Texas A&M University)

Southeast Region: Gerri Houlihan (Florida State University)

Southwest Region: Andy Vaca (California State University-Long Beach)

Other Changes

Southwest Region: Cathy Davalos (Saint Mary's College of California) begins her first term as Regional Director

Susan McLain (California State University-Long Beach) starts as VP for Nominations and Elections

William Seigh moves from President to Past President

Holly Williams moves to President

Lifetime Members

Have you ever wanted to join a special group of people who sponsor important activities - such as the American College Dance Festival Association? Well, now is your chance! Lifetime members are individuals who join ACDFFA as individual members and pay a one time fee for lifetime membership. In addition to becoming a permanent individual member, lifetime members are recognized for their support in all Regional Conference and National College Dance Festival programs to encourage others to join in the fun. Better still, the one time \$500 donation is tax-deductible! Contact the national office for more information.

Current Lifetime Members:

Judy Allen, Jean Baxter, Jeanne Beaman, B.J. Bray, Mary Cochran, Abby Fiat, Barry Fischer, Lon Gordon, Luke Kahlich, Joanne L. Lawrence, Paula Levine, Rhythm McCarthy, Ann Sanders, Russell Sandifer, Brent Schneider, Jan Simonds, Alcine Wiltz

Also our thanks to continued support from Dance Media for their support of the ACDFFA/Dance Magazine Awards for Outstanding Student Choreographer and Performer awarded at the National Festival.

Additional thanks to Brent Schneider for editing and designing this first newsletter.

National Office Contact Information:

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