

THE CONFERENCE ISSUE  
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FEBRUARY 2015

NEWSLETTER

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## From the President

My first memory of an ACDA conference (then ACDFFA and a festival) is as a student in the mid 1980s. My memories are of hundreds of students, inspiring teachers, and a sense of coming together for one reason - dance. I have some vague memories of the duet I performed: my partner, my choreographer, and a lift or two. But I have a very rich, vivid, visceral recollection of the experience of dancing with so many others who shared my joy in dance. Dozens of conferences later, I am still excited as I prepare to attend a 2015 conference. I will go, as always, with an anticipation of joyful experiences and creative inspiration, and with certainty that I will connect with others who share a passion for dance.

I wish everyone attending a conference this year, powerful memories that will last a lifetime. Have fun. Dance well. Learn. Create. Share.

Best,  
William





### Be Seen AND Heard

Within each and every conference you'll find little gems. Whether it is a themed party, interesting panel discussion, or wild site-specific work, you will discover plenty to keep your intellect and aesthetics stimulated.

There is also important business to be done. Your conference is the one and only chance to gather with other members, both institutional and individual, to discuss the inner workings of ACDA. This is also a time when students can offer insight and innovation from their valuable perspective.

Your mission? When you arrive at your conference, scour the schedule, (on an app, packet, or otherwise) find the date, time, and location of the annual membership meeting, highlight it in bold, attend, and make sure your opinions and perspectives are heard.

ACDA thrives on YOUR ingenuity, YOUR experience, and YOUR vision....plus...you may get some tasty food, and see some really great friends.

## Gala Concerts...Some do, and some don't



As you already know, your region may have chosen to not hold a gala this year. If that is the case, you are not alone. Five regions are opting out of a gala concert, favoring other ways to unite conference participants. In the October edition of the ACDA newsletter, we polled the institutions that have chosen to present something different and were delighted to

hear about what motivated the shift in this non-national year. There are exciting things brewing!

Undoubtedly, it may feel a little weird. It may be safe to say that many participants look forward to the gala and what the adjudicators select for the final performance. However, what can be gained could be just as satisfying and inspiring. Feedback sessions may feel more relaxed. The competitive aspect of the conference will be tempered. There may be more sharing of feedback. There will be more ways to engage with adjudicators following the final adjudication concert. The list is substantial.

Whether you are attending a conference with or without a gala concert, bring your open mind, bring your eagerness to share, detach yourself from the "contest," enjoy the feeling in the air. Put your art into the world. Truly - everyone will be a winner!

## How to get an "A" at your Conference

In just one week, conference season will be in full swing. Hundreds of dancers will take to studios, and stages, outdoor venues, indoor feedback sessions; eat pizza with new friends; take selfies with old ones; watch inspiring dances; make inspiring dances; sweat in sub-zero temperatures; and raid the mini breakfast rooms at unassuming hotels.

For some, ACDA is an annual tradition; for others who are attending for the first time, a whirlwind. Here's a little guide to help you create the most memorable experience possible.

- DO call it a conference - the word "festival" has retired
- Take classes that scare you - but leave your fire baton at home
- DO take advantage of the having the adjudicators at the conference.
  - DO NOT miss the Adjudicator Panel at the beginning of the conference
  - Attend a feedback session other than your own, but resist the urge to shout out your school's name



This year there are board member openings in the following regions:

Central  
East-Central  
New England  
South  
South-Central  
Southeast

...and there are wonderful candidates in all. Thank you to all who stepped forward to be considered.

-And thank you in advance for voting.

If you are submitting a vote for your school, be certain to discuss the candidates with your faculty. Each candidate is bringing valuable experience and will be serving for at least three years.

Just another way to be heard!

**VOTE!**  
It's super easy!

**Welcome to our new members... and welcome back, good friends!**

- If your conference does not have a gala, **DO** attend the Adjudicator Reflection Session, if scheduled
- Stray away from a technique class once in a while into new territory - meanwhile, stay clear of identifying yourself to adjudicators
- Make every effort to keep the conference green - share information packets, bring reusable water bottles, recycle - Oh, but don't share your reusable water bottle with your friends - eww
- Introduce yourself to dancers in your classes but refrain from wearing sweatshirts/t-shirts that identify your school at adjudication concerts or feedback sessions
- Be generous with your feedback and support but **NOT** with oil, glitter, or powder on the performance or studio floors
- Document all that you'd like on your phone, tablet, or camera but do not share on social media or on public platforms.
- Support your peers and colleagues and remember that ACDA isn't a contest - you're all winners!
- **DO** keep yourself open to any and all new experiences...remember that that the conference is about and for you
- Devour every moment - Don't hold back
- Thank your hosts - and **DON'T** be shy
- When you are the apex of your experience, delirious with dancing, overwhelmed with goodwill and joy...find your Regional Director and offer to host!

***DO KEEP CHECKING THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.***



Check class boards for updated information, like this one at the 2014 North-Central Conference at the Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

## **NO POSTING, PLEASE**

With so many copyright laws, intellectual property concerns, and licensing agreements in the universe, ACDA reminds you that publicly posting class material, adjudication or gala performances, and feedback sessions is prohibited. Please record anything you would like for posterity - but keep it private. That includes keeping it off of Facebook, YouTube, etc. All participants will sign a waiver before registration at the conference that outlines this policy.

Who needs the law on your back when you'll have plenty of dancers vying for that



It's a great, great thing that scientists and the good folks at NASA have discerned that our universe is constantly expanding! Actually, anyone can tell...all you have to do is keep an eye on those distant supernovae to see for yourself! And this in turn, makes more room for the institutions joining our ranks for the first time or returning after some time away.

*ACDA bids a warm welcome to:*

Anderson University  
(Southeast)

Berea College  
(South)

Brigham Young  
University-Idaho  
(Northwest)

California Institute  
of the Arts  
(Baja)

California State University,  
Los Angeles  
(Baja)

Colorado State University  
(Northwest)

Davis and Elkins College  
(Mid-Atlantic)

Georgetown University  
(Mid-Atlantic)

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2015 ACDA Conferences are just around the corner. In a few weeks, inspiring classes, performances and unplanned but potentially profound interactions will occur across the country. Ahead of that, I am already inspired. From the vantage point of the ACDA national office, I am privileged to witness the enormous creative energy as well as less glamorous detail work that each year hundreds of you engage in to make these conferences happen.

We are an association of member institutions and individuals dedicated to fostering dance in higher education. In practical terms, we are a very large group of volunteers dedicated to the art form and to sharing that passion with others. On the front line are the Conference Coordinators who have spent many months creating the opportunities for conference participants. Lending enormous support to the Conference Coordinators in time, energy and expertise are the ACDA Regional Directors. And each Faculty Representative from the over 300 schools attending conferences? Not only do you prepare your groups for attendance, you have bravely navigated the considerable demands of our online registration system.

From conference coordinators to ACDA board members to faculty to students to musicians to tech directors - approximately 5,000 people are all working towards making the conferences happen. Before one plié is executed in a studio or one entrance made on a stage, you have already inspired me. I wish all of you, who have worked so hard make this happen, exciting and meaningful conferences.

Diane DeFries  
ACDA Executive Director



Glendale Community  
College  
(Baja)

High Point University  
(Mid-Atlantic)

Howard Community  
College  
(Mid-Atlantic)

Lane Community College  
(Northwest)

Nazareth College  
(Northeast)

Northern Kentucky  
University  
(South)

Rowan University  
(Northeast)

San Antonio College  
(South-Central)

Sewanee: The University  
of the South  
(South)

Univ. of California,  
Riverside  
(Baja)

**CHECK OUT THE NEW ACDA WEBSITE**

ACDA GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT FROM

CAPEZIO/BALLET MAKERS FOUNDATION AND OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Ahearn, Judy Allen, Jean Baxter, Jeanne Beaman, B.J. Bray, Lori Bryhni, Mary Cochran, Mary-Jean Cowell,  
Karen Dearborn, Abby Fiat, Barry Fischer, Amy Ginsburg, Lonny Joseph Gordon, Luke Kahlich, Joanne Lawrence,  
Paula Levine, Luis Martinez, Rhythm McCarthy, Ann Sanders, Russell Sandifer, Brent Schneider, William Seigh, Andrew  
Vaca, Holly Williams, Alcine Wiltz, and Candace Winters-March



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