



**It's  
Conference  
Season!**

**PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL STUDENTS AND FACULTY  
ATTENDING A REGIONAL CONFERENCE THIS SPRING.**

**Forward this email or [download](#) and post.**

Dear Dance Colleague,

Just like the days before an opening of a new show or the premiere of our latest dance, anticipating our 2014 season of conferences is an exciting time for ACDFA. This year we have nine returning and two new schools providing conference venues, all with hosts feverishly putting finishing touches on what will be truly memorable experiences for students and faculty alike. I am grateful to these fine institutions and their dedicated faculty, staff, and students for making such rich conference opportunities possible. It promises to be another amazing season!

Reflecting on our conferences, I am proud of our association and honored to be one of its members. For over forty years our vision has been clear and our commitment unstoppable. The conferences always provide wonderful opportunities for creative interaction and critical success: dance programs and their schools gain remarkable positive recognition, students and faculty experience unique opportunities to dance with old and new friends, choreographers and scholars share their work with engaged audiences, and dance in higher education is elevated through the coming together of passionate artists performing, talking, learning, making, and sharing. I am excited to visit with many of you this spring, to enjoy the dances and classes, and to hear the

wonderful stories that are sure to come. I hope that your conference experience brings you inspiration, satisfaction, and joyful dance.



~William Seigh  
ACDFA President

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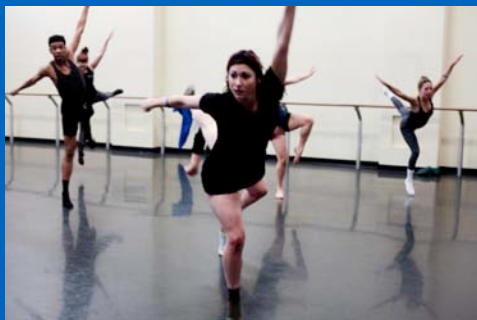
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## DEVOUR YOUR CONFERENCE

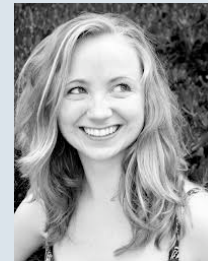
Preparing for all that is Wonderful and  
Unexpected...

...navigating a conference



Like delicate snowflakes,  
each conference is made  
of the same stuff; but  
each is wildly unique in  
the way we encounter the  
vision of the conference  
host. The conference you

LIZ SALUKE JOINS  
STAFF OF ACDFA  
NATIONAL OFFICE



"I am honored to be a part of this organization that does so much to further the quality and vitality of dance in higher education and in the field outside the academy. In bringing together university dance communities, ACDFA provides a wonderful platform to celebrate our form and to share our knowledge and art with one another. Some of my fondest and most formative dance experiences happened at ACDFA conferences and I'm thrilled to have a hand in supporting these transformational opportunities for other students."

-Liz Saluke  
ACDFA Admin. Asst.

Liz is an alumnus of Emory

are about to attend has been in the works for at least two years. There is a ton of arranging, reserving, organizing, emailing, collaborating, and negotiating that has to happen—future hosts, don't let this scare you. With all the hosts' planning, we get a breath of fresh air, each spring, when we (or those of us lucky enough to attend ) venture on to that college campus for the first time.

ACDFA thrives on the innovations and steps forward that are made each year throughout the country. Word quickly spreads about successful "green" initiatives, informal feedback sessions, themes, ideas for gatherings, etc. We celebrate the minds that shape and reshape the conference into that one-of-a-kind experience we have all come to crave.

What follows are suggestions for maximizing the conference experience, and are perhaps ideas to share with your students before you pile into that van for the 10 hour drive:

1. Prepare for classes in non-traditional studios. Hosts are using every square inch of space they can get, and quite successfully at that. Ballrooms, racquetball courts, carpeted church sanctuaries, music rehearsal halls, tiled museums and the like are fair game. And they all work! Come ready with shoes that can adapt to any surface, and you will find inspiration in unfamiliar territory.
2. There might be parties and contact jams at 11:00pm – maybe even 7:00am. The beauty of being at a conference is that you are exclusively devoted to dancing, connecting, and networking. Seize every opportunity to be visible, present, and available to the sometimes whimsical, sometimes mysterious, and always beautifully engineered events that fall outside of "normal" classes. That person who rolls over your back at midnight might just be someone you perform with in New York two years down the road.
3. Share and share alike. We become greener every year, and for those faculty who remember getting tons of paper at check-in back in the day, you'll now notice that we are getting

University and received her MFA in Dance from The Florida State University. She has recently moved to Washington, DC where, in addition to working in the ACDFA office, she is performing with various independent choreographers, teaching dance and yoga classes, and serving as a volunteer youth tutor.

## Change is Coming...bye, bye "F"



This fall the membership of ACDFA voted to change the name of the organization from the American College Dance Festival Association to the American College Dance Association. ACDFA President William Seigh shares his confidence that "the forty years of rich history embedded in the name ACDFA will never be lost. They will instead provide a powerful foundation for ACDA as we move forward." It is with great excitement for new possibilities for our association in dance in higher education that we look forward to the implementation of the name change in Fall 2014 and to the 2015 ACDA regional conferences

New Lifetime Members!

links on the conference website to access material or even to apps for our smart phones. Hosts are inventing new ways to reduce the output of copied paper, which not only reduces our environmental footprint but can make for GREAT bonding experiences. Instead of digging in your dance bag for that class description, why not ask that super cool dancer in the corner what class is next?

4. Bring a water bottle! Water is still "free" and you will be happy to not have to jet out to the convenience store every two hours to buy more! Remember, you don't have to share your water bottle – in fact...don't!

5. Bring a Yoga Mat – by day three you'll wish you did. Imagine how great that 8:30am yoga class will feel.

6. Bring your curiosity...go listen to a lecture, attend a panel discussion, support the site-specific work, create your own flash mob, go to feedback sessions other than your own. Still take that crazy fun Afro-Haitian-Caribbean dance class, but save time to let your mind dance, too.

Conferences are always memorable, always inspiring, ever fluid and dynamic. Enjoy what is different about yours this year. Share with us what worked and what felt surprisingly new! Hopefully, you'll find that beneath the uniqueness of your experience; there lies the heart of what we do—dance with intelligence, commitment, and generosity.

## Mum's the Word



### **Anonymity Reminder for Conference Participants**

The adjudication process is structured to insure that the adjudicators do not know the names of schools or choreographers presenting work



ACDFA humbly and gratefully thanks **Amy Ginsburg** and **Candace Winters-March** for becoming Lifetime Members.

Their long-standing generosity and service to ACDFA has been a steady and constant source of inspiration.

Visit our website to discover how you too can become a lifer!

## DEADLINES



Each participating school is responsible for submitting required program, teacher and class, and technical information by the posted deadlines.

Schools that do not submit the required technical information OR contact the host school's TD by the posted deadline are not guaranteed that all lighting cues will be ready by the attending school's designated technical rehearsal.

Attending schools in this situation can opt to select a general warm or cool look or, provided the TD has been contacted and approves, use their technical rehearsal to develop additional cues. In this case, attending schools

in the adjudication concerts. This ACDFA policy allows the selection process to be as objective as possible. In order to keep the integrity of this policy and process in tact through the adjudicators' final decision, it is necessary to ask all conference participants to avoid conversation with adjudicators about the adjudicated dances, the adjudication process, or their comments during the feedback session. In addition, please do not discuss your school's programs or your own work with the adjudicators. Your full cooperation is being requested for the enjoyment of all conference participants, including the adjudicators!

## Be Social - Just not on-line!

A friendly reminder that when registering at your conference, you sign a waiver that states you will not post excerpts of performances, classes, concerts, feedback sessions, informal concerts, adjudication concerts, etc.

Share your photos with your friends - not the world!

Thank You



Photos Courtesy of the University of South Florida

may not have time to run their dances fully.

Schools that fail to meet posted deadlines for program information submission should expect their printed program information to read: "Information not submitted."

Teachers who fail to meet posted deadlines for submitting teaching/class information by the posted deadlines should expect Teacher Bios and Class Descriptions to read: "Information not submitted" where there is missing information.



Mark Your Calendars!

**National College  
Dance Festival  
at  
The Kennedy Center,  
Washington DC**

**June 5-7, 2014**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## VOICES OF THE REGIONS

What's happening  
around the country

**CENTRAL:** "Dance With Us" is full! The conference, held March 19-22 at Northeastern Illinois University (11 miles north of downtown Chicago), will present a welcome concert featuring CDI/Concert Dance Inc., Ensemble Espanol and River North Chicago Dance Company. The concert will be followed by a panel discussion, "So you want a career in dance," with professional artists and directors from the Chicago dance

community sharing their insights and experience with students.

**EAST-CENTRAL:** Nestled within the foothills of Appalachia, Ohio University (founded in 1804) was the first land grant institution in the Northwest Territory and is home to OU's mascot Rufus the Bobcat. It is also the premier venue for the East-Central Regional Conference being held in beautiful Athens, OH from March 2nd to 5th. Veteran hosts John Bohuslawsky and Teresa Holland have arranged another marvelous conference featuring a "palette cleanser" event following the final adjudication concert. This hi-lighted event will showcase the cultural gems of dance in the Buckeye State with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Azaguno, along with guest artists Chengxin Wei, Kristina Isabelle and Jesse Keller. Presiding over the adjudication concerts will be a diverse panel of experts that includes renowned dance educator Larry Lavendar, accomplished dance artist Andrea E. Woods Valdés and award-winning professor Cornelius Carter. Go OU Bobcats for hosting an exciting conference for the Robust Rustbelt!

**MID-ATLANTIC:** Would like to extend a joyful "shout out" to our terrific Conference Coordinators Susan Shields and Karen Reedy, who are preparing many exciting events for our regional conference, IMAGINE! This year's conference celebrates the diversity and expansiveness of the dance world, embracing artistry, theory, interpretation and culture! We are looking forward to feedback and dialogue from our brilliant panel of adjudicators Zvi Gotheiner, Sara Skaggs and Sylvia Waters, as well as a performance by the internationally acclaimed Joffrey Ballet. A special highlight will be a panel discussion with Robert Battle, Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Charlotte d'Amboise, star of Pippin on Broadway; Deborah Jowitt, acclaimed dance writer and historian; Elizabeth Streb, MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award recipient; and Ashley Wheater, Artistic Director of the Joffrey Ballet. Thank you, Susan & Karen, for putting together what is sure to be an inspiring and never-to-be-forgotten experience!

**NEW ENGLAND:** The conference, hosted by Boston University, "Lifelong Learners," will include a special focus on writing in addition to the established tradition of emphasizing on choreographic research and physical practice. For the second year in New England, one conference session will be devoted to the delivery of student scholarly papers, Featured writing workshops this year include a session connecting Authentic Movement with writing by Andrea Olsen and workshop on dance writing for Blogs by noted critic and writer, Debra Cash. Of course, the conference will also be

filled to the brim with movement workshops offered both by faculty at many of the 39 participating schools as well as local artists with specialties such as Ariel Dance and Belly Dance. In addition to the 44 dances that will be presented for adjudication by the esteemed Elizabeth Gillaspay, Douglas Nielson, and Helanius J. Wilkins, there was such overwhelming interest in the informal concerts, that BU was able to accommodate three, one of which will be a roving site specific showing featuring several schools. We're gearing up for another great conference thanks to the dedication of the planning team at BU, and enlivened by the energy of the city and, of course, the hundreds of dancers who will descend on it for this exciting event.

**NORTHEAST REGION** is thrilled to return to the College at Brockport for our 2014 conference. Big thanks go out to all the faculty, staff and students at Brockport who are helping to make this happen and a huge thank you to conference coordinator, Karl Rogers. Our distinguished panel of adjudicators includes Jan Erkert, Joe Goode, and Geraold Casel. New this year are 2 Faculty Adjudicated concerts. Interested faculty were asked to submit online applications by January 15. Applications will then undergo a blind review by a panel of professionals whose identities will remain anonymous until the selections have been made. This a very exciting development for our region and dovetails nicely with the requests from our members to offer more activities for faculty to participate in the conference.

**NORTH CENTRAL** is gearing up for an exciting and very full ACDFA conference hosted at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee this March. Conference Coordinator Darci Brown Wutz and her team have planned a diverse array of ways that conference participants can interact and exchange ideas. Our theme this year, **TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES** comes from the desire to explore dance as a conduit – a means of communication, contact and understanding. The North Central conference hopes to create time and space for communal thinking, acting, reflecting and playing among all participants. A first for the North Central region, the opening night concert celebrates student dance works presented during one of two Informal Concerts – a beautiful way to set the conference in motion with creativity and support. A very special performance by LeeSaar the Company, known for their innovative and provoking compositions, will inspire students to transcend their own boundaries of physical exploration. Finally, there is a focus on somatics during the conference with a Dance Somatics Series that gives participants the opportunity for short 1-on-1 sessions with certified somatic practitioners. The North Central region is abuzz with anticipation as the conference draws nearer!

**NORTHWEST:** "Converging Communities" is the theme for the Northwest Region's 2014 conference held at the University of Montana in Missoula April 2 – 5. Participants are encouraged to consider the idea of community, in the exchange of ideas, in class offerings and throughout the conference.

The Opening Concert will be a collaboratively designed work featuring the choreography and performance of attending faculty. Students are invited to present choreographic or improvisational works-in-progress and receive constructive criticism from their peers. The goal is to provide an environment for all to engage in the discussion relative to the creative process and the importance of art-making and sharing.

**SOUTH** is excited about its 2nd ACDFA Conference "Dance is Better with a Southern Accent" at The University of Arkansas at Little Rock, March 21–24. Our conference adjudicators include Anjali Austin, formerly of the Dancer Theatre of Harlem; Christopher K. Morgan, Artistic Director of his DC area contemporary dance company Christopher K. Morgan & Artists; and prolific choreographer Douglas Nielsen. The South Conference promises a wide variety of master classes from around the world with Capoeira specialist Contramestre Beto from Brazil, Flamenco dancer Lilliana de Leon, and hip-hop dance theater master Rennie Harris. Conference coordinators Rhythm McCarthy and Stephanie Thibeault are organizing an exciting conference, and we are all anticipating coming together...Southern Style.

**SOUTH-CENTRAL:** We are preparing for a fabulous conference on the beautiful campus of The University of Texas at Austin! We would like to send a heart-felt thank you to Holly Williams, our conference coordinator for all of the planning and hard work she has put into this event. She is an amazing woman and has enriched ACDFA in so many ways. The conference will run from March 12th to 15th and will include CAKE to celebrate the new era in our organization. Our adjudicators for this year are: Susan Hadley, former principal dancer with the acclaimed Mark Morris Dance Group; Rennie Harris, a three time Bessie Award winner and Hip-hop dance pioneer; and James Sutton, currently Ballet Master and Choreographer for New York Theatre Ballet. This varied panel will provide our region with some wonderful insights into choreography and performance. As we all know it takes a village to pull a conference together, so once again Thank You to Holly Williams, the faculty/administration at UT Austin and to all of the student volunteers that will make this a conference to remember.



**SOUTHEAST:** Georgia College looks forward to welcoming faculty and students to the ACDFA's Southeast Conference, March 19–22, in Milledgeville, GA. We are planning an exciting celebration of dance with a wide variety of master classes, scholarly research presentations, adjudicated and informal concerts, feedback sessions and a Gala Concert. Additionally, special faculty seminars and workshops have been planned. Our emphasis for this conference will be on a broad range of interesting and exciting classes that will inspire and inform your dancing. We hope to spark your imagination and we encourage you to join us and share your passion for dance.

In other Southeast news, the Florida Waterways Dance Project is pretty cool! Directed by Dale Andre, Florida arts institutions are participating in site-specific performances state-wide inspired by Florida's unique waterways. There are 26 participating arts schools and dance companies at 9 different locations working collaboratively to draw attention to the power and fragility of Florida's waterways.

**WEST:** ASU's School of Film, Dance and Theatre is hosting the ACDFA 2014 WEST REGION Conference this spring and it is full! We are excited to have three very esteemed adjudicators for our conference, being held March 12–15 in Tempe, AZ: Rachel Leonard, Wendy Perron and David Shimotakahara. ACDFA WEST will be an exciting celebration of dance in higher education with a wide variety of master classes, scholarly research presentations, film screenings, opportunities for student and faculty exchanges in and out of the studio, adjudication and informal concerts, feedback sessions and a Gala Concert. Additionally, special faculty seminars and workshops have been planned. The WEST Region is seeking hosts for coming years, including next year! Get ready to dance!



gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Capezio/Ballet Makers Dance Foundation for their sponsorship of ACDFA's regional and national festivals;



Dance Media for its sponsorship of the ACDFA/Dance Magazine Awards for Outstanding Student Choreographer and Outstanding Student Performer at the National College Dance Festival;



and the following individuals for their on-going commitment as Lifetime Members of ACDFA:

Elizabeth Lowe 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 Gordon, Luke Kahlich, Joanne Lawrence,  
Paula Levine, Luis Martinez, Rhythm McCarthy, Ann Sanders, Russell Sandifer,  
Brent Schneider, Alcine Wiltz, and Candace Winters-March

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