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ACDA Newsletter

OCTOBER 2014

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Our field needs imagination, not just memory.

-Larry Lavender
2014 Adjudicator



**NATIONAL COLLEGE
DANCE FESTIVAL**

Dear ACDA Members:



I hope that this newsletter finds you happy in school and joyful in dance. This is an exciting time for the American College Dance Association as we begin our 2014-15 season. While it is our first year as ACDA, it is our 42nd year as an association that exists to celebrate and support the very best in college dance. ACDA member schools will contribute to the celebration this season by presenting exciting conferences in Long Beach, Cape Girardeau, Athens, Towson, Providence, Ames, West Chester, Greeley, Clarksville, Lubbock, and Milledgeville. I want to thank these host institutions, and the dance faculty, staff, and students for making the conferences possible.

I know that we all look forward to the inspiring and engaging classes, workshops, performances, and social festivities. This year, more than ever, Conference Coordinators will also be exploring new ways to design and conclude their conferences. Many are replacing the traditional Gala Concert with a new spin on the dance conference experience. This year, we will also continue to see the broadening of the presentation of scholarship in

When the Cherry Blossoms Leave, the Dancers Arrive

The beautiful John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and George Washington University once again played host to the dynamic, rich, and multi-cultural National College Dance Festival. Held in June, 325 participants from over 30 universities and colleges took part in the bi-annual event in our nation's capital.

There were three distinct programs with two performances each, providing tremendous visibility and the opportunity to deepen the experience by having multiple performances. Each concert not only drew audience members from participating schools, but the surrounding community as well.

Suzanne Callahan, Daniel Singh, and Jennifer Stahl were ACDFA/Dance Magazine award panelists charged with choosing outstanding student choreography and outstanding student performance.

The Outstanding Student Choreography award went to Alexis Renee DeVance's whose work entitled *Salt. Rose. Water.* was recognized for its bravery, commitment, and attention to detail. "DeVance made powerful choices - it connects the past to the present."

The entire cast of *Nuevo Leon* from University of Texas-Pan American was selected for the Outstanding Student Performance designation. The panelists loved the "ensemble's cohesion and the authentic place" from which the performance was driven.

A complete list of honorable mentions can be found by clicking the link below.

<http://www.acdfa.org/index.php/national-college-dance-festival>

dance beyond choreography and performance with increased opportunities to present papers and panels. For faculty, we will continue to see an increase in faculty-specific classes and also the expansion of ways that ACDA can better provide tenure and promotion support. As we go forward with our new name, we remain an association of talented students, teachers, artists, and scholars, who bring passion in dance to our colleges and to each other. By removing the "Festival" from our name, we also expand our vision of the increasingly significant ways that we can continue to support dance programs.

I wish you all a fulfilling 2014-15 season and I look forward to seeing many of you dancing, learning, creating, and sharing at conferences around the country.

Sincerely,
William Seigh



Important Registration Dates - Don't miss the boat!

By now, you have all become acquainted with your region's beautiful website. You are no doubt excited about the adjudicators you are about to meet. And... you've already begun rehearsing that great new work that you can't wait to show off. Amidst all the hype, here are some VERY important, steadfast dates and deadlines to assist you with the registration process. Enter these into your smartest, most reliable device, so that you can be part of the action.

Unlike buses, subway trains, and flights, another conference won't be along in the next 10 minutes!

Note - all times are CONFERENCE LOCAL TIMES



New BFFs!

ACDA humbly and gratefully thanks William Seigh, Andrew Vaca, and Holly Williams for becoming Lifetime Members.

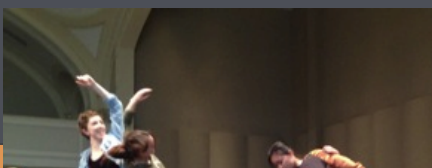
Their long-standing generosity and service to ACDA has been a steady and constant source of inspiration.

Lifetime Members support ACDA through multiple commitments. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, they support the work of ACDA through generous monetary donations.



Dance is like wildflowers.
Whatever is in the field is to be appreciated...If you take me there, I will go there.

-Andrea Wood
2014 Adjudicator



Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 9:00AM
Registration begins for In-Region Member Priority

Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 9:00AM
Registration for all Regions Member Priority

Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 9:00AM
Student Registration caps lifted

Wednesday October 29, 2014, 9:00AM
A veritable Free-for-All - All conferences open to non-members, and 2nd conference registrations.

Check the link below to access more information about the registration process and invitation codes.

<http://www.acdfa.org/index.php/regional-conferences/conference-registration>

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR PASSWORD FROM LAST YEAR'S REGISTRATION?

DO NOT USE IT

if your online registration asks for the password associated with your email



Click on:
"START A NEW REGISTRATION"
and use a new password





From the national office:

Greetings from the national office. Lots of change is afoot here, much of which is still in the "in-process" category. We are slowly tackling all the paperwork required when a non-profit organization changes its name after 41 years; there's a lot of it. The name change from ACDFA to ACDA is now officially registered in the State of Maryland as is our status as a charitable organization able to receive tax-deductible donations. Our new website-www.ACDA.dance-is ready to receive visitors but will remain a work in progress for the next few months. We're changing ACDA email addresses to reflect our new name. Stay tuned for more information that we'll make available when they are behaving more consistently.

We also are preparing for an office move. Again, stay tuned for an updated address once we've signed the lease.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns. We may be surrounded by boxes but we're always happy to hear from ACDA members.

Diane DeFries, Executive Director
Liz Saluke, Executive Assistant

Cancellation Policy - NO "get out of jail free" cards here!



Every transaction, whether registering or cancelling, through RegOnline, carries a fiscal and logistical cost. Current ACDA members may get closed out of a conference and might not have the flexibility to jump back in to the registration process if they believe no spots remain. In addition, the National Office is charged for all registration related activity through the site. Therefore, we ask all faculty to only register the number of participants they are fully committed to taking to their conference.

Due to the rising costs of processing cancellations, as well as the negative impact to other ACDA members, a \$25.00 cancellation fee will be assessed for each individual registrant cancelled prior to receipt of full payment. Also please remember that there are no refunds on paid registrations.

Where have all the Galas gone? A new, non-national year trend?



For some, the gala concert has become a fixture of an ACDA conference. In fact, gala concerts are only required every other year when a National Festival is scheduled. The New England Region has consistently chosen to refrain from holding a gala concert on non-national years to de-emphasize the competitive

When we get out of our heads and into our bodies-and stay in our bodies for the whole piece-we get a muscular empathy from the audience. We have the opportunity to move people into their bodies and out of their heads.

-Bill Wade
2014 Adjudicator

Bylaw Amendment

The ACDA Bylaws is a legal document outlining the rules regulating the actions of the Association. During the June 2014 Board meeting, the ACDA Board of Directors unanimously voted to recommend approval of a series of proposed revisions to the existing Bylaws. The proposed amendments represent significant changes. As ACDA Vice President for Policy and Procedures Brent Schneider explains, "With the recent name change and revisions to the mission statement over the past few years, it was time to revise all of our documents to assure that everything we provide to Adjudicators, Conference Coordinators, Regional Directors, and to the General Membership, was congruent and consistent."

As per current policy, Bylaw changes are voted by the General Membership of the Association, with a 30-day period for review. On October 2nd, an email/ballot was sent to all ACDA institutional liaisons and individual members with proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the American College Dance Association (ACDA). Please

aspects of a typical conference. Nevertheless, they have indeed adopted the tradition. In 2013, the South Region followed suit and offered their conference sans gala, and it worked! According to Cynthia Newland, the conference coordinator at Belhaven University, instead of a gala as the culminating event, the goal was to create an actual dance "happening" that could involve all conference participants.

The 2015 conference season will present a first in ACDA history, in that five out of 11 regions are opting out of the un-required gala, searching for other ways to culminate their event. The Baja, Central, Mid-Atlantic, New England, and Southeast regions have all chosen to focus their energies on different ways to conclude their conferences; eliminating competition lies at the heart of these decisions.

This shift isn't a complete surprise for anyone who has participated in their membership meetings or attended a national board meeting. Many ACDA members have expressed their enjoyment of seeing a great concert at the end of a conference as well as valuing the experience of the gala for those performing. At the same time, many look at the gala selection process as shifting the focus of the conferences away from uncompetitive learning, sharing and collaborating.

Jaye Knutson of Towson University offered that they were invested in focusing on process and not product. Andy Vaca of California State/Long Beach hopes to provide more opportunities to interact with adjudicators by eliminating the competition often associated with gala concerts. In addition, he welcomes the idea of gathering participants in a friendly way to conclude the conference. Amelia Pelton of Georgia College wants the conference to end on a high note for all conference participants. She and Hilary Peterson of Southeast Missouri State are highlighting professional dance companies to conclude the event. Peterson also cites alleviating the hectic pace that a gala produces as being another motivating factor. Hoping to replace the frenzy inherent with gala production, she is invested in inspiring students so that they return to their schools eager to get back into class.

In a world where so much competition exists, it appears that members are looking to ACDA to provide something

review the Bylaws and cast your vote to approve/not approve using the institutional ballot link. Each institutional member may cast one vote. Ballots must be submitted by November 3, 2014.

If you have any questions about the policy changes before you cast your vote, please contact your Regional Director, other Board members, the President, the Executive Director or any other Officers of the Board. Contact information may be found on the website at www.acda.dance.

Your vote is important.



What's important in the dance? Is it the execution of the step or the execution of the idea?

-Gesel Mason
2014 Adjudicator

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new. Conferences, at least these five, are looking to an adjudication process -- presentation of choreography and performance for feedback from renowned artist/educators -- free from the perceived win/lose aspect of gala selections. The absence of a gala might be a surprisingly different experience to any region that isn't New England, and will certainly provide healthy debate and conversation at membership meetings as well as the national board meeting next spring.



Photo credits:

Erica Denise Renteria, *Nuevo Leon*, University of Texas Pan American

Lindsey Vait, *Rose. Salt. Witness.*, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Diane DeFries, 2014 North-Central Conference

Dena Hudson, 2014 Mid-Atlantic Conference

ACDA gratefully acknowledges support from:



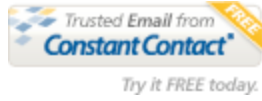
Capezio/Ballet Makers Foundation

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, Candace Winters-March.

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