



**NEWSLETTER**

**Summer 2017**

*Summer Happenings  
Looking Back to 2017 Conferences  
Looking Forward to 2018*

## Annual Board of Directors Meeting

The annual ACDA Board of Directors meeting was held over the Memorial Day weekend on the beautiful campus of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Thank you so much Damon Rago, the new Baja Regional Director, for hosting us. He treated us like royalty with great food, nice dorm rooms, and great views!

Our time together was very productive. We addressed the issues raised at each conference's general membership meeting. The issue of allowing professional musicians to perform on stage was discussed resulting in a vote to adopt the following for a trial period during 2018 and 2019:

*"Should the music or sound score be performed live, musicians may be visible to the audience whether they are students or non-students."*

After three very long days, we still look refreshed.

## 2018 Regional Conferences

We have hosts for all 13 regional conferences. The conference websites will be available September 6. Check links on each region's listing on the conference schedule ([ACDA website](#)).

## 2018 National College Dance Festival

The National Festival is scheduled for June 6-9, 2018 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Performances will be on June 7, 8, and 9. We will continue to present a matinee and an evening performance for each program consisting of 10-11 dances.

## Support ACDA

The National Festival needs your support. Consider making a donation to help us produce amazing concerts at



the Kennedy Center.

[Donate Now](#)

## ACDA @ Jacob's Pillow August 2017

We are pleased to announce that Jacob's Pillow has extended invitations to five ACDA member schools to perform in the Inside/Out Series.

The following schools will perform on August 24, 2017:

Long Beach City College

*Ebony Suite*

choreographer: Bernard Gaddis (guest artist)

Modesto Junior College

*Vanishing at the Water's Edge*

choreographer: Kim T. Davis (faculty)

University of Hartford

*What Happened at the Garden Party*

choreographer: Colvin Bittner (undergraduate student)

University of Michigan

*Bull Comma Dog*

choreographers: Benjamin Marshall and Paula Modafferi  
(undergraduate students)

Virginia Commonwealth University

*Disparity*

choreographer: Courtney Darlington (undergraduate student)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Adjudicators at each of the 13 regional conferences selected one dance for Jacob's Pillow consideration.

All final decisions were made by a panel at the Pillow.

Thank you to all the schools who expressed interest in being considered.

The performance is free and open to the public.

We hope to see you there!

[Click here for more information about the Inside/Out Series](#)

## 2017 Conferences Highlights

**13 REGIONS WITH 13 REGIONAL CONFERENCES!!**

The 2017 conferences provided opportunities to students and faculty from

approximately 350 schools to participate in conference offerings. Almost 760 dances were performed in adjudication and informal concerts, 520 and 239 respectively. Over 1,100 workshops, panels and classes were offered. The conferences also saw a wider than usual range of types of institutions of higher education hosting conferences. Among the 13 conference hosts were four community colleges (Collin College, County College of Morris, El Camino College, Modesto Jr. College), one private Historically Black College and University (Johnson C. Smith University), and eight public universities.

**What an amazing community we share. Below are reports from each region.**

**BAJA:** The Baja region conference was filled with lots of familiar faces & some new ones (New Mexico)! Classes were full & students were sweaty, enjoying every moment they got to move! Dinner was served and brought participants together every evening prior to the amazing adjudication performances ranging from modern, contemporary, ballet, and hip hop. A treat for our region was a dazzling Flamenco work as well! Hosts were warm and friendly and very organized. They greeted us every evening in their beautiful theatre and were all smiles which was much appreciated after a long day of dance! Informal showings were well attended and had brilliant performances! The conference ended with a great after-party with a fantastic DJ. Faculty "crashed" the party briefly, dancing with the jovial students that had been dancing the night away! *submitted by Sarah Cashmore, Baja Board Member*



**CENTRAL:** The Central Conference ran incredibly smoothly thanks to the tremendous team work by our hosts, Wichita State University. Twenty-nine schools brought 389 participants who presented forty dances in four adjudication concerts and twenty dances in two informal concerts while also taking part in 119 classes and presentations. A highlight and innovation of the conference consisted of a workshop with guest choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie. One student from each school rehearsed daily with Darrell as he choreographed a new work with sixteen dancers; the dance was presented in the Gala concert, bringing students from many programs together in one performance. *submitted by James Robey, Central Board Member*

**EAST-CENTRAL:** The Center for the Arts at Kent State University provided a great locale for the rich conference offerings. Highlights included a stunning performance of The Moor's Pavanne and Chaconne by the Limon Company, dance on film adjudication, the Whova mobile app, and the constant attention of the Kent State faculty and students to make sure everything was running smoothly. What a beautifully organized conference! Thank you Rock and Crew. Our region says a heartfelt farewell to longtime board member and Regional Director Jeff Rebudal and welcomes Balinda Craig-Quijada reprising the role.

**MID-ATLANTIC NORTH:** We held our first conference this spring as the new Mid-Atlantic North region hosted by the University of Maryland, College Park! It was great to catch up with familiar faces but exhilarating to meet so many new faces, too. And many said it was



just the beginning. We have a feeling the next few conferences are going to feel "brand new" until we get a little more acquainted with one another. Ursula Payne (Slippery Rock) was re-elected to the Board of Directors this spring. We look forward to gathering together again next year at West Chester University, just outside of Philadelphia, for the 2018 Mid-Atlantic North conference! *submitted by Liz Staruch, Mid-Atlantic North Board Member*



*Dancers fill the Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland*

**MID-ATLANTIC SOUTH:** The first ever Mid-Atlantic South Conference was proudly hosted at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC on March 15 - 18, 2017. A small dance program under the leadership of Dance Program Director Wanda Ebright, JC Smith marshaled its resources in creative ways and engaged a company of volunteers, family and friends in order to welcome 216 guests from 23 programs to its lovely campus. Technical Director J.P. Woodey oversaw the transformation of the Brayboy Gymnasium into a fully outfitted theatre in the space of one day, an accomplishment that was highlighted on websites of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees!



*Before*



*After*

A wide variety of technique classes included a Commercial Dance Audition Workshop, Afro-Infusion and Acting for Dance. Centered around a theme of Creativity is Intelligence, our conference also offered stimulating seminars & discussions around topics that included Power & Dance Criticism, Dance, Injury & Disability, and Age & Dance. A wonderful student band played for our Improv Jam and a student design major created the conference logo . . . just two of many unique touches that expanded our Conference to embrace the talents of JC Smith's artistic community! *submitted by Erica Helm, Mid-Atlantic South Board Member*



*The excellent adjudicator panel at the New*

**NEW ENGLAND:** The 2017 New England Conference this year was unique, in that it actually took place outside of the region (!!). With the host school recently moved to the Northeast Region, the plan for SUNY Potsdam to host New England had been put in place before redistricting. Despite some bad travel weather and the longer-than-usual drive for many schools, it was a very positive conference. Highlights from the conference included outstanding facilities, a very strong panel of adjudicators, and a very flexible and friendly host team of faculty, staff, and students.

**NORTH-CENTRAL:** The North-Central regional conference was an intimate event hosted by the University of Minnesota Duluth's Department of Theatre. There was a deep sense of community with a full menu of classes in a variety of forms, scholarly research presentations, round table discussions, opportunities for student and faculty exchanges in and out of the studio, adjudication and informal concerts, feedback sessions and a Gala Concert. There were also several special classes and workshops, including a session in Motion Capture and Digital Technology Lab. The conference theme, "Moving Bodies," invited conference attendees to think not only about how we move, but about how we are moved by dance--kinesthetically, emotionally, intellectually--both as participants and as audience members. The adjudicators for this conference, Claire Bataille, Christian Burns and Edisa Weeks, were incredibly insightful and dynamic in their feedback. *submitted by Kaori Kenmotsu, North-Central Board Member*

**NORTHEAST:** With a 9th hour host stepping in to save the region, the 2017 Northeast ACDA conference was held at the County College of Morris by Terence Duncan and his team. Despite a one-day delay due to Snowstorm Stella, this conference ripe with talented dancers, educators and multiple adjudicated and informal concerts, came out victorious. The conference mission of providing shared spaces to evoke the creative process was supported and anchored by an adjudicating panel of three diverse voices - Sara Hook, Iliana Goldman & Vincent Thomas. The conference welcomed over 350 participants from 27 Schools (which included 4 out-of-region schools) and provided a multitude of movement classes, workshops, film showings and seminars. This year the Northeast region welcomes Christian von Howard as the new regional director and board member Rose Pasquarello Beauchamp joining board members Luis Martinez and Heather Roffe. The 2018 Northeast Conference will be held at Montclair State University, March 15-18. *submitted by Christian von Howard, Northeast Board Member*

**NORTHWEST:** The 2017 ACDA NW Conference was hosted by University of Oregon this year in unseasonably warm and sunny weather for Spring in Eugene. There were nearly 500 participants including three out-of-region schools from California and Florida. The theme for the conference was INTER/ACTION, which drew focus to the collaborative nature of dance. During an INTER/ACTION Mixer participants had the opportunity to collaborate and present an original study with a painter, a musician, a filmmaker, and two interdisciplinary collectives, Harmonic Laboratory and Zoe + Juniper. The three adjudicators, Holly Johnston, Ananya Chatterjea, and Jim Sutton, brought diverse perspectives on representation, appropriation and inclusivity in our field. Holding the Adjudication Concerts and closing Gala off-campus at the Soreng Theatre shifted other events off-campus as well as the faculty reception at the Barn Light Brewery and the final after-party at Hi-fi Music Hall. *submitted by Brad Garner, Northwest Board Member*

**SOUTH:** The South Region Conference took place on March 10-13, 2017 on the beautiful campus of Auburn University with 27 colleges and universities attending. We would like to welcome back the University of Alabama and Western Kentucky University, our newest members of the region. The conference offered classes in a variety of styles and at various levels along with workshops in creative process, body awareness, faculty-only, and panel discussions. Also noted in our region, the new Dance degrees at Middle Tennessee State University (BS in Dance), University of Memphis (BFA in Dance), and Austin Peay State University (BA and BFA in Dance). Our 2018 conference will be hosted by Northwestern State University on April 4-8, 2018. Hope to see you there!!! *submitted by Keith Skip Costa, South Board Member*

**SOUTH-CENTRAL:** South-Central held its conference at College College in Plano, Texas. It was a year of firsts. This was the first time a two-year college hosted in our region, which is a big deal for us because two year colleges constitute a substantial percentage of our regional

members. It was the first time our conference used an APP and Whova! It was very successful! The formation of two working groups was created to foster faculty exchange and peer response through online video exchange. It was the first time that we did The Grand Informal concert on the main stage with all 20 dances as a way to bring more recognition to this concert. It was the first time we had a least one faculty-only class/panel/workshop each day. We even had time to include a discussion of two-to-four-year college transfer issues.

*submitted by David J. Deveau, South-Central Board Member*

**SOUTHEAST:** The Southeast regional conference took place this year on the beautiful University of South Florida campus in Tampa, Florida. The conference opened with an excellent concert of Tampa Bay Area Dances including Collective Soles Dance Ensemble, Florida Dance Theatre, Jay Zhang Peng, Moving Current, Orlando Ballet, Rouge Dances, Sarasota Contemporary Dance, and Tampa City Ballet. Twenty-seven works were presented for adjudication during three different concerts. The conference performances culminated in a delightful and diverse informal concert. Conference membership meetings were well attended. Topics discussed included "trigger language", the new production guide, registration, American Dance Festival perks, and Jacob's Pillow. Outgoing board member Rick McCullough, retiring from Florida State University, and incoming board member Kristen Hapke of Coker College were acknowledged. The ACDA conference for 2018 will be hosted by Coker College, in Hartsville, South Carolina on March 18, 2018. *submitted by Rick*

*McCullough, Southeast Board Member*



*Ballet class in USF's beautiful facilities*

**WEST:** Modesto Junior College was host to 400 participants taking classes on 2 campuses, performing each night to a most enthusiastic audience, and enjoying pizza, salads, and Mexican food followed by a Salsa night, dessert and a DJ Dance party after the Gala. The theme of our conference was, "What Inspired you today!" The wonderful adjudication panel of Gerri Houlihan, Licia Perea, and Christian von Howard inspired everyday of the conference with insightful, positive, and encouraging information delivered in a graceful, humorous, and probing tone. William Seigh, our inspiring ACDA President was a constant guide throughout the conference, a knowledgeable mentor, and brought smiles to all each and every day. The participants were asked to scribe and share their daily inspirations:

*Momentum, Stillness, and Subtlety*

*Dancing for a New Audience*

*with love, friendship, and cookies!*

*Rapping, Undercurves, Smiles*

*Kindness, a room full of artists*

*Dance will bring your heart and soul back to life*

*My future insides me..The compassion that teachers have for their students inspire me.*

*Witnessing tomorrow's choreographers*

*The joy and determination in everyone's eyes as they danced...I danced for myself and didn't worry about the outside world, my heart was fearless.*

*Find the source of your light and let it radiate, it's not about the technique or ability, it's about the journey to find your light.*

*Camaraderie ... Shared passion, exchange, laughter, genuine kindness*

*submitted by Lori Bryhni, West Board Member*

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**WE WELCOME FEEDBACK ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE  
NEWSLETTER--FORM AND/OR CONTENT.  
PLEASE SEND TO [DEBRA KNAPP](#).**

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ADCA fosters a community and culture of diverse and creative humans.

*Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love*

Mother Teresa

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Diane DeFries, ACDA Executive Director  
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For Information about the 2018 ACDA Regional Conferences  
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