Alumni Newsletter
Western Michigan University
Department of Dance

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Welcome
Dear Alumni and Friends:

As I reflect on the year, I am struck by how much I am inspired by our faculty, students and supporters. Sometimes, because I am so “close” to what we do, I take for granted how unusually dedicated, talented, thoughtful, and fun our students, faculty and staff are. Following are just a few of their actions that inspire me:

Creativity: Creativity reaches well beyond the choreography classes and dance concerts. Each Halloween, despite being exhausted at midsemester, students and faculty get “decked out” in Halloween costumes. This year several students dressed as the faculty. My goodness, did we laugh a lot! Even Dorothy, one of our ballet musicians, sported her special Halloween socks!

Generosity and charitable giving: Orchesis Dance Society adopts a Head Start family for the Christmas holiday and has done so for the past three years.

Discipline: The discipline of our students is evident in their work. Students are hard at work when most people have gone home to relax for the evening. Our students were working intently in a rehearsal of The Envelope in the early evening on the last class day of the Fall semester. I knew they were physically and mentally exhausted, but they were giving 100% in that rehearsal.

Communication skills: Dance majors develop good writing skills. Dance major Ashley Rop was awarded a grant to study at the Ailey School in New York City and to work with dance students in the Education for the Arts program.

Clear purpose: Students look for opportunities to challenge themselves and to learn more. Several students attend winter and summer dance workshops throughout the United States.

Dedication to student success: Faculty are committed to providing incredible opportunities for dance students. Kirsten Harvey brought eight dancers to New York City to perform at the Ailey Citygroup Theatre in Manhattan. David Curwen brought four students to Chicago where they were performance interns with DanceWorks Chicago.

Commitment to ethical behavior: Our students respect our “honor system.” Students can check out boomboxes, ipod docking stations, video cameras, and ice cups. Amazingly, all items are returned so other students can use them!

Confidence: Our supporters never cease to amaze me with their financial generosity and kindness to students and faculty.

Personal Vision: Our dance alumni are successful in all walks of life and dance continues to play an important part in their lives.

May you have a rejuvenating summer!

Nina M. Nelson
Professor and Chair
Alumni News
Several Alums Share Their News

Mitzi Adams, Former Faculty Member
Mitzi is producing a show called *Pie, Picket, and Purgatory*. It’s really a performance art piece shown at a funky SoHo-like gallery. Mitzi has a few more projects planned for this summer as well. Dance alumna, Ryan Schmidt, continues to perform with Mitzi.

Marianne Bosen, BA in Dance ’10
Marianne graduated in May 2010 with a Bachelors of Art in Dance and Bachelor of Science in athletic training. Currently she is attending Ohio University and will receive her Masters of Athletic Training in June 2011.

John Bradley, BA in Dance ’85
John and his partner Charles Keenan were married at The Church of St. Luke in the Fields on October 16, 2010, following a civil marriage in Greenwich CT. This has been a big year for John. In addition to getting married and going on a wonderful vacation to England, his professional choir Polyhymnia (www.polyhymnia-nyc.org) was awarded a grant by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Polyhymnia, which specializes in sacred music composed between 1450-1650, is one of New York City's leading early music ensembles, and has been called "an elite group of singers" (NY Times) and "first rate choir (TimeOut NY). John would love to hear from classmates from his time at WMU, and can be found on Facebook, or by email, john@polyhymnia-nyc.org.

Lisa Bredahl, BA in Dance ’99
Lisa has closed her dance school after 19 years and is now teaching locally at several area studios. Her son is in college and her daughter is a senior and hopes to major in dance. LisaBredahl@gmail.com.
Alumni News

Molly Brichtson, BFA in Dance ‘06
Molly is currently living in Los Angeles, California. She recently completed a long-term dance substitute position at the prestigious Buckley School, a K-12 college preparatory school in Sherman Oaks, CA. She is dancing with two modern companies, Lineage Dance and Ptero Dance Theatre as well as working as an office manager at Evolution Dance Studios and teaching ballet, hip hop and gymnastics in local Hebrew schools. Molly is also excited to be marrying her piano man, WMU alum Gerry Mattei next summer! Molly can be contacted at molly.brichtson@gmail.com.

Rebecca Yourison Culp, BA in Dance ‘04
Rebecca is happy to announce that she and her husband, Nicholas, had a baby this year! She performed a small role with the Saint Paul City Ballet Company in their winter ballet, The Enchanted Toyshop. Rebecca continues to teach ballet classes part-time and works full-time as an office manager in financial services. She recently enjoyed a quick trip through Kalamazoo and was happy to see Nina, Sharon and David again. As a side note, Rebecca is taking a Spanish class as her new adventure!

Melanie George, BA in Dance ‘93
Melanie has been honored with an article written about her instructing at the College of Arts & Sciences; American University, Washington, D.C.. The full article as well as picture can be found at the following URL. http://www.american.edu/cas/news/dance-melanie-george.cfm.

Elaine Hoxie, BA in Dance ‘85
Elaine just signed with talent agency MSA, continues to work with the Flirt dancers (www.flirtdancers.com) and Lucent Dossier Experience who were just seen on Top Chef: Just Desserts. She also helped open the new Hollywood hotspot, supperclub, on Halloween (www.lucentdossier.com). She mainly worked as a Who as part of a Xmas show at Universal Hollywood all December. She was also hired at The Toledo Show, a well known weekly show seen at the popular Harvelle's Jazz and Blues Club.

Angelina “Peggy” Hunt, BA Dance ‘85
Angelina is a retired Professor of Dance, now happily dancing with people of all ages as an artist in residence on the South Carolina Arts Commission artists roster.
Lisa LaMarre, BA in Dance ‘01
Choreographer, Dancer, and Educator, Lisa LaMarre is dedicated to keeping her art alive through her commitment to strong dance choreography and technique, creation intent, and process. LaMarre currently choreographs, dances for, and is the Education Director of Detroit Dance Collective (www.detroitdancecollective.org). Her choreography has been commissioned for Grand Valley State University and Oakland University’s Oakland Dance Theater. Her dance company work has included projects for stbdance, Mack Avenue Dance Company, Patterson Rhythm Pace, People Dancing, Michigan Dance Project, and more. LaMarre has experience using dance as a form of therapy and enjoyment for emotionally impaired, autistic, physically impaired, and otherwise impaired youth and teens through VSA of Michigan, an organization dedicated to bringing the arts into the lives of those with disabilities. She has presented this work in Washington DC at the 2010 International VSA arts Festival (www.vsarts.org). She is a member-at-large for People Dancing, and a member of the National Dance Education Organization and Michigan Dance Council. lisalamarre.webs.com lamarre@gmail.com

Erin Lamont, BA in Dance & BBA in Marketing ’01
See Erin’s beautiful website for photos and up to date news. www.erinlamont.com

Christina Maley, BA in Dance ’04
Christina is still dancing with Motus Dance Theatre. June started out with annual benefit dinner, Pairings. They performed on a two story rocket-shaped sculpture that looked like a jungle gym, and was tons of fun. The company took its annual Indy Fringe Festival performance to the streets last year. She performed in a piece called “Baby Pool Etudes,” which consisted of dancing in 3 baby pools full of water, and choreographed a piece called “Expressions on Canvas,” which used movement to paint a canvas. They did a repeat performance of “Expressions on Canvas” for an outdoor art competition in September. They didn’t win, but the audiences enjoyed watching the art in motion. In the fall she danced in two pieces for Motus’s first choreographer competition, Cultivate. See motusdance.com for more information. In addition to Motus, She is still working as the Lighting Technician at the Honeywell Center and teaching Modern at a local dance studio. She also added another teaching position at Huntington University teaching Lighting Design. At the end of the year, she will follow her husband to Houston, Texas.
Alumni News

**Erin Malley, BA in Dance ’01**
Erin is currently in residence at the United Nations International School in New York City working with students in 4th grade. Her students will be travelling to the Phillipines, Chile, Sweden, and in the Caribbean!

**Kristi Mountz, BA in Dance ‘09**
Kristi has been busy renewing her love of dance this past year. She has been very active in the Lindy Hop scene in Orlando and has really enjoyed exploring the roots of dance with interesting historical roots that appeal to her love of improvisation. Kristi reports that “It feels great to be dancing again!” During the day, she works as a legal assistant for a bankruptcy law firm, but enjoys the arts at night and on the weekend.

**Katina Childs Muller, BFA in Dance ’96**
Katina has enjoyed the year off from owning her own business. Last summer she returned more to her true love - DANCE. It started with her son and her dancing and winning the game show *Your Chance to Dance*. She embarked on a bucket list goal and danced in a flash mob for Napoleon and Tabitha's new TV show *Mobbed* with Howie Mandel. She is teaching masterclasses on auditions and getting an agent with IHollywood Dance Conventions. She is the choreographer for a new and upcoming kid band called M4 and for a production of Dear Edwina, (a musical that ironically takes place in Paw Paw, Michigan). Katina is proud of her dance students who have been see on America's Best Dance Crew, SYTYCD and America's Got Talent. Katina resides in Santa Clarita, California with her hubby and 4 children. She is on facebook and would love to hear from her old WMU dance family! [ottokatina@att.net](mailto:ottokatina@att.net)

**Meredith Nelson, BFA in Dance ‘93**
Meredith set a concert piece (modern) for Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan's Spring concert and is a guest teacher for the same group. Her kids are now 8, 6, and 3 and she is “crazy in love with them!”

**Sarah Rabbers, BFA in Dance ‘09**
Sarah is busy teaching all over the Chicago area! You may also find her dancing with Chicago Freeland Dance where she has performed at the Lou Conte Dance Studio as well as at Dance Chicago in their New Moves program. She has enjoyed working with fellow dancer alum Amanda Cooke-Reath. She keeps very busy dancing in the windy city! sarah.louise.rabbers@gmail.com
Alumni News

Carolyn Roselin, BA in Dance ’87
Carolyn has been a certified Pilates Instructor for 15 years. In addition to working in a studio setting and training other to-be instructors, she has a private home studio which she loves. Her family is a simple triangle; Stephan, herself and daughter, Charlotte, who loves to turn tricks on Carolyn’s pilates equipment. Occasionally, Carolyn makes appearances with local dance company "Wild Space" either dancing in ponds or climbing trees, of course, with undercurves and overcurves!! Life is Good!

Ryan Schmidt, BFA in Dance ’07
To see an update on Ryan go to her fabulous website to see photos, videos, and news! www.ryan-schmidt.com

Tiffany Alexandra Taylor, BFA in Dance ’07
Alex Taylor (2007) completed her MFA in Dance from the University of Oregon in June 2010. Following graduation she relocated to New York City and has begun performing, taking class and volunteering at Dance New Amsterdam in Manhattan. In February 2011, Alex’s company, Alexandra Taylor Dance, will premiere a new work at Southwestern College in San Diego, CA in conjunction with the collective "Transform," a group started by herself and other grads from the U of O, bringing work from all over the U.S. to different cities across America. She has also begun working with NYC based artist, Esther M. Palmer, on her new project, "Only Shallow People," which premieres in June 2011.
tiffany.alexandra.taylor@gmail.com

Tercell Waters, BFA in Dance ‘10
Tercell previously danced a season with the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble in Rochester, MI while finishing the remainder of his BFA coursework online. While with EDE he toured to several cities in the Midwest as well as California and Arizona performing works by Laurie Eisenhower, Eddy Ocampo, Colin Conner, Joel Hall and Louis Falco, among others. He also had the opportunity to perform with the State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara, CA. After finishing his graduation requirements he moved to New York City to join Complexions Contemporary Ballet under the artistic direction of Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson. Tercell recently finished a 5 week tour of Perth, Canberra and Sydney, Australia, Auckland, New Zealand and Kona, Kailalu, and Honolulu, Hawaii performing in world premiere and repertory works by Dwight Rhoden. Tercell is looking forward to a two week run at the Joyce theatre in New York City at the end of November.
Tom Welsh, minor in Dance ’75
Tom is a member of the Dance faculty at Florida State University and is currently serving as President of the International Association for Dance Medicine & Science. His term runs through Fall 2011. twelsh@dance.fsu.edu

Amber Wisnieski BA in Dance ’07
Amber is still with the Brandon Ballet as their Administrative Director and Choreographer. She also had five students who performed in the Youth America Grand Prix! Her students placed very well last year, so they were excited to attend again. On another note, Amber is pregnant and due on December 27! It sure is an exciting time.

Angie (Wieland) Yetzke, BA in Dance ‘94
Angie is working toward her MFA in choreography/performance at the U of Wisconsin - Milwaukee during the summers. While doing independent projects from home during the school year, she is teaching modern and jazz at Hope College in Holland, MI, and busy being mom to her two boys, ages 9 and 6.
Associate Professor David Curwen and Professor Sharon Garber have returned from a two-week trip where they taught ballet technique at Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. They are the first Americans to be invited for a residency in Sichuan University’s dance department. Shari and David taught daily ballet classes from May 18-27 to freshman and sophomore dance students in this highly selective conservatory program. They noted that the students have strong gymnastic skills and flexibility. Unlike in the United States, the women and men are trained in separate classes.

Sichuan University is rated as one of China’s top 10 universities.

They were also invited to present a dance and technology lecture to the department administration, faculty and students. Their presentation included the introduction and explanation of different kinds of technology they have used in their creative work and collaborative projects. Works shown on DVD included Garber’s Undertow and Epilogue and Curwen’s ROBO, Sextet Duet, and 2Fas2 from sexyteenloveidol.net, and Romance sans Parole.

This trip was the first time for either David or Shari to visit mainland China. Visiting dance scholar, Yan Lei, of Sichuan University facilitated the invitation. Yan Lei has been at Western Michigan University since September 2010.

Photographs: Left: Sharon Garber with Freshman Girls; Middle: David Curwen with Freshman Boys; Right: David Curwen Displaying WDP Logo at Great Wall of China Bottom: Sharon Garber enjoys China.
Dancing with the Stars in L.A.

Dancing With The Stars TV
Dance alumni Connie Donovan and Ann Fastert attended the April 26 Dancing with the Stars TV show in Los Angeles. Connie and Ann were special guests on the show and were seated just behind Carrie Ann Inaba. Ann and Connie saw New Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys and Pia perform. On this show, Chris Jericho and Cheryl Burke were eliminated from the competition. According to Ann, “Connie and I had a blast. We will certainly never look at the show the same way again. Our VIP tickets were for both shows that were broadcast on Tuesday, April 26th. So although some of what you saw on TV was taped for the first hour, a large part was actually live and of course the entire results show was live. The NKOTBSB were so much fun to see. The Macy's star dancers did an amazing performance that really brought tears to our eyes.”

Our special thanks to Suzanne Thelen (Lansing) and Melissa Martinez-Campo (Los Angeles) for making the arrangements for Ann and Connie.

The Winter Gala Dance Concert was in Shaw Theatre this year and featured two Great Works and faculty, student and guest artist choreography. Our Great Works were the finale of *KOTO* by Alonzo King and *The Envelope* by David Parsons.

We were so pleased to be able to present the work of Mr. Parsons because it completed our department’s presentation of works in the Martha Graham/Paul Taylor lineage: We have performed *Steps in the Street* by Martha Graham; *Three Epitaphs* and *Junction* by Paul Taylor; and *Alleluia* by Robert Battle. Taylor danced with Graham; Parsons danced with Taylor; and Battle danced with Parsons. It is a wonderful history lesson for us to see how each choreographer has assimilated the work of his mentors and broken new ground. Jason McDole, the guest artist who staged *The Envelope*, also shares some connections with our Great Works Dance Project. Jason just wrapped up the fall season as a dancer with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. He said that one of his favorite dances to perform is Lubovitch’s *Marimba*, one of first Great Works dances WMU produced.

WMU dancers also performed the finale of Alonzo King’s *KOTO*. Culturevulture.net said the following about Alonzo King’s work in a review following a performance of *KOTO*: “… King demonstrated his genius for creating a highly idiosyncratic departure from the classical idiom. King’s use of music and phrasing are the main changes, but even the way his dancers approach movement is unique—never for a moment is there the classical sense of illusion, weightlessness, air. With Lines, the dance is about speed, danger, dynamics and endurance. …”

Faculty choreographers in the Winter Gala Dance Concert were David Curwen, Carolyn Pavlik and Kirsten Harvey. Autumn Eckman, who created last year’s highly-praised *Yes, and…* for the Western Dance Project, created a new work for the group for this year’s concert and WDP’s touring repertory. Student choreographers were Ashley Deran, Rachel Siegel, and Sarah Milosch. Please view our documentary about *KOTO* on YouTube at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5VjMEbpIjI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5VjMEbpIjI)
Great Works Dance Project
Choreography Competition

WMU’s Department of Dance developed a national choreography competition to identify and recognize emerging choreographers and bring their work to campus. The GREAT WORKS DANCE PROJECT CHOREOGRAPHY PRIZE attracted seventy-three entrants from twenty-four states. A dance faculty committee narrowed the field to three finalists. Innovation in movement, dance structure and subject matter were the criteria the faculty committee used to select the three finalists. They also selected finalists who would bring something new to Western Michigan University and audiences from southwest Michigan. The three finalists were Kara Davis, Lauren Edson and Kate Skarpatowska. Students and the public were invited to see video submissions of the finalists’ choreography and selected Lauren Edson as the winner.

Lauren Edson, originally from Boise, Idaho began her training at Ballet Idaho Academy and Westside Dance Academy. She continued her formal studies at North Carolina School of the Arts and The Julliard School, under the direction of the late Benjamin Harkarvy. She is currently in her second season dancing with Trey McIntyre Project and has been featured in several of Mr. McIntyre’s most recent works. Her past professional dance experiences include: Bodyvox, Ballet Idaho, Idaho Dance Theatre, and Hubbard Street 2. For the last several years she has been working as a freelance choreographer. While based in Portland, Oregon she established herself as one of the most sought-after local choreographers. Her work was described by critics as “fresh and user friendly and something that had been missing from the dance community.” She was one of the twelve Northwest choreographers selected both this year and last year to participate in the A.W.A.R.D. Show Seattle, affiliated with the Joyce Theatre, one of New York City’s major dance presenters. In 2009, she won the Northwest Dance Project’s first annual Pretty Creative’s International choreographic competition. Her choreography has been featured at the American Dance Guild Festival in NY, Idaho Dance Theatre, Regional Dance America, Northwest Dance Project, and NW Fusion Dance Company, to name a few. As a celebrated dancer with Trey McIntyre Project, the Idaho Statesman states, “Lauren has luminous eyes, a pixie-like smile and a flair for choreography that stretches her already supple body to the limit.”

Miss Edson will have a minimum of 30 rehearsal hours to create a 10-12 minute dance on eight or more Western Michigan University dance majors. She will receive a $4,000 honorarium plus expenses. She will be on campus in September 2011 at which time she will create the new dance and teach master classes. The dance will be premiered in the Winter Gala Dance Concert in February 2012 and dance company artistic directors from the Great Lakes region will be invited to attend.

We think this new initiative will bring a new level of excitement to the department and the Kalamazoo community.
DANCE DEPARTMENT SPENDS DAY IN CHICAGO

On March 18, five dance faculty and thirty-six dance majors boarded a bus and spent the day in Chicago. Students took two master classes at the Lou Conte Studios. Rebecca Lemme taught a modern dance class and our students were joined by alumnus Michael McDonald. Ron DeJésus taught a master class in GAGA technique. It was great to reconnect with Ron since he was one of our Great Works artists in 2008-09. At the Conte Studios we caught up with alumni Mary Sue Miller and Sarah Rabbers. Following the master classes we had a lovely dinner in Greektown and alumna Francesca Bourgault joined us briefly before heading off to work. After dinner we saw a concert by Hubbard Street Dance Company at the Harris Theatre. Repertory included work by Ohad Naharin and Sharon Eyal from the Batsheva Dance Company. It was thrilling for all of us to see their creative work since Naharin developed GAGA technique. We returned to Kalamazoo tired and inspired by the day’s events.
Western Dance Project

The Western Dance Project had a record year of performances and master classes. Two guest choreographers were invited to create dances for the company. Autumn Eckman, artistic director of Giordano 2, created a new work called *Part and Parcel* during the week prior to the fall semester. Dance alumnus Chopper Platt returned to Kalamazoo in November to create a hip hop dance for the company. Chopper is currently living in Los Angeles where he recently opened a studio called Ography. If you are interested in bringing WDP to your school or organization, contact David Curwen at 269-387-5707 or david.curwen@wmich.edu.

WDP reached over 3,750 individuals through its master classes and performances. Following is an impressive list of the places WDP performed and/or taught master classes:

- Benefit for former dance student Kelly Meloney - Chicago
- Dancing with the Stars - Kalamazoo
- Chicago Dance Festival - Chicago
- Oakland Dance Festival - Harrison High School
- Art Hop - Kalamazoo
- Stryker Corporation Holiday Party – Kalamazoo
- Lincoln International Studies School - Kalamazoo
- Portage Community High School - Portage
- Wellspring RAD fest - Kalamazoo
- Woods Lake Elementary - A Magnet Center for the Arts - Kalamazoo
- Southwestern Michigan College - Dowagiac
- Churchill High School - Livonia, MI
- Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy – Saginaw, MI
- Kalamazoo Public Library - Kalamazoo
- Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts - Kalamazoo
- State of the City’s Address – Kalamazoo
- Kalamazoo Central High School - Kalamazoo
- Rolling Meadows High School - Chicago
- Western Michigan University - Kalamazoo

*Part & Parcel* - photo by John Lacko
Retired WMU professor and dance advocate Clara Gamble and teacher and choreographer Kathryn Williams were selected to be the 2011 recipients of the Community Dance Advocacy Award. The award, sponsored by Western Michigan University’s Partners in Dance, is given to honor a leader or volunteer who has demonstrated significant accomplishments in advancing and supporting dance in the Greater Kalamazoo area. Partners in Dance created the award to highlight and recognize the extent of dance activity and leadership in the greater Kalamazoo area. The Community Dance Advocacy Award is given annually, with nominations accepted each fall.

A public presentation of the Community Dance Advocacy Awards was made at the Great Works dinner at the Cityscape Event Center on Friday, February 18, 2011. Ms. Gamble and Ms. Williams received a plaque of recognition and a year’s membership in Partners in Dance. Their names were engraved on a special plaque that is housed in the Department of Dance at Western Michigan University.

Clara Gamble is an advocate, mentor, leader and respected dance supporter who has been described as a master teacher by those who know her best. She taught at WMU for 25 years, acting as a role model for faculty before and since her retirement. In 1984 Clara was the recipient of the WMU Alumni Teaching Excellence Award, chosen by the WMU Alumni Association for her notable pedagogical skills. During her time on faculty at WMU, Clara impacted so many people that on her 80th birthday, she was joined by friends, colleagues and former students from the 1960’s through present. She is an accomplished choreographer who has collaborated with musicians, visual artists and theatrical artists to produce several works for the College of Fine Arts and for composer Ramon Zupko, including a work Proud Music of the Storm commissioned by WMU to celebrate the American Bicentennial. Finally, Clara has been an avid supporter of the arts in the Greater Kalamazoo area for years. She is credited for paving the road that led Cori Terry and the Wellspring dance studio to Kalamazoo, and many have been humbled by her generosity.

For over 30 years Kathy Williams has generously shared her considerable talents as a teacher, mentor, and choreographer with the people of the Kalamazoo area community. Currently on faculty at WMU, she reaches many through her choreography for groups such as the Kalamazoo Civic Theater, the Farmer’s Alley Theatre, Portage Northern High School, Loy Norrix High School, Kalamazoo Central High School, the Kindleberger Summer Arts Festival and the Kalamazoo Children’s Chorus. She has also been a performer with the Kalamazoo Civic Theater and the Paw Paw Village Players. This summer Kathy will choreograph Urinetown, The Musical at Farmer’s Alley Theatre, teach dance for young actors at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre and will conduct arts experiences for the Gilmore piano students at the YMCA Sherman Lake facility for The Gilmore. While working on the United Teen Talent show over the past four years, she has provided invaluable guidance to young people which has been life-altering for some of the participants in the program. This year, Kathy was nominated for a Michigan Encore Review Wilde Award.
Presidential Scholar in Dance

Left to Right: President Dunn, Kate Peters, and Nina Nelson

Presidential Scholar
Senior BFA dance major Kate Peters was named the 2011 Presidential Scholar in Dance. The Presidential Scholar Award is WMU's highest academic honor bestowed on an undergraduate. Kate was nominated for the award by dance faculty members who selected her because of her academic and artistic excellence and promise. Kate and forty-five other presidential scholars were honored at the March 24, 2011 Presidential Scholars Convocation. WMU President John M. Dunn was the keynote speaker.

Kate is from Canton, MI., and a graduate of Canton High School. She is majoring in dance and graduated in April 2011. Following graduation, Kate plans to pursue a professional career as a performer and choreographer. Kate was Rookie of the Year on the WMU Dance Team and received the All-American Collegiate Dancer award at the team’s National Dance Alliance competition. As an alliance staff member, she has instructed dance routines for four years, receiving Top Rookie and Top Veteran instructor awards each year. Kate teaches at Patti Herm School of Dance, a competitive studio in Otsego, MI. In 2010, she was selected as Choreographer of the Year at the Kids Artistic Review national dance competition and received the Federation of Dance Competition Judges Choice award for her choreography. She has performed in several WMU Department of Dance productions, including Great Works productions staged by internationally renowned choreographers Alonzo King, David Parsons, and Frank Chaves. Kate was guest artist and choreographer for Michigan’s Junior Miss pageant and recently performed in New York City at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in the “Women in Dance” series concert. She was selected to participate in the 2010 PULSE NYC teacher convention and has studied dance in New York at the Broadway Dance Center. Kate was on the dean’s list each semester and received three Department of Dance scholarships. She was a member of the Western Dance Project, Orchesis Dance Society, and Sigma Alpha Lambda Honors Organization.
**Ethel Perry Eaton Endowment Gets Funding Boost and Revised Name**

One of the department’s fans and supporters, Jerry French, has added a substantial amount to the Ethel Perry Eaton Dance Scholarship endowment. In recognition of this gift, the name of the endowment has been changed to the Ethel Perry Eaton and Jerrold T. French Dance Scholarship. The original endowment was established by Jerry and his family to honor Miss Eaton. Because of the infusion of new funds, the department will be able to award larger dance major scholarships from the endowment. We are grateful to Jerry for his ongoing support of the department and Partners in Dance.

**Partners In Dance**

Partners in Dance is Western Michigan University’s support organization dedicated to promoting greater awareness of dance and providing critically needed financial support for the special needs of WMU’s Department of Dance, including scholarships, visiting artists’ residencies, and the Great Works Dance Project. Membership levels begin at $35 for an individual and offer many worthwhile privileges, including discounts on tickets for Department of Dance concerts, opportunities for field trips to professional dance performances, and special Department of Dance mailings. Your membership in Partners in Dance will help us keep the art of dance healthy and strong. We invite you to join us in supporting dance by becoming a member or renewing your membership for the 2010-2011 season.

**To join Partners in Dance please call 269-387-5830**

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[www.wmich.edu/dance](http://www.wmich.edu/dance)

Facebook:  
I love WMU Dance!

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**Orchesis Dance Concert Remains Popular Event**

Once again, the November Orchesis Dance Concert drew record crowds to its performances this year. There were six performances in Dance Studio B, and all but one performance were sold out. The concert dances ranged in dance style (hip hop, modern, jazz) and mood (silly to austere). As in past years, theatre technical design students had the opportunity to work on this project as well: one served as the stage manager and two created the lighting design.

*Photos by John Lacko: Left: Katherine Hetrick in KOTO. Right: After the Axis by student Sarah Milosch.*
Dancing with the Stars

The October 22nd Dancing with the WMU/Kazoo Stars scholarship fundraiser was a huge success! The event raised more than $12,000 for dance scholarships. Half of this money was added to the Partners in Dance Scholarship Endowment and half was allocated for scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year.

Eight local celebrities participated in a friendly ballroom competition. All of them took their dancing seriously, rehearsing numerous times with their student partners. Choreographers Tony Calucci and Kirsten Harvey did a fabulous job creating routines that highlighted the talents and personalities of the celebrities. Jim Thomas, the new WMU Vice-President for Development and Alumni Relations won first place as awarded by the judges and the audience. Pediatrician Dr. Lia Gaggino won second place with a cha cha. Larry Tolbert, chairman of the WMU Board of Trustees, earned third place from the judges. Other celebrity dancers were Janice Brown (Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Promise), Sean McCann (former City Commissioner and current MI representative), Linda Barnes (financial advisor with the Oppenheimer Group), Saad Mandwee (owner of Tiffany’s, Rustica and Zooroona restaurants) and Judy Sarkozy (owner of Sarkozy Bakery). Celebrity judges D. Terry Williams, Bobby Hopewell and Kathryn Williams had us howling with laughter with their witty comments after each couple danced. The Western Dance Project performed, as did dance alumna Melissa Muha with partner Robert Northrop. This year the audience had the opportunity to buy votes for the popular-vote portion of the evening. It proved to be a really fun way for the audience to participate in the competition. More than two hundred guests attended this popular event.
Assistant Professor Kirsten Harvey’s dance titled *Slit Red* was selected by adjudication for the Legros Cultural Arts 2nd Annual Women in the Arts Series: Women in Dance in New York City. Sixty-five choreographers submitted their work for this event, and ten were chosen to have their work produced in the concert. Eight WMU dance majors performed *Slit Red* at the Ailey Citigroup Theatre on December 9.

Legros Cultural Arts, Inc. is a not for profit organization with a mission to inspire and inform people of all ages and ethnicities about the advantages of cultural diversity in the context of mutual understanding and cooperation. Through producing community events that involves dance, drama, music and or visual arts, spectators are motivated to confront and overcome the prejudice, misunderstanding and or fear that may stem from lack of familiarity with the many highly visible cultures in New York City. This is the second year of the event.

The director of the program, Simone Sobers, said the following about Kirsten’s choreography: “Kirsten Harvey's piece *Slit Red* is a wildly deep portrayal of a woman's journey to freedom. Her choreography was most attractive to us because of the clarity of the message, the creative use of: space, her dancers in the space, and music selections, her unique style that fuses jazz with a very grounded and earthy quality of contemporary movement, and her individual voice that is very present in her work. Choosing Kirsten's piece after watching it on video was a very easy decision for the panel. However, after meeting her in person and experiencing her wonderful presence and spirit we knew we definitely wanted her to be part of this production.”

While in New York, students also took master classes. This trip was funded through the College of Fine Arts and it is one of several professional immersion projects the college supported this year.