When I found out I was cast to be a part of the Delfos Danza piece Full and Empty, I was thrilled! Through the week-long residency in August 2014, and the rehearsal process during fall 2014, I gained a whole new set of tools for moving my body and creating work. We began each day during the residency with a warm-up class, in which Delfos Co-Director Claudia LaVista and Dancer Omar Carrum taught "piso movil," meaning "mobile floor," which is a training system established by Vladimir Rodriguez in Columbia. In the mobile floor system, one is challenged to move equally in all parts of the body, using all joints and surfaces as anchor points to create a continuation of movement that is described as mercury.

The piece had some fixed choreography, but also had parts in which we were asked to come up with our own material. The fixed choreography was very fast and had to be sharp, which was fun to learn but stressful because the timing had to be perfect. I had never learned such fast, precise choreography, so that was a challenge, especially since I was trying to weave mobile floor philosophy into the choreography. Claudia and Omar conveyed that although they were teaching us their choreography, they also wanted to share the piece with us and give us a feeling of ownership.

Performing it was one of the most vibrant feelings I have ever had. I never felt unsafe, unsure, or nervous about any part of the piece, and I think that came from having such a communicative, fun, and devoted group. Each performance was different, and I think that was due to our ability to try new things and sense the group's energy. I remember often feeling a vibrating, pulsing, explosive energy that came from within all of us in the piece and was projected outward. I am so grateful to have been a part of this process.

—Sarazina Stein (HC’15)
MANHATTAN RESEARCH: DANCE HEGINBOTHAM

Founded by John Heginbotham in 2011, Dance Heginbotham is a performance group devoted to the presentation of dance and theatrical work. The work of the company features highly structured, technically rigorous, and theatrical choreography, frequently set to the music of contemporary composers. The UMass Dance Program sponsored this residency, which included students from the Five Colleges as well as UMass. Emily Relyea-Spivak, UMass dance major, wrote this about her experience:

I can say that working with John Heginbotham was truly one of the best residency experiences I have had as an undergraduate. His calm and composed manner combined with his strong passion for movement radiates throughout the environment in which he works, making any dancer glad to work with him. We started each day off with an hour and fifteen minute warm-up class taught by John, so that we could get our minds and bodies in the mindset of his movement world. After a brief break, we went into about six hours of rehearsal per day, where we learned all nine sections of Manhattan Research. Since this work was choreographed prior to John coming, he had a very mathematical method as to how to go about teaching and setting it on us, making it very easy to learn and adapt to in the short week we had with him. I really loved tapping into the quirkiness of Manhattan Research. Each section has its own personality and it was a great challenge to re-discover this quality each night of performing it. I hope to work with John again one day in the future! It was truly an unforgettable experience.
—Emily Relyea-Spivak (UM ’15)

SEEP SLEEP: KINSUN CHAN

Canadian-American artist Kinsun Chan works in a range of artistic disciplines, which he calls Multium Design. His interests are in choreography, film and design, as its singular form or through their combinations. He studied art, graphic design, and dance and has danced with the Louisville Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet Zurich and Ballet Basel.

He was invited by Mount Holyoke College to create a work on ballet-trained Five College dancers during a January intensive. Kirsten Leach (MHC ’15) was one of the dancers.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Kinsun because he is an example of a self-made artist. It was inspiring to see how he integrated his other creative work into the artistic process in the studio. Throughout the two weeks, Kinsun would build us into these elaborate architectural positions that came from his interests in film and design (He originally studied art, graphic design and dance in undergrad). He was relentless—he drilled us and drilled us and drilled us and there was a way in which he was able to communicate how he wanted us to move within his choreography. I remember he said during one particularly exhausting day—“repetition is your freedom.” There was so much in this phrase that I have held onto—the dedication and commitment that being any kind of artist requires. I feel it’s important to be exposed to guest choreographers because it is an opportunity to work in a professional setting. It is also a chance to learn how to interpret other people’s movement vocabularies, and to translate that movement on your own body—I became aware of my tendencies as a dancer. Kinsun challenged all of us to break those habitual modes of moving that were so engrained in our bodies. Most importantly, he taught us that dancers have a responsibility to continually invent themselves as artists. Dance has played an important role in my education because it has taught me this lesson of innovation and has led me to see possibilities where others see limits.
—Kirsten Leach (MHC ’15)
BEHIND THE PODIUM...

Offstage, there were two FCDD-sponsored lectures in 2014–15. Sean Dorsey of the Sean Dorsey Dance Company gave the FCDD's annual fall lecture. The title of the lecture was **Dancing Transgender and Queer Histories**. The company also performed *The Secret History of Love* at John M. Greene Hall at Smith College, and Mr. Dorsey, in addition, gave two master classes to Five College students. The issue addressed in both the performance and the lecture, and in many FCDD classes before and after, was gender identification and acceptance in the arts and in general. A student's response to Dorsey's visit:

> It is not that often that you have the opportunity to learn about the importance of delicate issues in such a public setting. The entire time, all I could think about was how brave Dorsey and his dancers were, how thankful I was for their enlightenment of an issue that is still swept under the rug, and how beautifully they managed to inform and command… I was inspired, I was stunned, and I could fully relate…

The second lecture the FCDD helped sponsor was by Neuroscientist Dr. Michael Turvey. His topic was **Action and Perception at the Level of Synergies**. It was co-sponsored by the Psychology and Neuroscience Departments at Smith College, and thus attracted attendance from an audience with diverse interests.

**The Smith College Department of Dance, Department of Psychology, and Neuroscience Program, and the Five College Dance Department present a lecture by:**

**Dr. Michael Turvey**

Professor of Psychology

University of Connecticut

**Action And Perception At The Level Of Synergies**

Monday, March 9, 2015

4:30 PM

Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall

Smith College

*the most imaginative and intriguing dance artist in the Bay Area*

- Bay Area Reporter

*trailblazing*

- San Francisco Chronicle

OCT 1, 7PM—FREE

Weinstein Auditorium

Wright Hall

Smith College

Post-Lecture Reception

2015–16 VIRGINIA J. WAGNER SCHOLARSHIP

The FCDD is happy to announce the winner of the 2015–16 Virginia J. Wagner Scholarship: **Charnice Charmant** (SC '16). Charnice is a charismatic and skilled performer, an active participant in the creative process, and a networker and community builder in dance at Smith and in the FCDD. The scholarship is an endowed award started by Virginia J. Wagner, an alumna from the University of Massachusetts. It is need-based and awarded by recommendation of the faculty to students who have made substantial and valuable contributions to the Five College Dance Department.

**COMING IN 2015–16!**

FCDD repertory project: **Megawatt**. This classic piece of Pilobolus repertory is being restaged on an all-female cast of FCDD dancers, and will be performed on the Mount Holyoke, Smith, and Five College Faculty Dance Concerts.
STARBURST 2.0

Starburst 2.0, on April 28–29, 2015, was the Five College Dance Department’s second annual campus/community interactive mini dance festival. This year, a group of young dancers from the newly-founded Springfield Conservatory of the Arts, and their teacher Elisabeth Olivera, came to UMass to dance with Leslie Frye-Maeutta’s Jazz 6 class at UMass, and a group of students from the also newly-formed Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School from Holyoke, and their teacher Robert Blakely, came to Amherst College to work with FCDD faculty members Paul Matteson, Jennifer Nugent, Jodi Falk and their students.

The idea behind Starburst is to combine the innate dance knowledge of college and school communities, have them come together to take class and perform for each other, and in doing so build bridges that can—through what only dance can do—create positive, embodied, meaningful fun among people of many ages and many talents. Starburst is founded on the vision of reciprocity in community: we know by learning from each other and with each other. Dancing together makes us better citizens and more caring people in the world. Students from the colleges remember what drew them to dance in the first place, and go beyond the mirrors and the walls of the studios. School-age students get to visit colleges, dance with college students and professors, and perform their own work for a dance-knowledgeable audience. An Amherst College student named Amir, after creating a dance with the Paulo Freire students that had movements from the African diaspora, said, “I felt the immortality in some of our movements and knew that our ancestors were dancing with and through us.”

DANCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Five College Lecturer in Dance Marilyn Sylla writes below about her “Dance in the Community” course, which she taught at Smith College during spring 2015:

The first part of the semester was spent developing a diverse list of prospective performance venues and contacting them via email to schedule performances. Dancers then choreographed short dance pieces to be included in the performance. This semester, dancers chose salsa, modern, hip hop, jamaican, and traditional and contemporary African dances.

During the process of creating work, dancers witnessed how open minds can collaborate but sometimes collide.

The second part of the semester, we "took the show on the road" to various communities including the Soldier’s Home, Robert F. Kennedy Youth Coalition’s facility for teenage girl offenders, Armbrrok Village and Loomis Village retirement communities, Shutesbury Elementary School, Smith Campus School, The People’s Institute, and a performance at the Red Barn at Hampshire College in conjunction with the UMass African Studies Department.

Our oldest participant was a lovely and lively 100-year-old woman at Loomis Village. Our youngest were three-year-old girls and boys at The People’s Institute eager to join us on stage, diapers and all. During our “chair dance” workshop at Armbrrok Village, we were delighted to meet Ligoa Duncan, niece of famed dancer Isadora Duncan. Like her aunt and father, Raymond Duncan, Ligoa was a dancer for many years. She also owned a dance school in New York City.

As Amherst college dancer Diane Cricien stated, “community engagement is a mutual process. Not only does the audience have the potential to learn and grow, as individuals in the class, we had a chance to learn from the different communities that we visited throughout the semester.”

Dance in the Community students with children at People’s Institute in Northampton (left) and residents at Loomis Village in Amherst (right). Left: Marilyn Sylla. Right: Linda Coffin.
Renowned Brazilian contemporary dance company Grupo Corpo taught a master class for FCDD dancers in February at Mount Holyoke College.

Dancers from Ragamala Dance Company presented a workshop on movements and rhythms of classical Indian Bharata Natyam style in March. The entire FCDD community was welcome to observe and participate.

In April, Stephen Petronio Company, led by Artistic Director Stephen Petronio (HC ’78) returned to Amherst to perform at the UMass Fine Arts Center. While here, Stephen and Assistant to the Artistic Director Gino Grenek taught an intermediate/advanced modern master class for Five College dancers.

Dancers from Ragamala Dance Company presented a workshop on movements and rhythms of classical Indian Bharata Natyam style in March. The entire FCDD community was welcome to observe and participate. Photo by Ed Bock

The day before the Martha Graham Dance Company performed at the UMass Fine Arts Center in November, Rehearsal Director Denise Vale led two intermediate master classes in modern dance: one strictly for FCDD dancers; and one open to both FCDD dancers and the wider local dance community.

In April, Stephen Petronio Company, led by Artistic Director Stephen Petronio (HC ’78) returned to Amherst to perform at the UMass Fine Arts Center. While here, Stephen and Assistant to the Artistic Director Gino Grenek taught an intermediate/advanced modern master class for Five College dancers. Photo by Sarah Silver

Since its inception, it has been well known that the UMass Dance Program has, according to a 2009 report by architecture firm Burt Hill, suffered in a “poorly configured” space that does not lend itself to “a strong identity.” In 2015, the program will celebrate its 35th year as a degree-conferring program and it is with much anticipation that long-awaited facility changes will take place to highlight this milestone.

As of fall 2015, all scheduled courses will move from the basement studio 13 into the open gymnasium upstairs in Totman Building. The immediate plans are to install a 40ft x 50ft sprung floor as well as appropriate barres, mirrors and lighting. Already, UMass Dance has eagerly used the space to audition for the fall’s guest artist work for the annual University Dancers concert.

UP FROM THE BASEMENT: UMASS DANCE ELEVATES THEIR FACILITIES

The next step of this initial phase for the future is initiating a discussion with UMass Facilities & Campus Services to “put in the cue” to repurpose the gym to accommodate a studio theater, (at least) two large studios, and office space. Special thanks to Katherine S. Newman, who assumed the office of Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in fall 2014, Carol Barr, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Continuing Education, and their team of advisers and planners.
FACULTY UPDATES 2015

JIM COLEMAN and TERESI FREEDMAN (Professors, Mount Holyoke College) enjoyed a productive and much-appreciated sabbatical this year. Among several research projects, they studied new forms of movement practice, including a month-long Gaga intensive in Tel Aviv, as well as a number of body therapies—Taoist, Iyengar Yoga, Feldenkrais, and Clinical Somatic Education. They are developing a new course in somatics for fall 2016. They taught workshops, lectured, and resided at choreographic residencies in Seattle and Cyprus. Jim completed several documentary video projects and photographed dance companies in NYC. (Doug Varones and Dancers, Faye Driscoll, Michelle Dorrance) and Israel (Vered, Roy Assaf, Kolben Dance, Idan Cohen). Teresa trained and worked as a hospice volunteer in Holyoke, and Jim volunteered at Se-You-Feel-Film in Amherst. They created and performed a new duet. Under, for a shared concert in May with Paul Matteson and Aricka Nair at A.P.E. in Northampton.

PAUL DENNIS (Assistant Professor, Hampshire College) received a $10,000 Haminsh Fellowship in the Fine and Performing Arts for 2015–2016. This grant will fund the development of a new trios between Chris, Angie and Mike Vargas, a duet between Angie and Jennifer Nager, and a duet between Chris and Andrew Harwood. These new works will be performed in a spring concert entitled Bloom in the Hulman Flanagan Theater at Smith College in April 2016.

ROGER BLUM (Professor and Department Chair, Smith College) was delighted and humbled to receive the Shimmer Award for Distinguished Teaching in October. In November, he premiered a new work on the Smith College Faculty Concert, The Whole of Happiness, which was set on fifteen dancers to Baroque music. In May, he opened a reworking of his evening-length ballet, More Clearly in Dreams with funding from the Dunlap Foundation, and a Hampshire Performing Arts Grant. Based on the mind, imagination, writings, and art of Leonardo da Vinci, More Clearly in Dreams was set on eight professional dancers and two actors who were in residence at Smith College for a month.

CHRIS Aiken and ANGIE HAUSER (Assistant Professors, Smith College) each received a $10,000 Haminsh Fellowship in the Fine and Performing Arts for 2015–2016. This grant will fund the development of a new trios between Chris, Angie and Mike Vargas, a duet between Angie and Jennifer Nager, and a duet between Chris and Andrew Harwood. These new works will be performed in a spring concert entitled Bloom in the Hulman Flanagan Theater at Smith College in April 2016.

ROSE and CHARLES FLACH (Professors, Mount Holyoke College) Rose was recognized with a special award for her work as historian for CORPS de Ballet International Inc. during the conference at Pimburgh Ballet last summer. She resigned as committee chair, but will continue to serve in another capacity. Charles published an article on the history of The Nutcracker for the playbook of the premiere production of the Gran Rapids Ballet Company. He also collaborated with children’s author David Rockford creating a narrated dance production of the author’s Goodbye Gus to Hollywood for four local public schools. This was sponsored in part by a grant from the Holyoke and Chicopee local Cultural Councils, local agencies that are supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Rose and Charles served as rehearsal directors for the Kinison Chan ballet, stop, drop, performed on the Five College Faculty Dance Concert. They continue as Owners and Artistic Directors of the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet where students have won honors, scholarships and medals at the regional Youth American Grand Prix and the Connecticut Classic ballet competitions.

DEBORAH GOFFE (Assistant Professor, Hampshire College) Deborah’s first year at Hampshire College was filled with deeply meaningful collaborations with FCDL colleagues. In the fall, her company Scapogarden shared (re)Birth, an evening-length work presented at the Five College Faculty Dance Concert in February. In addition, she performed her solo work, re: Dream With Me, in the Amherst College faculty kick-off concert in October at the West End Theater in NYC as part of the Soaking Wet Festival and received wonderful reviews. For the Five College Faculty Dance Concert in February, she performed with Jennifer Nugent the historic Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane dance, Blown Mountain (A Fick). Her new group dance, slow slip down, features seven powerful performers and teachers in the FCDL. During summer 2015, Paul taught teaching in collaboration with Jennifer Wilber of Dancescarlett. Alongside the inspiring work that happens in the studio while teaching, Leslie created BODDY HOUSE, which was performed on the University Dance Concert at UMass in December, and the Five College Faculty Dance Concert in February. In addition, she performed her solo work, (re) Birth, in the Amherst College faculty kick-off concert in October.

LUSIS FRYE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Amherst and Mount Holyoke Colleges) performed her solo work, Rose, at the 11th Annual Grand Rapids Ballet Gala in November. In February, she performed alongside Leslie Frye Matteson and Jennifer Nugent the historic Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane dance, Blown Mountain (A Fick). Her new group dance, slow slip down, features seven powerful performers and teachers in the FCDL. During summer 2015, Paul taught

September In October, Leslie performed alongside Hampshire Dance Professor Deborah Goffe as a collaborator in her work (re)Birth. This spring, Leslie was invited by Paul Matteson to be one of seven incredible FCDL women to perform in his new work slow slip down. Look for more of Leslie’s work in NYC and beyond during fall 2015. lesliefryemaetta.com

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among

ROSE MAIETTA (Assistant Professor, Smith College) was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies during 2014–15. There, she continued work on a book manuscript about the history of the National Ballet of Cuba. Among
The FCDD is thrilled to welcome incoming Production Manager Matthew Adelson. Matthew has worked in lighting design and production management since 1996. From 2000 to 2005, he was the Production Coordinator for the Dance Department at New York University/Tisch School of the Arts, and from 2005 to 2015 was the lighting designer for the Dance Department at Williams College. Additionally, from 2005 to 2014, Matthew was the Director of Production for the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, MA. His work in the Pioneer Valley includes four years as the Production Manager for the Yidstock Festival of new Yiddish Music at the Yiddish Book Center. Matthew is a graduate of SUNY Albany and the Yale School of Drama.

SUSAN WALHTNER (FCDD Chair) From a very nice three-year retirement filled with dancing, teaching, volunteering, and learning about things not dance-related, Susan, Professor Emerita from Smith, has just completed the first of a two-year agreement to Chair the FCDD. She finds the Department as vibrant as ever, and has particularly enjoyed getting to know the new, younger (not yet tenured) faculty, who are full of astonishing creativity and commitment to the educational mission of the FCDD.

WENDY WOODSON (Professor, Amherst College) During her sabbatical, Wendy returned for a fourth time to Australia where she is an International Artist in Residence at RMIT to rehearse her new play, Dora, which was performed at the La Mama Melbourne Theater for two weeks in June. Dora was performed in Amherst in fall 2014 with Peter Schmitz and Wendy as the actors. In the Melbourne version, Wendy performed with an Australian actor, and Peter directed. Wendy received a Faculty Research Award from Amherst College to support her work in Australia.

OLANA FLYNN

Olana Flynn (HC ’13), the FCDD’s new Production Assistant, is a Hampshire College graduate in performance and choreography who is very familiar with the Five College Dance program. Having experienced the production process in nearly every position, since graduation, she has continued to choreograph, perform, and produce, and to teach as an adjunct faculty member at Springfield College, while working in administration at Pioneer Valley Ballet.

ENTRANCES

COMING DECEMBER 2015!

UMass Music & Dance has invited 10 alumni to choreograph for an eclectic version of The Nutcracker to be performed on the 2015 University Dancers Concert with live music from the UMass Jazz Ensemble playing Duke Ellington’s jazzed-up version of Tchaikovsky’s famous music.
CAMERON ALLSHOUSE (MHC ’01) choreographed Pittsfield High School’s spring musical for the second year in a row. Last year, she co-choreographed Cats, and this year, she choreographed Urinetown. The different dance styles she studied at MHC have really helped her as a musical theater choreographer.

CHRISTIANA AXELSEN (MHC ’05) is excited to be heading to France for a couple of months, where she’ll dance for Christopher Williams, an NYC-based choreographer in residence at the Opéra National de Bordeaux with director Michel Fau and Raphaël Pichon of Ensemble Pygmalion creating choreography for Rameau’s Dardanus. They will perform in Bordeaux and Versailles. Caitlin Scranton (SC ’05) is also dancing in the project. It’s a small Five College-filled world!

WENDY WOOD BARLETTA (UM ’86) produces and directs an annual dance fundraiser that bridges the gap between local dance studios and Manhattan professionals. They perform to raise funds to help improve lives in their community. For the past several years, the showcase has benefitted the Avon Foundation’s Breast Cancer Crusade and their Domestic Violence campaign. If you’re an alum, and wish to have your company represented in the next annual fundraiser, held each March, reach out to Wendy at danceworks2000@aol.com.

NICOLE BINDLER (HC ’99) received her BMC Somatic Movement Educator certification at Moveus in Germany. In September, Nicole and Gabrielle Revlock performed a 5-minute derivative of The Dance Apocalypse called Sauvre as part of the DANCENOw Joe’s Pub Festival at The Public Theater in NYC. She continues to write for dlIKINGDANCE and work at Mascher Space Cooperative in Philadelphia.

REBECCA BOUGE (SC ’08) has choreographed and produced ten original ballets on a small group of dancers in Manhattan. Like her, several of these dancers are recovering from traumatic brain injuries and, they too, are physically handicapped. She is currently working on her eleventh ballet Fish Dinner.

KIM BRANDT (HC ’01) premiered a new durational work, Landscaping, at Audio Visual Arts in NYC in February.

LAUREN ERIN BROWN (SC ’98) is an Assistant Professor of History at Marymount Manhattan College in NYC. She continues to write and research on Cold War arts and dance diplomacy, work begun during her doctorate at Harvard, and continued as a Fulbright Scholar in Moscow. You may also find her, wearing the same warmers from college, in a Steps or Ballet Academy East class.

SHIRAH BURGEY (UM ’11) is a Doctor of Physical Therapy candidate at Northeastern University. She continues to work as a personal trainer, and performs and choreographs with Urbanity Underground, a contemporary dance company in Boston.

MORA CANTLIN (MHC ’05) works in the Audience Engagement/Marketing Department at the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College, and will graduate this year with an M.Ed in Health Promotion. She is a member of the Dartmouth Dance Ensemble under Guest Director John Heginbotham.

NICHOLE CANUSO (HC ’95) mounted a version of The Garden at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center in Maryland in September. She was also a guest choreographer at the Maggie Allesen National Center for Choreography in Tallahassee, and was honored to lead choreographic explorations with the dancers of AXIS Dance Company. nicholecanusodance.org

YANIRA CASTRO (AC ’94E) has been invited to participate in the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s Extended Life residency program for 2015–16. She is honored to join this amazing program that provides Extended Life artists with the tools, knowledge, and experience to generate greater sustainability for their careers, community connections, and development practices in their field. As part of the Extended Life program, she was invited to develop a new adaptation of her last work, Court/Garden, as part of the River To River Festival at Federal Hall National Memorial in June. She developed this work with 12 other artists, among them fellow alum, KATHY COUCH (AC ’94).

LAURA (SIMERAL) CHEVALIER (UM ’02) moved to the Berkshires with her husband and daughters to be the Fitness Director at Canyon Ranch. In this role, she is able to continue her passion for fitness, mind/body, movement, and dance.

MARYLLOYD CLAYTOR (MHC ’74) works for her nonprofit Marylloyd Claytor Dance Company, digitizing repertoire that has aired on cable access television. You can see her weekly series Claytor Studio & Gallery on Fridays at 2:00pm or 24/7 On Demand. marylloydclaytordancecompany.com.

RACHAEL COLLINS (UM ’05), building upon a scholarship she received from UM Dance during her last year of college to attend a Dance/Movement Therapy intensive at Aminio University, went to graduate school at Naropa University to become a Dance/Movement Therapist. She graduated in May 2015 and now works at a facility that serves children with severe emotional and behavioral challenges. She adores the work, and has really found her place, all because of the opportunity UM Dance gave her.

KATHY COUCH (AC ’94) continued her collaborations with a canary torsi/Yanira Castro with the premiere of Court/Garden, featuring PAMELA VAIL (SC MFA ’94), last October at Danspace Project. They remounted Court/Garden in June at Federal Hall in NYC as part of the River To River Festival. This spring marked the end of a two-year series of tour dates with Adele.
Myers and Dancers production of Einstein’s Happy Days, featuring KELLIE LYNN (SC MFA ’07), for which Kathy was the lighting and scenic designer. She will begin new collaborations with both Yanira and Adele later this summer. Kathy also continues to work with the Northampton Community Arts Trust, which will soon begin renovation on a new space for the arts in Northampton.

JESSICA COURTNEY (UM ’08) just finished her first year of graduate school at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. She’s working toward her Masters in Expressive Therapies: Dance Therapy, with a specialization in mental health counseling.

MILENA DABOVA (AC ’07) is an ensemble actor at Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield, MA, and performed with the company on the Amherst College campus in September. Double Edge’s outdoor spectacle presentation traveled from Frost Library through the Double Edge’s outdoor spectacle presentation space for the arts in Northampton.

MILENA DABOVA
Dance Therapy, with a specialization in mental health counseling.

Stephan Driscoll (UM ’73) was back on campus during fall 2014 as an Equity Artist-in-Residence to play Shylock in UMass Theater’s production of The Merchant of Venice. Stephen is an officer of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, and the opening performance of The Merchant of Venice was a UMass Theater benefit attended by State Treasurer Steven Grossman and State Auditor Suzanne Bump as well as many alumni. Dean Julie Hayes announced that Stephen will fund a scholarship for a UMass student to attend the British American Drama Academy at Oxford University.

ANN DUCHEM (UM ’88) is consulting on Time’s Up: Love, Friendship and Transformation Across the Fourth Dimension, a multi-media theater project written and directed by KYM MOORE (UM MFA in Directing ’92) at Brown University.

MARSHA EDDY (HC ’79) succeeded in making Moving For Life (MFL) a non-profit in New York this year. MFL, which has been helping survivors of cancer and other health challenges for over 15 years as a small cadre of volunteers, will now be training NYC-based dance and movement teachers to spread the power of MFL’s sensitive yet specific approach to healing through dance and movement. movingforlife.org

MELISSA EDWARDS (SC MFA ’13) begins her tenure-track position as a dance professor at McLennan Community College in Texas during fall 2015. The job entails teaching technique and revamping the dance program, as well as directing two productions every year—one dance concert and one musical. Melissa’s dance company, Project MESS, will relocate to Austin once she is settled.

ELISE EVANS (MHC ’10) lives in Seattle where she enjoys contra and West African dance. She enters the Masters of Public Administration program at the University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs in fall 2015.

OLIVIA FAUVIER (SC ’14) spent the last year as an Artist-in-Residence with Delfos Danza Contemporanea in Mazatlan, Mexico. There, she was given the opportunity to perform with four-year students in their final show—an unusual situation for a resident. The performance included choreography by Adam Bartuch, Mistrim Arajoo, Claudia LaVista and Omar Carrum, and a collaborative piece by the dancers under the guidance of Victor Manuel Ruis. Olivia was excited to dance with these incredible artists whom she respects so much. After Delfos, she plans to head to Seattle to attend the Strictly Seattle dance festival and international Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation, and check out the dance scene in that city.

DEANNA FLEYSHER (AC ’96) recently completed a 4-month tour with Burt Kapinski and the Naked Comedy workshops, taking her to Orlando, DC, Philadelphia, NY, Portland, Seattle, Bellingham, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and then overseas. She was thrilled to make her debut at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. buttcapinski.com.

KATHARINE FORLINE (MHC ’81) has been a massage therapist for 31 years, and still uses her kinesiology and physiology training from MHC every day. She recently began training in and teaching yoga Tune Up™, and her true love is InterPlay™. She meets with a wonderful group of InterPlayers, some of whom are “older” modern dancers, once a week and they dance, sing, laugh, cry, philosophize and generally allow their wise bodies to share a thing or two with their brains.

MARGARET (MOLLIE) FREDERIKSEN (MHC ’13) finished her first year of the Entry Level Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, and had her first full-time internship this summer. She also recently performed in repertory works with the North Shore Civic Ballet.

AMANDA FREDETT (UM ’13) works full-time in Clinical Research at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston. She works closely with doctors to coordinate the clinical trials for the hospital. She’s finishing up her final pre-requisites for Physician Assistant programs, to which she’ll be applying in the fall. She has also danced with Albano Ballet Company.

JULIE (KLEIN) GIBSON (MHC ’92) is Dance Educator at William Alexander Middle School 51 in Brooklyn. She teaches 200 students from beginner to pre-professional. Her curriculum includes ballet, Horton, Graham, West African, Jamaican Folk forms, Jazz, Musical Theatre dance, Hip-Hop, Contemporary and Dance Composition. Her students perform in two large dance concerts per year, and her Dance Company students have performed and/or collaborated with NYU, the 92nd Street Y, and at other public schools. Julie took ten of her Dance Company students for a two-week dance study program in Kingston, Jamaica during summer 2014. She continues to perform in faculty concerts at NYU, and spends the rest of her time being the busy and proud parent of two-year-old daughter Sanai.

MERLI GUERRA (MHC ’09) recently took over as Dance Critic for Boston and Greater New England at The Arts Fuse. Her 2014 project Night at the Tower, an outdoor community outreach project using video projection, dance, and local artwork, was selected as one of just three events (out of 5,000+ projects) to receive the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s prestigious 2015 Gold Star Award. Luminarium Dance Company, which Merli co-founded with KIMBERLEIGH HOLMAN (MHC ’09), is celebrating its fifth anniversary season in Boston.

NANCY GUNTHER (MHC ’97) and her husband Mick opened Centralia Ballet Academy in Centralia, WA six years ago. They have seen the school grow, and are starting to send students off to summer programs, and to the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. The school has become the home of Ballet Theatre of Washington, a non-profit student ballet company, for which Nancy and Mick are Co-Artistic Directors. They hope to move to
a new location soon, as they have outgrown their current space. centraliaballet.com

CJ HOLM (HC ‘04) and collaborator Krista Jansen premiered their newest work support/rereat at The Groundwork Festival at the Cora Studio in Red Hook, Brooklyn. CJ also returned to Earthdance as a 2015 EMERGE Artist-in-Residence.

REILLY HORAN (AC ‘13) finished her work as the graduate assistant in the Amherst College Theater and Dance Dept. this May; finished producing an Amherst College orientation program for incoming artists; toured with Serious Play Ensemble as the lighting designer for their production of for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf

Emily Jawadekar (MHC ‘10) moved to Boston last fall to get into filmmaking. She is working for a documentary film company in Cambridge, and took a film course at Harvard. She also joined an arts performance group called Intersections, for which she was in charge of choreography for nine dancers. inspiringinfluences.wordpress.com.

JANE JERARDI (HC ‘93) Documentation from Jane’s work Efficiency appeared at Sector 2337’s project space in tandem with her residency there, where she conducted research for her newest work Tenuous. Efficiency originated from a Washington Post commentary about our incessant desire for hyper-efficiency in the quest for more free time.

LUCILLE JUN (AC ‘08) is in South Korea performing with traditional Korean dance company Yeon. She’s one of three teachers choreographing for 250 people who have minimal dance experience for an upcoming festival in Seoul.

STEFANIE KARLIN (UM ’05) formed Squid MGMT, a West Coast dance artist and event management company. She represents Seattle-based dance artists, zoë/ juniper, Amy O’Neal, KT Niehoff, and Kate Wallick. This year her clients have successfully been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, as well as support from The MAP Fund, NPN, NDF and several local funding agencies. She has also booked tours to leading performance venues across the US and abroad.

SAM KENNEY (SC MFA ’04) is an Associate Professor at SUNY Fredonia. She’s also pursuing her 200-hour certification in Iyengar yoga.

MICHAELA KNAYF (UM ’10) is working with Sports & Wellness Physical Therapy in Franklin, MA to create a new physical therapy program just for dancers. Inspired by the Micheli Center of Boston Children’s Hospital, their mission is to safely rehabilitate dancers back in to class by creating an individualized program combining physical therapy healing, strength training, cross training, and safe dance technique practices to help rehabilitate and promote injury prevention.

BRITTNI LAQUIDARA (UM ’13) is dancing for Rhode Island-based Fusionworks Dance Company, making and selling visual art, working part-time at a Montessori school, and starting to dip her toes into choreography.

ELIZA LARSON (SC MFA ‘13) moved to Portland, Oregon in 2014, where she is teaching at Conduit and Bodyvos, and choreographing regionally. She continues to be the Marketing and Ad Manager for Contact Quarterly, and she co-directs the Mountain Empire Performance Collective, a long-distance company dedicated to alternative methods of creation, Mountain Empire has been selected to give a presentation titled Necessity Fuels Creativity: Explorations Long-distance Methods of Dance Collaboration, at the 2015 NDEO Conference in Phoenix. When not dancing, Eliza is the Marketing and Account Manager for Klarity Medical Products, occasionally putting her dance film technology skills to use by making promotional videos for medical thermoplastics.

LONA LEE (SC MFA ’09) lives and works in Phoenix, Arizona, where she is the Associate Director of Admissions at a private independent school, where she also manages a youth creative dance company. Outside of work, Lona regularly collaborates with a local non-profit called DUET, which serves the elderly and retired community. As a freelance artist for DUET, she leads workshops and dance classes with a focus on Mindful Movement and Ideokinesis. Lona is happily married to Erin Kearney and, together, they care for an old dog.

BETHANY LOUISOS (UM ’09) has worked with Maine-based modern dance companies Women’s Works, Collective Motion, and Bell and Basy Physical Theater. She has also done guest artist work with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the band Hi Tiger, Portland Public Schools, and Maine Arts Camp. Recently, Bethany collaborated with Portland organization Justice in the Body to develop a workshop series called Dance for Chronic Pain and Injury, and worked on a piece with drag company 5G for the Portland Pride launch party.

KELLY LYNNCH (SC MFA ’07) continues to tour nationally with Adley Myers and Dancers and Doug Elkins Choreography, Etc. In the last year, Kellyie was awarded a prestigious Arts Award from the Arts Council of Greater New Haven for her achievements in dance. During summer 2015, she attended the Bates Dance Festival as an Emerging Choreographer for which she received a creative residency, supported in part by NEFA, for the research and development of new choreographic ideas.

MEREDITH LYONS (SC MFA ’08) is a dual-cit y artist, performing and creating in Philadelphia and Portland, ME. She is the Admissions Director at Bates Dance Festival; on faculty in the dance departments of Bates, Colby, and Southern Maine Community Colleges, and Pure Movement Portland Pilates; and dances in the companies of Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion and Tori Lawrence Dance Co. During summer 2015, she presented her research with Rachel Boggia and Annie Kloppeenberg at the CORD/SDHSS joint conference in Athens, Greece, and the IDocDe Dance Pedagogy Symposium at Impulsatz in Vienna, Austria.

ROBERT MALOON (UM ’91) danced in the MIT company-in-residence, and modeled for a Steve Ray Vaughan statue/memorial. He has done shows in Branson, MO and Lake Tahoe, CA. He toured Europe with U.S. Department of Defense Department of MWR, and is a Fred Astaire impressionist.

MICHELLE MARROQUIN (HC ‘94, SC MFA ’10) performed Business Casual, a contemporary dance installation with live music by Tony Silva at Earthworks in Eastampton, MA. She also performed with The Team, a recently formed ensemble of visual and performing artists, as part of Open Studios—a yearly event at Earthworks that showcases local artists.

LEAH MORIARTY (UM ’10) is a Brooklyn-based dancer, teaching artist, choreographer and study abroad on-site coordinator. Over the past year she has worked with Movement Research Artist-in-Residence N’Ja Whitson and with Souleymane Badolo in Burkina Faso. Now, she is performing with contemporary African diasporic dance company Moving Spirits under the direction of Tamara LaDonna. She led a dance and drum three-week intensive program in Ghana through ArtWorldMusic in July. Leah is thrilled to rejoin the UM Dance community while setting work for this year’s Ellington Nutcracker, to be featured on the University Dancers Concert in December.

CATHY NICOLI (SC MFA ’04) continues as Assistant Professor of Dance and Performance Studies at Roger Williams University where she is also a member of the University’s Sustainability Committee, and is helping to design a new Interdisciplinary Collaborative Arts program. She has choreographed several dances and installation pieces this year: one a part of the American Library Association’s traveling exhibit, Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War, and one a part of Silent Witness Day, which acknowledges and remembers victims of domestic violence. Cathy also collaborated with Chris Lewis-Smith from Bath Spa University, UK to co-create and dance in a dance-for-film located in the Cutler Mill, Warren, RI and has danced in the work of Heidi Henderson, as well as her own.

FRITHA PENGELLY (HC ’94) performed Solving for Patterns in DanceNow 2014 at Joe’s Pub with fellow former Doug Elkins dancer Donnald Oakley.

STEPHEN PETRANIO (HC ’78) has been named a 2015 Doris Duke Artist. He is one of twenty performing artists who will receive $275,000 as an investment in their ongoing contributions to the fields of contemporary dance, theater, and jazz.

MARTA RENZI (HC ’74) has worked on several film projects, including Her Children Mourn, which screened at the Williamstown Film Festival, A Thousand Miles from the Sea, on the way to work, Las Madres, and Plou: Plant Reap. She attended the ACDA conference in March to talk about screen dance. martazenzi.blogspot.com.

JEN ROSENBLIT (HC ’05) was awarded a Bessie! In July 2014, she won the Emerging Choreographer award for Natural Dance, a
work performed at The Kitchen in NYC in May 2014. She also spent the year working with Neil Greenberg as part of The Award, a mentorship prize for young choreographers, that she was also awarded in 2014.

### RAIN ROSS

(MHC '00) is Associate Professor of Dance at Stockton University. Her current creative projects include a duet created by Meredith Rainey, and coordinating the Guest Artists for the International Dance Day Festival in Lebanon. She will be presenting her creative and theoretical research on cross-cultural exchange through dance in the Eastern Mediterranean this coming year, including presentations in Cyprus and New York.

### LESLIE ERIN ROTH

(AC '13) lives in Brooklyn, where she acts, writes plays, and teaches yoga. She’s a member of the Lark Literary Wing, and a resident actor with The Bats at The Flea. Apprenticing with yoga teacher Annie Piper at YogaLama, Leslie specializes in teaching yoga for actors. She recently made her clowning debut at the PIT and is training with teacher Christopher Bayes. Her new play, TRIGGER WARNING, had a roundtable at The Lark and a reading at Columbia University.

### AUDREY JEAN SAMARA

(U’82, SC MFA ’85) lives in Braintree, MA and teaches ballroom dance.

### LAURA ANN SAMUELSOn


### CLARE SCHWEITZER

(MHC ‘12) is working toward a Masters in Contemporary Dance Performance at the London Contemporary Dance School. She toured through the UK and Europe with EDge, the postgraduate company of the school, during the spring/summer.

### CAITLIN SCRANTON

(SC ‘05) lives in NYC and is a soloist with the Lucinda Childs Dance Company. She also dances for NYC-based choreographer Christopher Williams, and is currently touring with The Indian Queen, an opera directed by Peter Sellars, and a new production of Rameau’s Dardanus by the Opéra National de Bordeaux. When in NYC, she teaches company class for the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and was on faculty at the Taylor Summer Intensive this year. Caitlin is also a co-founder of The Blanket, an organization that aims to expand the dance community in Pittsburgh.

### TOMMY SEIBOLD

(UM’14) spent summer 2014 at the American Dance Festival, after which he moved to NYC, where he has been dancing at Flameng Salduto and The Banquet. He joined Ko-Ryo Dance Theater and Ben Munisteri for which he moved to NYC, where he has been 2014 at the American Dance Festival, after which he moved to NYC, where he has been as an apprentice of Raja Kelly and Naomi Goldberg Haas/ Dances For A Variable Population. Rebecca is a freelance dance teacher, as well as the Programs and Operations Manager of The Feldenkrais Foundation of New York.

### KELLY SILLIMAN

(SC MFA ’13) continues her work as a dance artist and educator in Northampton, and is the director of the tinydance project, an ultra-low-tech arts and sustainability endeavor for which she tow a 4’ by 8’ stage by bicycle to performances. She was recently appointed a Five College Associate, and presented her research on producing dance in an era of limited resources at the SDHAC CORD conference in Athens, Greece in June 2015.

### TONY SILVA

(UM ‘94) is in his eleventh year accompanying classes for the FCDP. He plays regularly at ACDFA, VDAM, Earthdance and many other dance events. He is currently scoring a major dance event for his wife Michelle Marroquin.

### STEPHANIE SIMPSON

(SC MFA ’12) is developing the dance program at Riverdale Country School in NYC. In addition, she is Co-Artistic Director of Reject Dance Theatre, a contemporary dance company based in NYC and Boston. Stephanie continues to pursue her research in the mind/body connection and peak performance through her one-on-one work as a yoga teacher, life coach, and dance coach for My College Audition.

### SARAH SKEST

(AC ‘10E) works as an actor. She went to Maggie Flanigan Studio, a Meisner conservatory in NYC, for two years, and has been in numerous plays and films. Most recently, she played a 1940s femme fatale in Kill Me Like You Mean It opposite Nathan Darrow from House of Cards.

### REBECCA STEINBERG

(U’13) lives and dances in NYC. She works as the Marketing and Recruitment Director for Vertigo Dance Company’s International Dance Program, and dances for Reject Dance Theatre and Donofrio Dance Company, among others.

### KARINNE KEITHLEY SYERS

(HC ‘96) is a dance/movement therapist and licensed professional counselor in private practice in New Jersey. She continues to dance regionally and teach part time.

### CAT WAGNER

(SC MFA ’13) resides in Brooklyn, where she works as a dance teaching artist in studios and schools throughout NYC. She presented a duet, Run by Men: The Girls are Hungry, at Brandeis University’s Festival of the Arts in April. Cat is also collaborating with KELLY SILLIMAN (SC MFA ’13) on a duet entitled The Real Route.

### KRISTEN DUFFY YOUNG

(UM’00) is in her ninth year as Director of the Colleges of the Fenway Dance Project. This spring/summer she performed her newest work about motherhood in Cambridge and Salem, and presented at the International Conference on Somatics-Based Dance.

### JOANNE CASEY ZULLIG

(U’83) is a dance/movement therapist and licensed professional counselor in private practice in New Jersey. She continues to dance regionally and teach part time.

### STEPHEN TRACEY-URSPRUNG

( Smith MFA ’12) is in his third year of co-directing Reject Dance Theatre—now based in both Boston and NYC. The company has spent the past year touring its first collaborative evening-length piece, The Territory Suites, at venues such as Triskelion Arts, The Riverdale School, Green Space, and the Dance Complex.

### CHRISTEN VAN YUR

(U’12) just finished her third season as a Celts Dancer and her first season as Team Captain. During her time with the Celts, Christen has been invited to attend Pro-Action, a pro-dance choreography convention in Las Vegas, and has traveled to Mexico City with the NBA Jam Van Tour. She has also choreographed for the Celts Dancers and for the Northeastern University Dance Team.

### CAT WAGNER

(SC MFA ’13) resides in Brooklyn, where she works as a dance teaching artist in studios and schools throughout NYC. She presented a duet, Run by Men: The Girls are Hungry, at Brandeis University’s Festival of the Arts in April. Cat is also collaborating with KELLY SILLIMAN (SC MFA ’13) on a duet entitled The Real Route.

### KRISTEN DUFFY YOUNG

(UM’00) is in her ninth year as Director of the Colleges of the Fenway Dance Project. This spring/summer she performed her newest work about motherhood in Cambridge and Salem, and presented at the International Conference on Somatics-Based Dance.

### JOANNE CASEY ZULLIG

(U’83) is a dance/movement therapist and licensed professional counselor in private practice in New Jersey. She continues to dance regionally and teach part time.

### STEPHEN TRACEY-URSPRUNG

( Smith MFA ’12) is in his third year of co-directing Reject Dance Theatre—now based in both Boston and NYC. The company has spent the past year touring its first collaborative evening-length piece, The Territory Suites, at venues such as Triskelion Arts, The Riverdale School, Green Space, and the Dance Complex.

### CHRISTEN VAN YUR

(U’12) just finished her third season as a Celts Dancer and her first season as Team Captain. During her time with the Celts, Christen has been invited to attend Pro-Action, a pro-dance choreography convention in Las Vegas, and has traveled to Mexico City with the NBA Jam Van Tour. She has also choreographed for the Celts Dancers and for the Northeastern University Dance Team.

### CAT WAGNER

(SC MFA ’13) resides in Brooklyn, where she works as a dance teaching artist in studios and schools throughout NYC. She presented a duet, Run by Men: The Girls are Hungry, at Brandeis University’s Festival of the Arts in April. Cat is also collaborating with KELLY SILLIMAN (SC MFA ’13) on a duet entitled The Real Route.

### KRISTEN DUFFY YOUNG

(UM’00) is in her ninth year as Director of the Colleges of the Fenway Dance Project. This spring/summer she performed her newest work about motherhood in Cambridge and Salem, and presented at the International Conference on Somatics-Based Dance.

### JOANNE CASEY ZULLIG

(U’83) is a dance/movement therapist and licensed professional counselor in private practice in New Jersey. She continues to dance regionally and teach part time.
BECKY NORDSTROM

Longtime FCDD and Hampshire College Faculty Member Becky Nordstrom retired this spring after 34 extraordinary years of teaching, choreographing, and performing, and many years of excellent administration, including a term as FCDD Chair and many years coordinating the Hampshire College Dance Program. She is short, curly haired, thoughtful and generous to students and colleagues alike, but also able to express deep passion, whether as a performer, as a teacher, or in support of student work or dance as an educational and/or art form. As a teacher, Becky taught modern technique, composition, many Division II and III and First Year Seminars, Somatic Practices, and particularly valued by everyone in the FCDD, two levels of Laban Movement Analysis. She was a muse for many Five College faculty choreographers, including former UMass Professor Richard Jones, who created a profoundly moving solo for her about Édith Piaf; and a long-term connection with Billbob Brown and Chaos Theory Dance. Becky and Billbob collaborated on several quirky and delightful duets that were performed locally, nationally, and in Europe. She will be terribly missed.

BILLBOB BROWN

In a surprise exit, Billbob Brown, Professor of Dance at UMass, resigned mid-year to become the Chair of the School of Dance at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. His high-energy teaching, performing, choreography and mentoring of students, as well as his leadership of the UMass Dance Program were appreciated by students and faculty alike. We wish him well in his new work.

JEAN BAXTER

After nearly 40 years with the FCDD, at first as Executive Secretary, and for many years as Production Manager, Jean Baxter retired this summer. She has miraculously seen that the 35 performance events produced yearly in the Department have run smoothly and successfully, and that each choreographer has her/his work shown with full theatrical support. With the help of Production Assistant Gwen Niven, who is also leaving, productions have been brilliantly organized, publicized, and supported on each campus. Generations of students have enjoyed working as crew members, stage managers, sound operators, and house managers under Jean’s mentorship and encouragement. She will be staying in the area and working in lighting and facilities design for dance. Jean says, “It’s time for me to move on and spend more time on the things I really love—dance lighting, Girl Scouts, and family.” The FCDD owes a measure of its vitality and success to Jean Baxter. We will miss her.

GWENDOLYN NIVEN

Gwendolyn Niven (HC ’07) has been accepted into Tufts University’s Occupational Therapy Program, and will start there this fall. She thanks all the FCDD students, faculty, and staff past and present who have taught her so much and shared so many joys over the past twelve years (four as a Hampshire student; eight as our wonderful Production Assistant). She hopes everyone will continue sharing their joys, and wishes everyone the best. And we wish the best for her, and offer our huge thanks for helping make being backstage in the FCDD an enriching and fun educational experience.

ALLISON SMARTT

After eight years with the FCDD, Allison Smartt (HC ’11) is embarking on a new adventure. She has worked for both the Hampshire Dance Program and the Mount Holyoke Dance Department. Now, she’s the proud owner of Smartt Productions, which provides production services for performances and films that have a social justice focus. Her current project, Mixed-Race Mixtape will be on tour this fall. Allison is incredibly grateful for all the mentorship, support, training and love she’s been privy to in the FCDD. MixedRaceMixtape.com

Jean Baxter being honored by FCDD faculty at her Reboot retirement party. Photo by Tony Silva

Becky Nordstrom in One Perfect Rose. Photo by Marilyn Patton

Gwendolyn Niven (HC ’07) in the United States Senate. Photo by Tony Silva

Allison Smartt in the United States Senate. Photo by Tony Silva