



# Boston University's Dance Theatre Group Alumni Newsletter

Vol. 52 Fall 2020

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Note from Micki	1
DTG Happenings	1
Bonding Events	2
Residency	2
Alternate ACDA	3
Origins 2020	3
Tribute to Margot	4
Faculty Updates	5
Alumni Updates	6
Donation History	7

## BACKSTAGE CREW

### Contributing Writers

Claire-Solène Bečka  
 Angela Lian  
 Avery Pelosi  
 Audrey Porter  
 Micki Taylor-Pinney  
 Ally Tellstone  
 Hannah Tracy  
 Grace Tuffy

### Editor/Designer

Claire-Solène Bečka



DTG



@bostonudtg



@BUDTG

## A Note From Micki

Hello DTGers,



I hope this finds you and your loved ones well. In such trying times, I am always looking for ways to find activities and observations that bring solace, joy, and hope. It does take some effort to tune out noise and anxiety but here are some of the high points I wanted to share.

A friend said the other day she was giving up exercise and instead had started dancing around her house. All those on the Zoom call (yet another) agreed they'd been doing the same thing. Granted, this was all members of the company I danced with for decades, but it reminded me that I needed to do that more often.

Watching other people dance has brought great joy even when they are little tiles on a screen. The joy on the faces of the Reach teens working with campers at home in their living rooms reminded me how cool it is to move with such abandon. It is incredible what dance companies are churning out to stay viable, sane, and hopeful. It is impressive to witness the creativity up close. In October, I was enthused to see our students taking class with our guest artist (thank you, Friends of DTG). It was tangible that they were inspired by the work Amirah shared as a hip hop dancer and activist and empowered to be bold and courageous.

When getting outside becomes essential as an antidote, how pleasing it is to see the motion of waves, trees, wind, and critters. Breathing deep and taking it all in to calm the nerves. Our COVID-19 news is the dance theater is closed until further notice. DTG has been forced to rehearse outdoors. Most classes are remote. But we persist. Finding ways and places to dance, stay connected, be creative, generous with ourselves and others, and hoping for the best. I hope you are, too. I'm always grateful for the DTG community! Thank you for being in touch and for your support, as you are able.

**CONTRIBUTE TODAY!**  
 Support Residencies, Master Classes, ACDA, Choreolab, Aurora Borealis, Dance Showcase, and Reunions!

 <p>Visit <a href="http://www.bu.edu/fitrec/dance/donate">www.bu.edu/fitrec/dance/donate</a>, select Terrier Pride Giving, and designate your gift to Friends of BU Dance Theatre Group (4021-3)</p>	 <p>Mail your donation to BU Dance Program, attn: Friends of BU Dance Theatre Group, 915 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215</p>
---	---

Sending love and best wishes,

*Micki*

## Dance Theatre Group Happenings

### Claire-Solène Bečka ('21)

Dance Theatre Group is thrilled to be back — virtually — this semester after such an eventful few months. This semester, DTG is following Boston University's *Learn from Anywhere* plan, and is planning a variety of hybrid and virtual events for our members. Though many DTGers have returned to Boston, we have dancers calling in from as far as Brazil to participate in rehearsals and master classes. This semester, we are excited to have one new e-board member, Audrey Porter, as secretary, as well as welcoming back Hannah Tracy as social media chair, Ally Tellstone as treasurer, Angela Lian as PR coordinator, Avery Pelosi as concert coordinator, Grace Tuffy as vice president, and Claire-Solène Bečka as president.

Though our first meeting looked different than normal, we were delighted to welcome so

many old and new faces to our group. Following the meeting, our faculty advisor and mentor, Micki Taylor-Pinney, taught an online modern dance class on Zoom. It was so nice to dance together again, even if we were all tuning in from our own dorm rooms!

In the following weeks, we took a thought-provoking improvisation class with our mentor and DTG alum, Liz Roncka, enjoyed pilates with our third mentor, Ann Brown Allen, and had a blast dancing with Mcebisi Xotyeni in his afro-contemporary class. This semester, we also had a virtual webinar with DTG alum Olivia Blaisdell, who gave us a wealth of information on how to create dance specifically for film. We also welcomed Amirah Sackett, artist-in-residence this semester, for an incredible hip-hop class and lecture-demonstration. Looking

forward, we have a lively cha-cha class planned with Eileen Herman-Haase; we will have to get creative to ballroom dance without a partner!

Bonding events are certainly non-traditional this year, as we are unable to attend any live performances. Still, we are finding ways of connecting - whether simply for Zoom games and silliness, or more formal discussions and virtual performances. Though we may be physically distanced, we are still socially close.

Origins Online preparation is going well. Choreographers are working to not only carefully compose pieces, but experimenting with the best ways to film and edit videos. The pieces look wonderful already, and I can't wait to see how the final versions turn out. We hope that you will tune in on November 20th for the virtual premiere of Origins Online!

# Bonding Events in the Time of COVID-19

## Audrey Porter ('23)

While the coronavirus pandemic has undoubtedly affected everyone's ability to hang out in-person, DTG has still been committed to cultivating the same level of community with our bonding events this fall. Each semester, DTG holds bonding events outside of weekly classes and rehearsals to give dancers the opportunity to meet and grow closer. Despite the circumstances that COVID-19 has imposed, we were and still are excited for this semester's bonding events! We held our first zoom bonding event in September where new and old DTG members got to introduce themselves and catch-up. After introductions, everyone participated in a series of fun online games where everyone's creativity was put to the test. Our second bonding event was a Dance & Spirituality Panel on October 21st where BU Dance residency artist Amirah Sackett was a guest speaker. Amirah was joined by Ty Defoe (Writer and Interdisciplinary Artist), Shreelina Ghosh (Assistant Professor, English, Gannon University), and Carrie Preston (Professor of

English and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality, and Director of Kilachand Honors College, Boston University) for this virtual panel discussion. The guest speakers discussed how spirituality in dance is manifested in diverse,

complex ways, varying across cultures. Looking ahead, DTG will be holding a movie discussion on November 7th where DTG members will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ask questions about the film *Black Ballerina*. Shortly after, on November 11th, DTG will host Ebony Day Dance Company for a virtual panel discussion. During this discussion, Ebony Day and other company members will speak about their experiences as Black dancers in a predominantly White university program and dance world. Finally, we hope you all tune in to stream Origins Online with us on November 20th! We will also be hosting a Blaze Pizza fundraiser on performance day, so grab a pizza and friends to watch the show! Finally, we will wrap up the semester with our traditional (although virtual) pizza party on December 3. Despite the challenges COVID-19 has brought on, we are immensely grateful to still be able to connect with one another.

**DTG BONDING EVENTS**  
**Fall 2020**

<b>ARTIST IN RESIDENCY: AMIRAH SACKETT</b> - JOIN AFTER INITIATIVES VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION ON DANCE & SPIRITUALITY WITH ARTIST IN RESIDENCY, AMIRAH SACKETT. VISIT: BU.EDU/ARTS/AMIRAH <b>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21</b> 4:00PM - 5:30PM	<b>MOVIE DISCUSSION OF BLACK BALLERINA</b> - WATCH BLACK BALLERINA ON YOUR OWN PRIOR TO OUR MEETING AND BRING YOUR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND INSIGHTS TO OUR MOVIE DISCUSSION ON ZOOM. <b>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7</b> 5:00PM
<b>EBONY DAY DANCE COMPANY VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION</b> - JOIN US AS WE HEAR FROM EBONY DAY, A BLACK ARTIST, DANCER & CREATOR OF EBONY DAY DANCE COMPANY, AS SHE SHARES HER EXPERIENCES AS A BLACK DANCER AND ARTIST IN THE DANCE INDUSTRY. <b>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11</b> 7:00PM	<b>TRIBUTE TO MARGOT PARSONS</b> - AS PART OF THE ANNUAL DTG REUNION, THERE WILL BE A TRIBUTE TO MARGOT PARSONS IN CELEBRATION OF HER 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY! JOIN US ON ZOOM! <b>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19</b> 7:00PM - 8:30PM
<b>ORIGINS ONLINE PREMIERE AT 8PM &amp; BLAZE FUNDRAISER</b> - PAIR YOUR VIEWING OF OUR END-OF-SEMESTER SHOW "ORIGINS ONLINE" WITH BLAZE PIZZA! ORDER TAKEOUT USING THE BLAZE APP OR ONLINE AT BLAZEPIZZA.COM. MAKE SURE YOU ORDER FROM THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY BLAZE LOCATION AND SHOW THE FLYER OR AFBV BLAZE FUNDRAISER AT CHECKOUT! 20% OF PROCEEDS WILL GO TO DTG! <b>FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20</b> ORDER BETWEEN 5:30PM - 9:30PM	<b>END OF SEMESTER PIZZA PARTY ON ZOOM!</b> - JOIN US AT OUR VIRTUAL "PIZZA PARTY" TO CELEBRATE THE END OF AN AMAZING SEMESTER IN DTG! <b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3</b> 7:00PM

\*KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS ON THESE EVENTS SENT TO YOU VIA EMAIL FROM DTG@BU.EDU

# Amirah Sackett Residency

## Angela Lian ('21)

This semester, we were so pleased to host Amirah Sackett as our residency guest artist.



An internationally recognized hip-hop dancer, choreographer, and teacher, Amirah Sackett explores and embodies her Muslim American identity by combining hip-hop movement and Islamic themes. She is widely known for her creation of the choreography and performance group known as, "We're Muslim, Don't Panic," which reached viral video fame after being featured on POPSUGAR Celebrity, The Huffington Post, AJ+, and Upworthy. Sackett was honored to be a TEDx speaker, guest lecturer at Harvard University, and a cultural

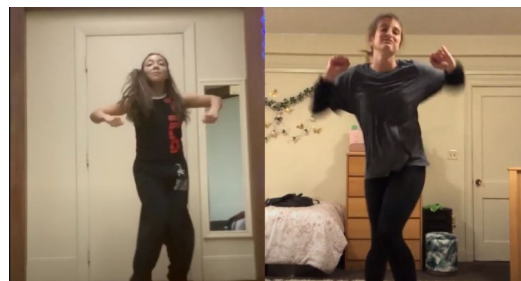
diplomat with the U.S. State Department in Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Kuwait.

Even though she couldn't be with us completely in person, Amirah had a chance to guest lecture in various academic and dance technique classes, participate in a panel discussion on Dance & Spirituality, and present a lecture and demonstration, which included several "live" performances. Amirah's masterclass was the first popping and locking experience for many DTGers, but she made it so fun to just play with our bodies' abilities. Her lecture-demonstration was definitely memorable and her story touched our hearts. We're inspired by Amirah's ability to bring her identity into her work and share with others too.

DTG dancers also had the opportunity to participate in her lecture-demonstration by learning and submitting a short combination. The hip-hop choreography was so fun and at the end of the lecture-demonstration, she showed a compilation she made with everyone's dance videos! It was a great chance to

immerse ourselves into choreography that has such a rich culture. We're grateful to have hosted Amirah Sackett and highly recommend everyone getting to know her work!

You can watch the recorded and captioned video from the Lecture and Demonstration here: <https://youtu.be/NUJkSyOr9I0>



DTGers in Amirah Sackett's video, "North Cack."

## An Alternate ACDA

Avery Pelosi ('22) & Ally Tellstone ('23)

ACDA has been such a vital part of Dance Theatre Group over the years. From traveling to different colleges around New England to perform, to taking a variety of dance classes with new instructors, and staying in a hotel for a weekend as a group, we always look forward to it every year. It has been an amazing bonding experience for our group to not only grow as dancers with the compositional feedback we receive from the piece we perform, but we get closer with one another as we all come together for a weekend full of dance.

Since we cannot go to ACDA this year, we are bringing it to us! We are planning on inviting a few schools from all over the north east to join us as they would usually be participating in ACDA with us! Our ACDA alternate will include virtual sharing showings of choreography and classes, as well as a dinner and discussion for all of us to bond and talk about ACDA. Choreographers from this semester will have a chance to have their piece selected for the performance and then all the

dancers involved will learn these pieces selected. We are so excited to be carrying on with this tradition even in the craziness of this year! Since this year is a little different and funding doesn't look the same as usual, we are asking for donations to help fund this amazing experience.



Photo Credit: Angela Lian

Avery here- as a current Senior at BU, it is sad that our year won't get a final ACDA experience, traveling to a new college to

perform and dance, but I will cherish the memories I have from the one conference I got to be a part of. I had the chance to attend the ACDA conference my Sophomore year and it was one of my favorite memories of both DTG and while being at BU. I felt that I had grown even more as a dancer in one weekend by taking a range of different styled dance classes, some of which were out of my comfort zone, and hearing such essential compositional feedback for not only the piece we performed, but from the other colleges who also performed. I loved every moment from that weekend and the amazing bonding experience we had as a group.

DTG cherishes this event annually and are sad to see it has been cancelled for the Spring 2021 semester due to COVID. But we are looking forward to creating our own version of ACDA in the Spring on a smaller scale and in a virtual way to be able to have this opportunity that we always look forward to.

## Origins Online Preview

Avery Pelosi ('22)

While Origins 202 will certainly look different this year, we are thrilled to offer you a preview of what looks to be an exciting and creative virtual performance. This semester, we have the opportunity to think about filming and video editing in addition to the traditional choreography. The videos so far are diverse and inventive, and we are excited to see the final products!

Choreographers could choose to either choreograph completely remotely or rehearse outdoors. Claire-Solène Bečka chose to rehearse outdoors, working with her cast of four to create a piece inspired from her time working out at the park over the summer. She is exploring how athletic and repetitive movement can be layered to create a dance.

Sarah Kaul, a first time choreographer, is rehearsing and recording her choreography entirely over Zoom. Her piece explores the daily lives we live in our rooms, from waking up and getting out of bed, to moving to our desks to take online classes.

Nanaka Kawada is returning as a choreographer to explore her passion for neuroscience through dance. Using creative angles with Zoom, Nanaka is interested in showing only specific parts of the body. She is using her dancers' hands and feet to represent the synapses in the brain.

We hope you all will attend our virtual premiere of Origins Online on November 20th at 8pm. The performance will show on Youtube, and there is a suggested donation via the Eventbrite link on the Facebook page to support the Reach Outreach Program. We are excited to see the creativity and ingenuity of our choreographers, and hope you will enjoy the show!

BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S DANCE THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS

# ORIGINS 2021 ONLINE

PREMIERING ON YOUTUBE @ 8 PM

**NOVEMBER 20**

**SUGGESTED DONATION**

\$10 PAYABLE UPON REGISTRATION TO SUPPORT REACH OUTREACH PROGRAM

PARTIALLY FUNDED BY YOUR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FEE

# A Tribute to Margot Parsons

## Hannah Tracy ('23)

Even with a virtual semester, DTG is still celebrating and keeping our community connected. The BU DTG Alumni Reunion will take place Thursday, November 19 through Saturday, November 21. We have three fantastic events planned for you all to celebrate and connect with our DTG family. On Thursday from 7-8:30 PM, we will have our tribute to Margot Parsons followed by a reception. Friday night will be the premiere of *Origins 2020* at 8 PM followed by a reception with DTG-themed cocktails/mocktails. And Saturday morning we will have a ballet class with Margot Parsons at 11 am. Please RSVP to [lizronck@bu.edu](mailto:lizronck@bu.edu) to receive event Zoom links.

We are thrilled to be honoring Margot Parsons' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at BU. Margot is an integral part of the BU dance community and our program would not be the same without her. Margot began dance at the age of 8 and went on to become a professional dancer. She eventually founded her own company,

DanceVisions, Inc. based out of Cambridge and Boston. Margot has taught at Boston University, Boston College, Harvard, and The Dance Complex. She is married to Bill Parsons and has two sons who have supported her dance career and her artistic endeavors. Margot was recently honored as a 2020 Boston Dance Alliance Champion. She has trained with some of the best dancers in the world and performed around the country.

I have had the privilege of taking her ballet class every semester at BU so far, and I can truly say she has touched my life in so many ways, as I know she has done for each of her students. The day I visited BU during my senior year of high school, she allowed me to sit in on one of her ballet classes. I was so inspired by her teaching style and her energy. She was an integral part of my decision to come to BU and pursue the dance minor. Margot always encourages her students to be the best version of themselves, as both

dancers and humans. She prioritizes hard work, but also wants each and every one of us to take care of our mental and physical health. Margot is always asking about our lives, how we are doing, how school is going, and what we want to see out of her classes. We are so blessed to have a teacher who cares so much about us and inspires us to achieve our goals. When the COVID-19 pandemic first began, Margot immediately pivoted to offering Zoom ballet classes. She continued this throughout the summer, sacrificing her time to teach her students multiple times a week. We are so happy to have Margot with us this year, helping us to navigate the new landscape of the dance community and the ever-changing world. Even through a Zoom screen, Margot makes her class feel as connected as ever. Please join us in honoring and celebrating Margot's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



The poster features a black background with gold text and decorative elements. At the top, it reads "BU DTG REUNION 2020" in large, bold, gold letters. Below this, it says "Honoring Margot Parsons' 30th anniversary at BU" and "November 19 - 21, 2020 on Zoom". In the center is a portrait of Margot Parsons, a woman with dark hair, smiling. To the left of the portrait, it lists the events for Thursday, November 19: "Tribute to Margot Parsons 7-8:30pm Followed by Reception". To the right, it lists the events for Saturday, November 21: "Ballet Class with Margot Parsons 11am-12:30pm". At the bottom, it says "Friday, November 20 Premier of Origins 2020 8pm Followed by Reception". At the very bottom, it says "Please RSVP to [lizronck@bu.edu](mailto:lizronck@bu.edu) to receive event zoom links." The poster is framed by gold decorative lines with leaf and berry motifs.

**BU DTG  
REUNION 2020**

Honoring Margot Parsons' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at BU  
November 19 - 21, 2020 on Zoom



Thursday, November 19  
Tribute to  
Margot Parsons  
7-8:30pm Followed by  
Reception

Friday, November 20  
Premier of *Origins 2020*  
8pm Followed by  
Reception

Saturday, November 21  
Ballet Class with  
Margot Parsons  
11am-12:30pm

Please RSVP to [lizronck@bu.edu](mailto:lizronck@bu.edu)  
to receive event zoom links.

## Faculty Updates

**Ramelle Adams** had a sudden pandemic-triggered job change in August 2020 when she transferred out of PERD to a new position as Finance and Operations Administrator for Healthway at Boston University. She is on a team that manages the back end of the Back2BU COVID 19 response: Collection Sites, Labs, Triage, and Contact Tracing. She greatly misses her dance-related jobs as House Manager at the BU Dance Theater, and as a Movement instructor at the Gardner Pilot Academy. On weekends, she still works as a CNA at a skilled nursing unit in Lincoln. As expected, that work has picked up in pace. For fun, nature has been a great mood elevator, and she has been jogging for exercise through the fields and woods of Lincoln. No new hobbies, but organizing her collection of DTG and improv class photos and videos is on the prospective list! Kaitlyn is still happy in Washington, D.C. though returning to Boston is her future hope. Jesse is thriving as a software engineer at Wayfair.

**Ann Brown Allen** had a quiet summer. She mentored the Reach program and participated in 'Postcards from the Front' with Peter DiMuro's Public Displays of Motion. This fall she's teaching 6 classes remotely and 4 classes in person. She misses seeing other students and faculty in the dance program. She's mentoring DTG and looks forward to the concert season. Ann is choreographing 'The Universe and Other Stuff' for her children's theater group. She's also busy fundraising for The Dance Complex. Ann is grateful for all the support she gets from the BU faculty and students.

March 18 of this year was a watershed day for **Margot Parsons**. On that day, Margot started teaching online classes and has continued to do so five times a week throughout the Spring and Summer and now into Fall. Thank you to those who joined her summer classes. Seeing everyone during the week was absolutely wonderful! Margot made two pieces with her Company exploring the medium of Zoom, one to poetry read live, and one to an original musical score. In June, she received the Dr.

Michael Shannon Dance Champion Award from the Boston Dance Alliance in a Gala held on Zoom. Since her company could not perform, Margot presented a montage of twelve pieces of choreography from the past twenty years. In reality, she desperately wanted to greet people other than through a screen. Thank you to all of you who came. It meant a great deal to her to have you there. She remains in awe of the Boston University students in this Fall's MWF class who have persevered by attending in dorm rooms and multi-purpose rooms. Alla accompanies them from her piano at home. To help those who are holding onto a chair, Maile Naylor, a graduate of BU who has returned to class, made it possible for dancers to purchase a barre at a low cost. Thank you to Maile. Margot is thrilled to be having a tribute from Dance Theatre Group, on Thursday, November 19, to celebrate thirty-plus years of teaching at BU and choreographing for DTG shows. She feels so fortunate to work at BU in a department under the directorship of Micki and with other dancers/artists who honor creativity and diversity, and to be with students who are kind, talented, remarkable, thoughtful, and a total joy to teach and be with in the classroom—or on her Zoom screen. There has never been a day she did not want to come to work! How many people can say that? She thanks you for bringing her into your world of dance and letting her share her world with you.

**Lynda Rieman** is making good use of her time on furlough; recently spending most of it prepping her house and barn for the winter and catching up on long overdue carpentry projects. In May she joined an advocacy group - SURJ Boston and became a member of BU Advocates and Allies. The reading list is long, the discussions are insightful and the work for human rights is never finished. She recently became a member of ESA (Event Safety Alliance) and looks forward to the upcoming virtual workshop series in November and completing her rigging classes. Added to all this activity she persists with her Shaun T., walking, and healthy cooking. Wondering how

she ever had time to go to work. Wishing you all the best with the challenges of making dances during the pandemic, but can't wait to see what you come up with.

**Liz Roncka** is having a wonderful time teaching Dance Improvisation in person this semester. She has found it both challenging and satisfying to discover ways to connect as a group while donning masks and maintaining physical distance. However, the joy of moving together in a shared space prevails. Mentoring DTG choreographers in the process of creating a virtual concert has been another opportunity to expand her perspectives and explore new ways of dance-making. While she misses dancing and training in studios, she is grateful for all the online options and has been enjoying studying with teachers in other parts of the country and world. The most important area of focus for Liz has been her work with the PERD Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee as well as the Dance Program's antiracist plan. She is committed to a long term engagement with this work and the necessity of progress and change.

**Micki Taylor-Pinney** had a trip planned to Portugal and Spain with her dear college/dance friend but alas, that had to be postponed. Instead, she and her husband quarantined in a cabin on the coast of Maine. It was great to leave the home office! The teen summer outreach program was all remote and went amazingly well, considering. Spending 4.5 hours a day on Zoom as director, mentor, and meeting host was a challenge but Micki was delighted and proud of what the teens, interns, and staff accomplished. Their virtual concert showed that these youngsters are getting very savvy with film editing. As are the DTG students, too! With a Workplace Adjustment to work remotely, Micki is teaching aesthetics and composition this semester from home. And learning/developing new ways to do her administrative work from afar. She's had fun making content for FitRec's Keep Moving series which is available to all! on <http://www.bu.edu/fitrec/category/dance/>



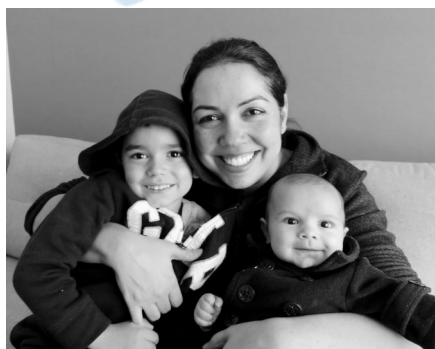
Photo Credit: Avery Pelosi

**New mailing or email address?  
Contact us with an update!  
617-353-1597 | budance@bu.edu**

## Alumni Updates

**Sarah (King-Wanless) Aaron ('95)** is working for a government contractor as a Talent Resource Manager in Southern Maryland. Her husband, Ryan, retired from the Navy in 2019 after 23 years of service. Sarah continues to volunteer for organizations that support active duty and retired military families. Her daughter Rachel is a data scientist and lives near them. Curtis will graduate from Villanova this spring and has accepted a position as a software engineer in Philadelphia. Margaret is a freshman at Purdue. Daniel is a sophomore in high school and loves robotics and sailing. Annalise is a freshman and is part of a competitive cheer team. Their pets, Otto and Daisy, are loving all the attention they receive throughout the day with the high schoolers learning from home.

**Lilian Cairnes ('02)** is still in São Paulo, Brazil, where COVID has hit hard and thousands of people have died from this terrible virus. It looks, though, that there is a light in the horizon as cases are slowly decreasing. She hopes it stays that way! Though 2020 has been a challenging year, Lilian welcomed her second son, Nathan, on January 17<sup>th</sup> and has been home, gladly, with him and her eldest (Nicholas) together with her husband, surfing the quarantine and work+home duties. No dancing at all for her this year....only to children's songs and programs....which have been a blast!



*Photo Courtesy of Lilian Cairnes*

**Sarah Foster ('04, '10)** recently moved to Park Slope, Brooklyn where she is working from home like much of the world. She's gearing up to perform in a video dance project with Amalgamate that will be released in December; is creating the score and script for an outdoor Helga performance in Prospect Park; has continued to participate in Opera Workshops over Zoom; and does her best to do ballet in her kitchen.

**Heather Harrington ('91)** participated in a site-specific piece last fall 2019, the Blue Porch in the Liberty Dance Festival, with her two dancing daughters [Note the Graham contractions!] Heather is teaching as an adjunct at Kean University and Drew University. She has published articles in several dance journals, the most recent being "Consumer dance identity: the intersection between competition dance, televised dance shows and social media" in *Research in Dance Education*.



*Photo Courtesy of Heather Harrington*

**Karissa Hurzeler ('13)** is celebrating her two year anniversary and a promotion with the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, where she is now the Collections Information Specialist. She has also now fully recovered from hip injury and surgery she had five years ago and has been starting to revisit dance training during COVID.

After spending the first five months of the pandemic up in Vermont with family, **Erin McNulty ('11)** is back in Boston and largely back to work! She is teaching Modern/Contemporary at BU again, and although Fitrec and L240 look a little bit different this semester, she has been so heartened by how excited the students are to be back on campus and moving in a space with others (and determined to keep that going by staying safe!). She is also thrilled to share that she completed a short dance film with fellow DTG alum Suzannah Dessau as part of a Women in Film fellowship and festival commission, which premiered in early October: [Watch the full film here!](#)

**Rebekka Nodhturft ('08)** graduated with her MFA in Dance from Montclair State University in May, 6 short months after welcoming her son Orion into the world! She is still living in NYC, and her company Awaken Dance Theater has been finding ways to rehearse and hold

pop-up performances outdoors in Brooklyn. She continues to teach and is looking forward to the time when she can dance, choreograph and explore in a studio again!

**Laura DiSerio Nunneker ('05)** is working for George Mason University's Center for the Arts. They've created "Mason Arts at Home," presenting digital artistic events. She now has 3 active boys, ages 7, 4, and 1.5. She writes..."everyone is happy and healthy, so that's all that matters."

**Mikaela Ringquist ('12)** is still in NYC and now works for the UN Global Compact, the corporate sustainability initiative of the United Nations. She still dances, but is eagerly awaiting for studios to open back up when it is safe to do so!

**Janet Alexander Ryan ('93)** is busy working as an attorney with a tech company in Phoenix Arizona. She has been working from home since March. The most dancing she gets to do these days is just grooving to some music in her car! But she gets to hike and go horseback riding in her free time.

**Ellen (Shea) Shenette ('06)** now lives in Acton with her husband and two girls, Willow (2) and Wren (9mo). Willow loves to dance anytime, anywhere and Wren is already starting to wiggle to music. Ellen works for an environmental non-profit, trying to help the U.S. make progress on combating climate change.

After COVID canceled their mother-daughter stage debut with Charleston's Robert Ivey Ballet in March, **Kelly Kocinski Trager ('98)** and family made their art gallery, Trager Contemporary, online only and moved to Texas (again), where the next project, thanks to some grant support, is the prototyping of Dance Around. Dance Around will be a framework for a series of outdoor site-specific movement installations using a city or town's own sites and landscapes to make the everyday uncommon.

**Katie Watts ('09)** celebrated two milestones in 2020: a decade of living in Paris, France and the creation of a podcast, Points of Entry, that asks how we can collectively (re)imagine the roles of cultural organizations in a rapidly changing world. Check it out at [www.pointsofentry.com](http://www.pointsofentry.com).

As we ease into the "new normal" and navigate these uncertain times, connection is more important than ever. Dance Theatre Group has been staying connected via our Instagram (@bostonudtg) and Facebook (BU's Dance Theatre Group). There you'll see updates about our show, bonding event information, weekly master class details, and features of our members. Follow along to keep up with DTG and for some fantastic content on your feed!

-Hannah Tracy ('23) Social Media Chair

# BU Friends of Dance Donation History 1996-2020

## **BRIGHT LIGHTS**

### **(\$1000 & above)**

Stephanie Creary  
Brooke (Tiballi) Lochrie  
Lauren Luchessi  
Rebecca Jean Melrose  
Andrea Valentina Parisi  
Kara Wood, Hi-Tide Sales Inc.

## **CHOREOGRAPHY**

### **FUNDERS (\$500-999)**

Danielle Brandman  
Rachel Brookmire  
Christine(Englehardt)Bystrov  
Richelle Dupont  
Elizabeth Gumbinner  
Heather Janoff  
Fay (Efronsini) Lellios  
Kristina (Kuest) Mistry  
Janet (Alexander) Ryan  
Stephany (Mendzela) Tosi  
Sarah Warren  
Sophia Zouras

## **PATRON SAINTS**

### **(\$250-499)**

Laura Barrett  
Kimberly Bohn  
Ada Chamberlain  
Ginger "Juhi" Dagli  
Alana (Finkelstein) Dunoff  
Claire Enterline  
Malia Hill  
Caroline "Blake" Hobby  
Alicia Lindauer-Thompson  
Susanne Losquandro  
Lauren Maddock  
Laura (Diserio) Nunneker  
Michelle Powers  
Dawn Salerno

## **RESIDENCY CIRCLE**

### **(\$100-249)**

Sarah Beth Aaron  
Edith Annen  
Barbara Arnold  
Megan Batterson  
Marielvia Camacho  
Elizabeth Cameron  
Alissa Cardone  
Jacqueline Cinicola  
Christopher Cotton  
Joanna Diallo  
Heather Dolan

Tom & Jo Duval  
Nikkiann Economos  
Sarah Eldred  
Beth (Goldberg) Foreman  
Sarah Foster  
Michael Gionfriddo  
Dr. & Mrs. Kevin Halloran  
Sally Halloran  
Amber Held  
Lancia Herzog  
Malia Hill  
Lillian (Caires) Jacobiski  
Sarah Katz  
Rebecca Kaufman  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Kiefer  
Amber (Held) Kielej  
Susan Jung Kim  
Deborah King  
Marguerite Knipe  
Kelly Kocinski Trager  
Lauren Manganiello  
Amy Mastrangelo  
Maura McKeever  
Rashmi Nemade  
Denise Niebisch  
Jennifer (Stevens) Olson  
Julia Ong  
Gabrielle Orcha  
Meghan Riling  
Elizabeth Roncka  
Janet Ryan  
Joanne Sedgewick  
Jill Sullivan  
Mr. & Mrs. John Sullivan  
Adrienne Sylver  
Katherine Tower  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Watts  
Charla Weatherby  
Elizabeth Zubkoff

## **ACCOMPANIST'S BENCH**

### **(\$50-99)**

Jerry Alexander  
Joell Baxter  
Guljed Birce  
Richard Book  
Daniela Borgialli  
Emily Boylan  
Katherine Brand  
Meredith Butulis  
Aiko (Ruch) Callahan  
Maureen Connolly  
Kristin D'Errico

Dawn Estabrooks  
Miguel Estefan Jr.  
Ron Foreman  
Satu Hammasti  
Angelina Hannum  
Ann Keifer  
Jaye Lind  
Timothy Marks  
Alyssa McCallion  
Elizabeth McMullen  
Mr. & Mrs. John H. McNulty  
Sarah Moses  
Alexander Nizhinikov  
Meredith Patey  
Gail Pelosi  
Johanna Schmitt  
Ellen Shenette  
Linda (Kelly) Southwick  
Shannon Steele  
Michelle Swanson  
Lauren Taylor  
Scott Taylor  
Emily Vasilopoulos  
Susan Wells  
MasterCard International, Inc.  
Silicon Valley Community  
Foundation

## **TECHNICAL CREW (\$49 & under)**

Deema Abdel-Meguid  
Haley Abram  
Michele Abram  
Feodora L. Bertherat  
Olivia Blaisdell  
Sally Bohrer  
Lauren Bologna  
Renee Bonnell  
Elizabeth Botelho  
Diane Boudreau  
Constance Breece  
Angelica Breece-Sullivan  
David Butlien  
Sigita Cahoon  
Marina Cocconi  
Claire Conway  
Anna Cox  
Lauren DeFreitas  
Dorothy DiPascali  
Bridget Doyle  
David Farnsworth  
Denise Farnsworth  
Michelle Flegal

Samantha Flick  
Erica Gaetano  
Michaela Gobielle  
Laura Goodfriend  
Karen Gordon  
Stefanie Gordon  
Christina Gratton  
Amy Green  
Deirdre Halloran  
Heather Harrington  
Maria Henning  
Stephanie Heroux  
Abigail Hertz  
Melanie Holmes  
Karissa Hurzeler  
Anne Keifer  
Kelly Kerrigan  
Jennifer Kochanski  
Lynn Laurino  
Rachael Lyerla  
Amy Marcinkowski  
Erin McCoy  
Lynn Modell  
Amy Oliveira  
Louisa Otey  
Allison Penn  
Elena Pereira  
Jennifer Pollina  
Juliana Reinold  
Victoria Rocha  
Colleen Roddy  
Donna Ross  
Anna Schechinger  
Ellen Shea  
Reva Shiner  
Stephanie Shin  
Jackie (Rubin) Simon  
Elizabeth Simpson  
Monica Squeri  
Juliana Stavros  
Joanna Stumper  
Sarah Thorne  
Carmel Tuffy  
Martine Tremblay  
Jennifer Vaughan  
Kristin Wagner  
Charlene Williams  
Tatiana Winger  
Lorraine Ziegler

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR NEVER-ENDING SUPPORT!**