Hello DTGers,

On October 22, we welcomed the Martha Graham Dance Company to our dance theater for a lecture demonstration. It was a surprise and delight to have this event be proposed by the Classics Department. The dance program was one of many co-sponsors and we didn’t have the responsibility to assert the group! As I look back over the 34 years, we’ve had some incredible residencies and I hope those who’ve participated, appreciate how fortunate we were to have such talented and generous artist/educators on campus. On my office wall of photographs, I have photos of some of you with Victoria Marks, Art Bridgeman and Myrna Packer, Nathan Trice, and Claire Porter. There are so many more starting with the first residency I organized with Simone Forti, a legend in the post-modern world.

These residencies are just one of the ways that DTG students have bonded. The weekly rehearsals, infamous cast parties, and hanging out together at the ACDA conferences are others. I love hearing how some of you are still in touch with each other on social media and in person. It makes me so pleased to know that DTG has provided a forum for students to find a community of dance lovers – and a place to grow individually and collectively.

To fund our special programs, I turn to you to make it possible to keep it going. We have lost the main source of revenue that underwrote our concerts, conference travel, mentor residencies and master classes. If you are able, a monthly or yearly contribution of any amount will enable us to program the events that I think make our dance program vital and distinctive. And likewise, you’ll help create unique opportunities and memories for future DTG alumni.

In May, I’ll be inducted into the Scarlet Key Society, one of three faculty/staff/alumni who join the student awardees this year. The honor includes a challenge – I have to do my best to keep this program strong and viable! All of you contributed to DTG’s history with your time, passion and dedication. I am most grateful to those who are able to add the financial piece, too.

Sending love and best wishes,

Micki

DTG is back for another fall semester, and we could not be more excited! We have had a busy two months back at school; time is definitely flying already. We are happy to have veteran members on E-board, along with new members this semester. Returning to E-board are Zeina Fayad as president, Olivia Blaisdell as concert-coordinator, Claire-Solène Béčka as vice-president and Jenn Kochanski as public-relations chair. Grace Tuffy has graduated from the treasurer-in-training position to be our resident treasurer. New to E-board this semester are Avery Pelosi, our secretary, and Angelica Breece-Sullivan in our newest E-board position: social media coordinator. Another change to DTG this year is the addition of a new mentor; Liz Roncka. Liz became the Assistant Coordinator of Dance in November 2018 and as an alum, is excited to take on her new role in DTG.

After recruiting many people at Splash, our first meeting saw lots of new faces. Following E-board and group introductions, we split up into small groups for a fun ice-breaker. Micki Taylor-Pinney, our faculty advisor, then taught a modern class. In the weeks that followed, we met many new friends at our master classes and auditions. Our first class was an Improv and Composition class taught by Liz Roncka. We played creative improvisation games and got to know new people in the large group that attended. Next, we had an Afro/Haitian/Contemporary Fusion class taught by Mcebisi Xotyeni, one of Reach’s artists and educators. Most recently, we had the opportunity to take a Graham technique class with expert Erica Schwartz. We look forward to our ballroom class taught by Eileen Herman-Haase and Raul Nieves, as well as our partnering class with Jun Kuribayashi which will both be held in the next few weeks.

The Dance Showcase was our first bonding event this semester. Next, we hosted an outdoor photo-shoot opportunity for DTG members in Boston and saw many people there. Our vice-president, Claire-Solène, has coordinated a fun Halloween event for our dancers to participate in improv together. After that, we will be gathering to watch one of our old concerts on DVD while enjoying food together. Lastly, we are hosting an aerial sampler class at the end of the semester for any member who is interested in the art form. Choreographers often also plan bonding events within their casts. In order to ensure that alum and new members feel connected to our happenings, we will be developing and adding to our currently existing YouTube channel as well. Stay tuned!
Dance Showcase

Angelica Breece-Sullivan (’21)

Doubling as a bonding event and a fun annual tradition, this September, Dance Theatre Group went to the Boston University Dance Showcase here at the BU Dance Theatre. As always, the Dance Showcase featured incredible artists from all over Boston, ranging from the young students of REACH to professional trapeze performers.

The show began with a captivating bungee piece choreographed by Lynda Rieman, Colleen Roddy, and Liz Roncka and performed by Colleen and Liz, both DTG alums. It was such a treat to watch our DTG crew onstage! Reach performers Hannah Cyr and Brooke Hugot performed their duet next, which was a touching tribute to the relationship between a mentor and student. Aerial teacher Marin Orlosky Randow followed with a stunning high sling solo set to classical music. Next, Colleen Roddy contributed an emotional and powerful duet with Casey Marchek. At the end of the first act, Wendy O’Byrne brought the vivacious energy of her company, Contemporarily Out of Order, to the stage with an upbeat hip-hop piece.

Avery Pelosi (’22)

Every year Dance Theatre Group is lucky enough to be able to offer a variety of opportunities for passionate dancers at BU. With all of these amazing opportunities comes expenses that have been partially alleviated by our PHENOMENAL donors! Without these donations, members of DTG would not be able to experience these enrichments! In order to continue offering all of these opportunities to the dancers at BU, we need your help.

Each semester members of DTG are offered a variety of master classes taught by Boston based choreographers who share their knowledge and love for dance with us for an hour and a half every week. Offering master classes is very important to DTG because it expands our movement vocabulary and exposure. To continue this weekly privilege our members are so appreciative of, we are looking for donations of $300 for a master class.

Every year, two student-choreographed pieces are chosen to be presented at the American College Dance Association conference. This is a weekend conference that includes performances, workshops, panels and master classes taught by instructors from all around the country. Attending this conference allows students and faculty members to witness the diversity within the college dance world while also receiving adjudications on their own work. This weekend always leaves dancers feeling artistically inspired. Sharing this experience brings DTG members closer together, creating friendships and memories that will last a lifetime! This conference takes place in various places and this year we will be venturing to Vermont! We must rent a van for transportation therefore we are looking for $800 to make this weekend affordable as well as unforgettable.

A few times per year, members of DTG are able to take part in artist residencies. Do you remember taking part of residencies with Claire Porter, Heidi Latsky, Janice Brenner, Monica Bill Barnes, Sean Curran, and Victoria Marks? These residencies provide dancers opportunities to participate in projects outside of the traditional classroom. The largest residency we host is called Motion Art which brings together many artistic groups on campus ranging from acapella, aerialists, dancers for an interactive experience. Last Spring we combined this event with a residency in BU FitRec where observers toured multiple different locations within the facility where these groups presented their work. These locations included the racquetball courts, rock climbing wall and three court gym. These varied settings challenged groups to adjust their performance to the space, entering a creative realm where experimentation took place. This residency was led by Jun last spring where dancers rehearsed one night and created a beautiful acrobatic-inspired piece that was featured in Motion Art in the Dance Theatre. Jun is a brilliant choreographer that we would love to invite back for a small residency. Week long residencies that would allow dancers to extensively work on a project and informally show their work can cost about $5000.

Whether you choose to make a monthly contribution of a small amount, we need drops in the bucket to make it full! We thank you in advance for your generosity, we couldn’t do this without you!
DANCEFIT 60+

Claire-Solène Bečka ('21)

A total mind-body wellness class: this is how Liz Roncka describes the new DanceFit 60+ class this fall. The class is designed for movers who are hoping to improve their functional mobility. Despite the name, all ages are welcome!

Liz designed this class to meet the need for creative exercise programming for an older age group. Those who take the class appreciate the health and wellness benefits of an exercise class, along with the opportunity to develop personal artistry and find joy in the class community.

A typical class begins at the barre, with dance-inspired exercises such as plies (which become squats!) and tendus. Liz, who also teaches the class, likes to “hybridize” dance moves to emphasize form, body awareness, balance, and musicality. After the barre, the class moves to the center and across the floors, where students learn combinations to work on coordination and memory. And of course, there is always an element of improvisation!

The music in the class is also unique; Liz uses music with a good beat, and has experimented with verve jazz remixes of artists Ella Fitzgerald and electric swing – definitely not your average fitness class!

Photo by Olivia Moon Photography

Martha Graham Lecture Demonstration 2019

Grace Tuffy ('21)

We were thrilled to have The Martha Graham Dance Company join us and the community of Boston University on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 for an informal-demonstration with artistic director Janet Eilber and various Martha Graham company dancers. This event was sponsored by BU’s Center for the Humanities, BU’s Art Initiative, Kilachand Honors College, Department of Classical Studies, BU’s Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Program, Core Curriculum’s NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities, Women and Gender Studies, and outside of BU by the Society for Classical Studies Classics Everywhere “Initiative.”

After all of us in Dance Theatre Group had the opportunity to experience a special Graham technique masterclass with Erica Schwartz, we could not be more excited to learn more about The Martha Graham Dance Company and Graham technique from the company themselves. This demonstration allowed the audience to hear from the current artistic director, Janet Eilber, who spoke specifically about Graham’s vision of heroines from Greek tragedy including Medea, Clytemnestra, and Jocasta, as well as explored Graham’s retelling of the Ariadne/Minotaur story as imagined in her dance Errand into the Maze; two dancers from the company performed this 13 minute piece. The Martha Graham Dance Company is an award-winning, and internationally renowned dance company and we are extremely grateful to have witnessed their art and mastery in person in order for us to learn and grow even more as dancers and creators.

Photo by Olivia Moon Photography
Visions 2019 Preview

Olivia Blaisdell ('20)

Origins 2019 is quickly approaching whether we are ready or not. Judging by the turnout of second showing, I would say that DTG is ready for the main stage. I am excited to share a preview of this creative, funky, and diverse show with you.

Andrea and Kylie are back this semester with a spunky, sexy, and stunning hip hop dance. In the past they have worked with smaller groups, but this time around they have a bigger cast, and you know what that means? More energy! The dancers are fierce and the choreography is unique and fitting to the music, Let’s Kill this Love. DTG is very appreciative of what this dynamic duo adds to our performance line up.

Some of you may remember Carli DiMeo, a current grad student at Boston University. Carli is back choreographing for her eighth semester. At the first meeting, she proposed her kernel as being heavily inspired by memes, humorous images often accompanied by text. Carli has very successfully put humor into movement by pulling gestures found in memes and other pop culture. This piece is just as fun to watch as it is to perform.

It would not be my article if I did not write about myself, but I swear this is important. For the first time in DTG history, there will be a pole piece in the performance. I started pole fitness/dance in BU’s first pole sampler with Liz Roncka. Now, I bring myself back to my L240 roots in an attempt to combine fluid pole movement with contemporary dance. Sound intriguing and confusing? Come to the show!

As I enter my final year at Boston University, I cannot help but reflect on all the amazing semesters I have had in Dance Theatre Group. This will be my sixth semester as Concert Coordinator and I am determined that this performance will be just as, if not more fabulous than the rest. I hope to see you at Origins 2019!

Spotlight On: Colleen Roddy (SAR ’15, ’17)

Jenn Kochanski ('20)

Wonder what fellow DTG alums are up to? We recently caught up with alum Colleen Roddy to see what she has been up to since graduating from BU and more!

Since graduating from Boston University in 2017, Colleen has gone on to pursue her Physical Therapy career at Mass General on the Surgical and Critical Care Team. She continues to dance and choreograph with Urbanity Underground where she recently set an evening length residency on the company entitled “Points of Intersection.” Through her work with Urbanity Underground, Colleen was selected to present her work at the Boston Contemporary Dance Festival.

Outside of Urbanity, Colleen sets work independently and had a blast getting back into L240 working with Liz Roncka and Lynda Rieman on a new aerial bungee duet for the Dance Showcase. She continues to teach her love for dance to her students at Urbanity and Dance With Energy and back at her home studio in Connecticut.

Colleen’s favorite part of DTG? The lifelong friends that she made. Just this past month, she celebrated fellow DTG alum Genny Mudd’s wedding (SAR ’14, ’15) at the Museum Of Science with Stefanie Gordon (SAR ’16) and Emily Vasilopoulos (Questrom ’16)!

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

Ramelle Adams is still working full-time at BU with additional part-time work as a House Manager at the BU Dance Theater, a Movement instructor at the Gardner Pilot Academy, and a CNA at a skilled nursing unit in Lincoln. She recently had the incredible pleasure of being invited by Lynda to see Passengers, a dance performance by the Canadian group Les Sept Doights de la Main. If you ever get the chance to see them, run don’t walk! Ramelle is teaching less yoga this semester than last, because her modest talents teaching tennis to children are in high demand with the growing courts sports program. At the Gardner School, she has another great 3rd grade class this year. There are already launching into partner poses and are an enthusiastic bunch. Kaitlyn continues to work in Washington, D.C. with great success as software engineer at Wayfair, and loves the company and his work. Life is great – never a dull moment!

Ann Brown Allen had a slow start to the semester recovering from a ruptured appendix. Classes are going well and students are making progress. Ann is choreographing "Tortoise vs. Hare" for the children’s theater group in Brookline. DTG is off to a great start and Ann is looking forward to the performance season.

Margot Parsons taught at Boston Ballet and Ballet Theatre of Boston and presented her company in three festivals this past summer. The fall started quickly with the Faculty Showcase: thank you Micki for making this wonderful event happen each year. Christine McDowell and Marin Orlosky Randow, both on the dance faculty at BU and both in my company, performed in Waltz. Each was absolutely stunning. From there the department moves into presenting the Fall DTG show. I have the great privilege of being able to create a work for the Ballet Repertory class for this show. Watching dancers grow is a gift to me. Thank you everyone for making dance a part of your life and mine.

Lynda Rieman spent her time off this summer working on her historic home: refinishing, reupholstering, repairing and plumbing. She has finally created a cozy home for the winter. As per usual, she looks forward to a busy fall in the theater. New to the performance line up is “In Flight” – a performance of just aerials. Also on her fall agenda is a lighting design project with KAIROS Dance Theater, happening at the Boston Center for the Arts. She thinks, it is good “to get out of the house” to gain perspective on your work and to stimulate your creative spirit.

Liz Roncka enjoyed her summer in Cambridge except for a trip to Portland, OR. There she attended a course “Movement Analysis and Treatment for Aerial Artists: The Hanging Athlete” with Dr. Emily Scherb, aka The Circus Doc, and dropped in a few classes at a local pole studio. Her fall semester is filled with new adventures in performance, teaching, and mentorship. She had a grand time bouncing around in bungees in the Dance Showcase, performing “Split,” a duet with Colleen Roddy, co-choreographed with Colleen and Lynda Rieman. She continues to enjoy teaching Pole Dance Circuit and Pilates and is especially thrilled by her new courses DanceFit 60+ and Aerial Conditioning and Flexibility. More than 20 years after being a member herself, Liz is delighted to serve as one of the three mentors for Dance Theater Group. She recalls how formative her DTG experiences were and looks forward to participating in the creative processes of current members. Upcoming dance events include participation in “Circling the Dance Block-a Visibility Dance in Cambridge,” a dance offering for A Day With(Out) Art/World AIDS Day 24 hour vigil, and teaching an all-day Contact Improvisation FUNdamentals Workshop in Cambridge. November will be Liz’s first anniversary as the Assistant Coordinator of Dance at BU. She is grateful for this opportunity and for the generous, motivated, supportive group of people that comprise the BU Dance Program.

Micki Taylor-Pinney, in preparation for the summer, took a trip to Scotland with her husband. Rejuvenated and refreshed, she returned for more daily adventures with children and teens; six weeks of camp and the summer outreach/teen apprentice program, Reach, had her spending more time teaching, mentoring, and re-staging repertory! She finished the summer in Maine where she had a delightful and surprise visit with alumnae, Charles Howes. In August, she learned she’ll be inducted into the Scarlet Key Society as an honorary member for her “substantial contributions at the institution.” The induction ceremony is in May during Commencement Weekend. This semester, she is having great fun learning from her students in the directed study in composition, aesthetics, and beginning modern dance classes. She feels fortunate to have such enormous support from her team, Liz and Lynda, her GA, Katarina, and her dedicated office workers.

DTG REUNION

We would like to invite you to the DTG reunion that we will be having April 24th-25th! The weekend will include a night on the town, meal get-togethers, the DTG Visions 2020 concert, AND a tribute to Margot Parsons! This will likely take place on Saturday, 4/25, brunch time. Please let us know if you would like to attend by emailing budance@bu.edu by April 1st. We cannot wait to see your familiar faces again!
Maria Cristina Henning ('16) made the jump from an oil & gas tech startup into the yoga company she had been trained under for many years, Yoga Better (after taking a month off and going to Bali!). Startups and small-business still run in her veins, though, as she runs the entire marketing program at the company, manages the website, plans events, travels to yoga festivals, and more — while still teaching yoga. Somehow in the mix she also started her own freelance web-design business, AND has found a few moments here and there to dance and even perform under local projects!

Carey Kandel ('06) and her husband now live in the Berkshires which allows her to explore her love of nature photography. She is working as a physical therapist at a nearby hospital.

Amber Kieley ('06) had a baby girl named Citrine Catherine Kieley on October 28, 2019. Her and her husband Joe are over the moon in love and inspired to maintain their healthy lifestyle- full of movement breaks, deep rest, family walks, and nourishing food for themselves and for Citrine. So far, they are off to a great start!

Fay Efrosini Lellios’ ('89) latest film, "Shared Balcony," is now up for Official Academy Awards Consideration in the Live Action Short Film Category, for Oscars 2020. It was filmed in the village of Thisvi, Greece. Other than that, she tried Yoga Aqua on a Paddle Board in Marina Del Rey this month which was one of the most awesome things she has done dance-related recently.

Shannon Luchs ('13) continues dancing in New York City with IKADA Contemporary Dance Company. She began graduate school this Fall in pursuit of her Master's degree in Social Work at Hunter College. She was promoted this Summer from case manager to case manager supervisor where she works full time in a homeless shelter for adult families in Manhattan. She was also asked to become rehearsal director for IKADA Dance Company and will be performing in their Share the Stage Gala performance on November 16, 2019 at the Alvin Alley Citigroup Theater in Manhattan.

Julia Ong (CAS ’08, LAW ’12) and her husband welcomed a baby boy this fall. Julia wrote “while he mainly has mom's features, he's already showing signs of being a promising soccer player like his dad with his many energetic kicks and strong lung capacity. “

Sarah (Katz) Quinn ('04) moved to New Hampshire in July 2019 (but is still commuting into Boston to work at Fenway Health). She started taking Lynn Modell's Dance Again classes in Brookline and they bring so much joy to her life. She's celebrating 4 years of sobriety and hoping to start a family soon with her partner Xavier.

Stephany Mendzela Tosi ('98) lives outside LA with her family close to hiking trails and the beach. She writes that her younger son seems to have inherited the dancing gene!

Courtney (Wagner) Peerless ('09) and her husband Jim welcomed their first born, baby girl Jamie Joan on October 8th 2019. Everyone is doing well. Mom and Dad are soaking up every moment with her as she will likely be dancing before we know it.

Kristin Wagner ('12) continues to immerse herself in all things dance related. This fall she will be performing two weekends in a row at the BCA Plaza Theater in the South End, both for Chavi Bansal and for KAIROS Dance Theater. Her fledgling production company, Lady BOS Productions, continues to grow, and has a jam packed year of shows - check them out if you are local!
### BRIGHT LIGHTS ($1000 & above)
- Nikkiann Economos
- Beth (Goldberg) Foreman
- Sarah Foster
- Michael Gionfriddo
- Dr. & Mrs. Kevin Halloran
- Sally Halloran
- Lancia Herzog
- Lillian (Caires) Jacobiski
- Sarah Katz
- Rebecca Kaufman
- Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Kiefer
- Amber (Held) Kieley
- Susan Jung Kim
- Deborah King
- Marguerite Knipe
- Kelly Kocinski
- Lauren Manganiello
- Amy Mastrangelo
- Maura McKeever
- Rashmi Nemade
- Denise Niebisch Payne
- Jennifer (Stevens) Olson
- Julia Ong
- Gabrielle Orcha
- Meghan Riling
- Elizabeth Roncka
- Janet Ryan
- Joanne Sedgewick
- Jill Sullivan
- Mr. & Mrs. John Sullivan
- Adrienne Sylvor
- Katherine Tower
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Watts
- Charla Weatherby
- Elizabeth Zubkoff
- Tom & Jo Duval
- Claire Enterline
- Dawn Estabrooks
- Miguel Estefan Jr.
- Ron Foreman
- Satu Hammadis
- Angelina Hannum
- 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.
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### CHOREOGRAPHY FUNDERS ($500-999)
- Rachel Brookmire
- Richelle Dupont
- Elizabeth Gumbinner
- Heather Janoff
- Fay (Efronsini) Lellios
- Kristina (Kuest) Mistry
- Stephany (Mendzela) Tosi
- Sarah Warren

### PATRON SAINTS ($250-499)
- Laura Barrett
- Kimberley Bohn
- Christine (Englehardt) Bystrov
- Ada Chamberlain
- Ginger “Juhji” Dagli
- Alana (Finkelstein) Dunoff
- Malia Hill
- Caroline “Blake” Hobby
- Alicia Lindauer-Thompson
- Susanne Losquandro
- Lauren Maddick
- Laura (Disierio) Nunneker
- Michelle Powers
- Janet (Alexander) Ryan
- Dawn Salerno
- Sophia Zouras

### RESIDENCY CIRCLE ($100-249)
- Sarah Aaron
- Edith Annen
- Barbara Arnold
- Megan Batterson
- Danielle Brandman
- Marielvia Camacho
- Alissa Cardone
- Jacqueline Cinicola
- Christopher Cotton
- Joanna Diallo
- Heather Dolan

### ACCOMPAIGNIST’S BENCH ($50-99)
- Jerry Alexander
- Joel Baxter
- Guiljed Birce
- Richard Book
- Daniela Borgialli
- Emily Boylan
- Katherine Brand
- Meredith Butulis
- Aiko (Ruch) Callahan
- Maureen Connolly
- Sarah Eldred
- Kristin D’Errico

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