Welcome to the 2017-2018 year in the Department of Dance! We are eager to greet our class of incoming freshmen and transfer students and to see our returning students in the studios. Are you ready to DANCE?

The first week of classes starts off with our annual Fall Preview Party on Tuesday, August 22, at 5:30 pm in 240 Robinson (freshmen and transfer students are invited to come at 5 pm). Pizza and beverages will be provided!

On Thursday, August 24, at 5:30 pm, we will hold the University Dance Company auditions, so please mark your calendars. Our fall guest artist will be KT Nelson of ODC Dance of San Francisco, California. Nelson will audition dancers on September 5 to perform with members of ODC at the Lied Center of Kansas on November 10 in a work titled Boulders and Bones. You can see a highlight reel here: https://vimeo.com/92558693. Don't miss this opportunity to work with an award-winning choreographer and a company that will perform as part of the 2017 Next Wave Dance Festival at the prestigious Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM).

-Michelle Heffner Hayes, Professor and Chair
Fall 2017 Guest Artist

Choreographer and Professional Dancer KT Nelson will be in residency at KU this Fall! KT oversees the artistic vision and quality of the Oberlin Dance Collective, which was founded in 1976. She choreographs, mentors, and teaches at ODC. She also goes on tour nationally and internationally. KT specializes in ballet, modern, and improvisation. We are very excited to welcome her talents into the department!

Highlights from UDC 2016-2017

- Untitled Dance for Eleven, Choreographer Ellie Goudie-Averill
- The Rebellion, Choreographer Andie Stitt
- Flight / Safe Harbor, Choreographers Muriel Cohan and Patrick Suzeau
- Yankee Doodle Never Went to Town, Choreographer Willie Lenoir
- Ballet Sans Nom, Choreographer Jerel Hilding
- Lo que quedo/ That which remains…, Choreographer Michelle Heffner Hayes
### FACULTY HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Availability</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maya Tillman</td>
<td>Tue/Thur 11-12:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Hayes</td>
<td>Mon/Wed 2-3PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Suzeau</td>
<td>Mon/Wed 3:15-4PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Moreno</td>
<td>Tue/Thur 2:50-3:50PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerel Hilding</td>
<td>Tue/Thur 10:30-11:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andie Stitt</td>
<td>By Appointment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willie Lenoir</td>
<td>Tue/Thur 1-2PM</td>
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Photography By: B.D. Pruitt @ East Market Studios
Check Out These Local Concerts!

**PARSONS DANCE**
Saturday, September 16th @ Muriel Kauffman Theatre

**THE ULTIMATE COLLABORATION, NEW DANCE PARTNERS**
September 22nd and 23rd @ JCCC

**SPIRIT OF ARGENTINA**
(Tango Buenos Aires)
Friday, September 29th @ The Lied Center

**ROMEO AND JULIET** (KC Ballet)
October 13th-22nd @ Muriel Kauffman Theatre

**DIRTY DANCING**
Friday, October 20th @ The Lied Center

**STARS OF AMERICAN BALLET**
Friday, October 27th @ Muriel Kauffman Theatre

**FESTIVAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN DANCE**
Saturday, November 4th @ JCCC

**MADELINE AT THE CARNIVAL**
Saturday, November 11th @ Lawrence Arts Center

**THE NUTCRACKER**
December 7th-24th @ Muriel Kauffman Theatre

**THE NUTCRACKER: A KANSAS BALLET**
December 8th-17th @ Lawrence Arts Center

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**FEATURED ALUMNI**

We are very proud that Vashti Thede (Goracke) (BFA, 2015) has been hired as a dancer with Minneapolis Metropolitan Ballet in Minneapolis, MN. She performed in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* with choreography by Jennifer Hart, a former guest artist at the University of Kansas. She will dance in *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *Don Quixote*, and *Giselle* in the upcoming season. Congratulations, Vashti!
1. Get Your Body Used to the Heat
2. Cool Down Just Before You Start
3. Towel Off Strategically
4. Stay Hydrated
5. Find the Fan—Or a Window
6. Wear The Right Clothes
7. Speak Up If It’s Getting Dangerous

Read More @http://www.dancemagazine.com/wayne-mcgregor-random-international-collaboration-2462022712.html

Important Dates

Sunday, August 20- 3:00-5:30pm SOTA Meet ‘n Mingle – Murphy Hall Courtyard

Monday, August 21 - First Day of Classes

Tuesday, August 22, 5:30pm, 240 Robinson Preview Party

Friday, August 25 12:00pm UDC Cast Announcement

Friday, August 25 - Last day to add/drop class (full refund)

Monday, September 4 Labor Day – No classes/office closed

Sunday, September 5 – KT Nelson UDC Auditions

Monday September 18 Last day to add/swap class

Saturday, October 14- Tuesday, October 17-Fall Break – No classes

Thursday, October 19-9:00am - Student Travel Request Deadline

Friday, October 20,& Saturday, October 21 James Moreno’s Marginalia presented at Links Hall in Chicago

Friday, November 10, 7:30pm, Lied Center ODC Dance with UDC

Wednesday, November 15 Last day to withdraw from a class

Thursday, November 16 – Friday, November 17, 7:30pm, Lied Center UDC Concert

Thursday, November 30 – Friday, December 1, 7:30pm, 240 Robinson Senior Showcase

Friday, December 8- Stop Day – No classes

Monday, December 11 – Friday, December 15 Finals Week

Saturday, December 16 - Sunday, January 16 Winter Break – No classes
2016-2017 Graduate Updates

Daniel Xaysongkham

Current Job/Activity: Daniel is currently traveling and is also a professional photographer/cinematographer @ Unlikely Legends Media!

Future Plans: Daniel plans to continue traveling and dancing. He wants to keep being a photographer/cinematographer for dance companies around the world.

Advice for incoming freshman: “Always push yourself, never give up, and never compare yourself to others, just improve each day.”

Best memory at KU: “Those days where you only have techniques classes all day and also KU basketball.”

Brianne Myers

Current Job/Activity: Brianne is the current owner and chair of the non-profit organization The D.A.I.S.Y. Studios Inc. The program does business at Dance Hues Studio, where she is the owner, artistic and administrative director, competition and recreational director, and choreographer.

Future Plans: Brianne plans to develop her business and work to create and offer other art programs within the next 10 years.

Advice for incoming freshman: “Dive in deep and take every opportunity you can. I waited too long to get involved whether it was because I was insecure, busy with things outside of the department, etc. Showcase yourself early, and develop yourself quickly by really getting involved and collaborating, choreographing for shows, producing, dancing, taking classes, anything! Put yourself out there, don't be afraid to be judged or to fail. It's worth it.”

Best memory at KU: “My last spring semester when I was in two UDC pieces and three technique classes. I made the most friends in that time.”

Grace Haverty

Current Job/Activity: Grace is currently preparing to study dance in New York City.

Future Plans: Grace is spending a semester at Broadway Dance Center. The training program lasts through December and includes a final showcase. She hopes to continue to hone her craft and make connections within the dance industry during her time in NY.

Advice for incoming freshman: “Get involved right away! In the dance department and elsewhere on campus. It will help make a big school feel a little bit smaller and lead you to your best friends! Also, be open to the new things you will learn in the dance department. It may seem totally foreign at first, but it will undoubtedly make you a better dancer!”

Best memory at KU: “Everything! But particularly my friends, Rock Chalk Revue, KU basketball and choreographing my Senior Piece!”
Shelby West
Current Job/Activity: Shelby is currently a dancer with the professional dance company called Kansas City Contemporary Dance Company. She is also a dance teacher.

Future Plans: Shelby is opening her own dance studio in Overland Park, KS called Westside Dance Company in the Fall!

Advice for incoming freshman: “Always remember dance is an ART and cannot be fully judged or graded. As long as you are true to yourself and know who you are as a dancer the rest will follow! Get to know your professors, and the dance students. You will be spending a lot of hours together!”

Best memory at KU: “Meeting all the amazing people who I know will be in my life forever. The amount of people I have met through my time at KU is insane. Get to know EVERYONE and don’t stay with one group of friends. These will truly be the best years of your life and you will regret it if you waste days or wish them away!”

Christine Bessey
Current Job/Activity: Christine is currently running administration for her parents event venue.

Future Plans: Christine plans on going into the arts administration field and doing event planning work as well as working in technical theatre.

Advice for incoming freshman: “Take care of your mental health. Mental health is just as important as your physical health, if not more so. It is always ok to seek help if you are having troubles.”

Best memory at KU: “Producing Coalescence, a student choreography showcase put on through the Dance Department.”

Alyssa Rivera
Current Job/Activity: Alyssa is building her craft through dance conventions/intensives, training in LA, building her connections, and assisting choreographers. She is temporarily also working at Dance Gallery and Hallmark Cards.

Future Plans: Alyssa plans to be a part of an agency for commercialized dance in LA. Her main goal is to be a background performer in either a tour with an artist or a cruise line. She also plans to model for Exposure Agency in KC.

Advice for incoming freshman: “Associate yourself with clubs, events, community service, etc. Doing this will not only benefit your worth as a student, but also your relationships with others. It will be stressful at times, but find whoever/whatever to keep you balanced and sane.”

Best memory at KU: “My favorite part about KU was the life lessons, surprisingly. The education, the dance classes and even the small circle of friends were valuable. The life lessons are what built my character and who I am today as a dancer and individual.”
2016-2017 Graduate Updates

Sara Nguyen

Current Job/ Activity: Sara is continuing her artistry through intensive training, conventions, workshops, and classes. She continues to share her knowledge as a traveling choreographer for workshops, privates (lessons), and dance studios.

Future Plans: Sara is saving to relocate to LA at the end of 2017. Her goal is to further her artistry in commercial and performance dance to become a great performer.

Advice for incoming freshman: “Remember that everyone comes from different backgrounds. You should never compare yourself to anyone because your technique is just as important. Be open minded to what the professors are throwing at you! They’re there to challenge physically and mentally. Get involved in group activities, clubs, etc. where you’ll meet your best friend for life!”

Best memory at KU: “Everything! Joining Unity (Dance Crew) and performing at Allen fieldhouse with them, meltdowns, bank account struggles, failures, discovering new injuries almost daily, UDC performances, discovering all my lifelong friends, and creating my senior piece. I cherish the life obstacles I faced on and off the stage.”

Morgan Schrader

Current Job/ Activity: Morgan lives in Dallas, TX and is working as an invoicing assistant for an Apartment Locating firm.

Future Plans: Morgan is extremely happy in her life and career at the moment and if there comes a time when she no longer is, she will change something.

Advice for incoming freshman: “Try EVERYTHING! Volunteer, join clubs, go to silly events, and get a job on campus. Even if you think something might not be for you, you’ll never know until you try. I always said I would hate working in an office but because of my experience working in the dance dept. and student housing office I learned that I absolutely thrive in those settings.”

Best memory at KU: “That’s so hard because there were so many! I would have to say all of the friends I made. I have so many close friends in other states and we still talk and visit each other. College is where you meet your people.”