Summer Intensives
Each summer many of our students attend dance intensives to further their education in preparation for post-graduate careers. Summer dance programs offered throughout the country vary in many areas, including: genres/styles offered, length of study, audition requirements and location. Previously we have had students attend intensives such as Alvin Ailey, Bill T. Jones, Thodos Dance Chicago, American College Festival (ADF), Doug Varone, and Complexions. Junior Courtney Martin, attended Bill T. Jones in summer 2012, and shared, “Having the opportunity to focus on dance alone without the worry of academic classes allowed me to strengthen my technique as well as my artistry. It also allowed be to make bonds with dancers all of the world and get my face seen by the company.” For summer 2013, sophomore Erin Ratliff, has been accepted into the Jeffrey jazz and contemporary 6 week summer intensive. Nathan Fister has been accepted into the 5 week intensive at North Carolina Dance Theatre. Many of our student will be attending Deeply Rooted’s summer program, including junior Carrie Farmer, who will return to Deeply Rooted for her second consecutive summer. Carrie comments that “Deeply Rooted was an opportunity to express myself as a dancer that I have yet to find at any other intensive. The growth and challenges that I conquered through Deeply is the reason I am going back this summer, and I would strongly recommend it to anyone else wanting to better themselves.” Junior Jordan Jones will be attending a 6 week intensive with American Dance Festival (ADF) We look forward to additional students attending Inaside Dance Chicago, MamLuft&Co, Arcos, and The Rockettes Summer Intensive.

Audition Dates
WKU: November 9, 2013
February 8, 2014
Additional dates/locations - TBA

Dance Day
November 24, 2013

Performance Dates
Winterdance
November 22-24, 2013
Last Chance to Dance
November 26, 2013
Evening of Dance
April 24-28, 2014
Last Chance to Dance
April 28, 2014

Where are they now?
We are very proud of all our graduates! Here is an update on just a few of our recent grads.

Jessica Williams (2012), also resides in Chicago. She is dancing with Chicago Tap Theatre and teaching at various dance studios.

If you have an alumni update, e-mail Amanda.clark@wku.edu

Tiffany Guy (2012), resides in Chicago and is a member of Elements Contemporary Dance. She was offered a Principal spot after only working with the company as an apprentice for a few months!

Mara Farris (2011), is working with Movement Continuum out of Lexington, Ky. She is also teaches and choreographs for a studio in Paris, Ky.

Save the Dates
November 24, 2013
February 8, 2014

Mission Statement
Our mission in the Dance Program of Western Kentucky University is to provide an environment conducive to comprehensive training in performance within the framework of a liberal arts education at the Bachelor of Arts level. By integrating dance and general studies, we strive to create “Thinking Artists”, individuals who work to achieve their highest potential as artists/technicians and scholars.

About the Dance Company
The Western Kentucky University Dance Company (Clifton Keefe Brown and Amanda Clark, Artistic Directors) is the resident dance company of the Department of Theatre and Dance. The company performs diverse choreography by faculty and guest artists in local, regional, national and international venues. Choreography encompasses ballet, jazz, modern, tap and world dance forms. The company presents two full length concerts each year and also performs annually at various venues including the Tennessee Dance Festival Gala Performance, the American College Dance Festival and in Italy as part of our Dance Overseas program. The WKU Dance Company fosters “Thinking Artists,” nurturing dancers both technically and artistically. The company strives to advocate for the arts and to educate the community and region through a variety of performances and outreach programs. Visit http://www.wku.edu/theatre-and-dance/dance-gellery.php to see a photo gallery of performances and for information about upcoming performances!
WLU Goes to Chattanooga: 20 WKU dancers went to Chattanooga, TN to watch River North, a Chicago-based jazz dance company, perform. Mitchell Haley, a senior dance major, states, “They were amazing. The dancers moved with indescribable fluidity and passion. It was a breathtaking and emotional experience.”

Clifton Keefer Brown, Associate Professor and Dance Program Coordinator, spent his spring sabbatical in Seville, Spain studying Flamenco at Escuela Flamenca de Humacao, Puerto Rico. Over the 20 years of his performing career he danced with Ballet Hispanico and Ballet Nacional de New York (13 seasons) where he helped to create over 20 original works. Prior to working with Ballet Hispanico he performed with Minnesota Ballet, Ballet Theater of Pennsylvania, the European tour of West Side Story and Ballet Municipal de San Juan. He has appeared as guest artist with Connecticut Ballet, Thomas/Ortiz Dance, Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, Westchester Ballet and Brooklyn Ballet, among others. Mr. Rivera has had the honor of performing the works of Mark Morris, José Limón, Kenneth McMillan, Margot Savitron, Graciela Daniel, Kevin Wynn, Vicente Nebrada, Talley Beatty and George Balanchine. Mr. Rivera has a BFA and an MFA from State University of NY at Purchase.

Deeply Rooted Holds Auditions at WKU

Deeply Rooted, a Chicago based company reached out to WKU to hold auditions for their summer intensive program. Over 40 WKU and local community dancers auditioned and many of WKU students were accepted. Over the years we’ve had many former students attend the intensive and had great experiences. Nicole Clark Springer is the Director over emerging artist/2^nd company, summer coordinator, rehearsal director, and intensive director. Springer resided in Bowling Green, Kentucky for a year, and taught at Dance Arts, which some of these students are now members of the WKU Dance Program. It is because of her connection we were able to get them to come here. Springer also talks about how the summer can change a program and really make them understand their own personal passion for dance. “The mission speaks to me, not for everyone.” Heather Chenault, WKU senior experienced working with Springer during her time at Dance Arts in Bowling Green, KY. She states, “Nicole is the reason I’m still dancing. I was ready to quit, she came in and rocked our world; giving me my passion back. She is the reason I’m still dancing today.”

Jazz Dance World Congress

Amanda Clark’s original choreography, Primal (2010), was selected as a finalist to be performed in the International Choreography Competition of the 17th Jazz Dance World Congress in August 2012. The festival was held in Pittsburgh, PA at the Byham Theater and Point Park University. The cast included 12 WKU dancers as well as alumni Becky Gotsch and three other selected dancers.

“The Jazz Dance World Congress is a five-day event celebrating the uniquely American art form of jazz dance. Held in the summer, the Congress gathers dancers, teachers, and performers from across the United States and from as many as 20 foreign countries. At the Congress, dancers take classes from world class Master Teachers, witness the competitive judging of new jazz dance choreography and see performances by internationally-acclaimed dance companies.”

(jazzdanceworldcongress.org) Clark describes the experience as invaluable to the education and career preparation for students. The opportunity to perform for an international audience and to observe four evenings of professional dance concerts was inspirational and artistically rewarding for WKU students who aspire to perform professionally.

FKC Dance Professor, is of Dominican - Armenian heritage. Over her performing career she has danced with The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Sacramento Ballet (principal dancer), Ballet Hispanico (principal dancer) & Thomas Ortiz. Miss Burgos has had the pleasure of being the principle in Ron Connigham’s Carmina Burana, Carmen and The Rite of Spring. She danced Balanchine’s The Four Temperaments, Concerto Barbaro, Allegro Brillante, Scotch Symphony, Theme and Variation and Western Symphony. In 2010 Burgos joined the cast of West Side Story on Broadway.

She has worked with artists such as Pedro Ruiz, Margo Savitron, Ramon Oller, John Clifford, Annebelle Ochoa Lopes, Val Caniparoli, Trey McIntyre, Septime Weber, Dwight Rhoden, Graciela Daniel, Sergio Trujillo.

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