through 'dipping my toes in the water' of something different, I’ve been affected.

ALISON RHOADES (BFA ’13)
the virtuosic

Composer Richard Wagner and the virtuoso... in the interplay between the arts... “In dance, the virtuoso is not only as an interpreter, but must also embody the artistic idea. Utilizing every skill necessary to deliver the work, the dance artist auditorily connects to the moment—completely.”

I think of Angie Hauer and Danzel Jones performing Bobbie Miller’s work on a History of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. While they were no longer young and grand, the energy and vulnerability of their presence, the willingness to take physical and performance risks, and their extraordinary commitment to each other was unapologetically virtuosic. Or in the piece Where Were Holding It Together choreographer Zeboski asks her performers to maintain a stoifness for over an hour. As the performers eventually shake, perspire, and turn red from the task, you can ask, “Was that virtuosic?” I say overwhelmingly—yes.

Looking back/looking forward

Our community took on an out-of-the box project last year as we created Big Tiny Little Dance for November Dance. Each faculty member had one week with a concentrated group of students to “wreck, erase, or extend” each other’s contributions. Students had the exceptional challenge of learning, identity, and changing on a daily basis—a great production for many artists unassisted from the usual methods of a single director. Students visual designers and our box office created a robust evening length piece. We received our willingness to take risks and work collectively, as a department.

Faculty dance artists and guest composers formed a four-dimensional, four-week season of dance in gallery spaces. Visiting dancers: Raphael Cibik and Géza Aréde with Arcadia produced to cross foreign into futurists of hip-hop, ballet, and contemporary, experimenting with

Virtuosic begins with the ability to locate self—body, culture and aesthetic—with within the artistic idea or form. In these pages undergraduate student Zach Johnson discusses his identity as a hip-hop dancer and his journey to imagine self. Alvinaictoryhood dancer and choreographer Misti Pamelaw shared her journey towards observing and the publication of her latest book on

So, we have shaped our upcoming season around the virtuosic, asking ourselves to have the fierce courage to truly commit.

Please enjoy Pivot 2014!
New Assistant Professor Abigail Zbikowski is a choreographer interested in interrogating dance aesthetics and culture through rigorous physical training and the discovery/invention of new techniques of the body. Abigail's work with her company the New Utility has been presented at Dance New Amsterdam, Movement Research at Judson Church, the nEW Festival, COLLAGE Arts Festival, the Hear/Now series and the newMoves Festival presented by the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, among others. Her work has also been commissioned by The Ohio State University, where she has taught for the past two years. She has studied intensively at Germaine Acogny's L'école de Sables in Senegal, and holds a BFA in Dance from Temple University and an MFA in Dance from The Ohio State University. As a performer, Abigail has worked with choreographers Charles O. Anderson/dance theater x, Megan Mazarick, Nora Gibson, Paige Pope, Matt Prince, Hal Prince, Alice Sheppard, and has performed nationally and internationally with the Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project.

As an original cast member of all three shows, Ms. Taylor had the great pleasure of participating in the cast albums, two of which received Grammy nominations, as well as performing for the 1993 and 1997 Tony Awards. Ms. Taylor was Director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem School where she was recently invited to bring ten of her students to the White House to participate in a new arts initiative of the Obama’s. In 2012, Ms. Taylor received her MFA in Dance from Hollins University.
My passion was writing the stories, performing them. 

After my degree from UCLG, I decided to do a scholarship at Alan Haddy’s American Dance Center and performed concerts, but NYC felt to me the most of all, and I went on correspondence courses in French Literature. Throughout this period, I developed a particular technique of movement pattern that was friendly and soft, to attract what your audience desired. I wanted to become known as the dancer of the broken heart, the dancer of the heart broken in the world. 

However, I was quietly in love with him. Who wasn’t? Years later, my career as a dancing storyteller was influenced by that passion. My passion was writing the stories, performing them. Nowadays, I write, tango, and dance—sometimes with the improvisational footwork of my admired grandmothers. 

I was drawn to UIUC in 1969 because Dance was a course in French Literature. Throughout a year of being a student, I learned to love the French dance vocabulary. I'd always been an avid reader, but the French dance vocabulary was unfamiliar, and I found it fascinating. 

Beverly Blossom, Yale, and the Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker are coordinated, flexible, musical, and energetic. I was attracted to UIUC in 1969 because Dance was a course in French Literature. Throughout a year of being a student, I learned to love the French dance vocabulary. I'd always been an avid reader, but the French dance vocabulary was unfamiliar, and I found it fascinating. 

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LOCATE CENTER. AND GO FROM THERE.

NewsFlash: Professor Tere O’Connor was accepted into the American Academy of the Arts & Sciences.

NewsFlash: Professor Jennifer Monson received the Doris Duke Impact Award.

dance at illinois
While the BFA Class of 2014 may be small in number, they were a group of hardworking and dedicated students who in total performed in more than 50 department dance works in addition to performing with campus student groups, teaching at local dance studios, and producing their Senior Thesis Concert: FREE. These students were a prime example of teaching on the go, churning out many forms of dance, including reader, ballet, and jazz. Theo’s plans will take him to Chicago, Seattle, and New York City to perform and teach. Oli will travel far as he does South Korea and now as a student in Champaign-Urbana. Wherever they go this group will continue spreading the joy of movement to their respective community.

CATRINA CHOATE-HERETOIU, VISITING LECTURER
and former dancer with Miami City Ballet, provided distinctive teaching to our program for the last four years. Catrina carefully strategized methodologies to bring students toward a deeper understanding of themselves through the forms of ballet and Feldenkrais. Catrina will be developing a ballet program for Art In Motion and building her own Feldenkrais practice in the Champaign area.

ELIJAH GIBSON, VISITING LECTURER
grounded our program this past year with his upbeat energy. A dedicated teacher, he brought great rigor and challenge to the technique classroom and cared passionately about his students. Elijah will be moving to Texas, where he has a position as Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University.

JACQUELINE KINSMAN, ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD
has been our rock, our know-it-all, our keep-us-all-on-track, our go-to… for the last six years. Jackie received the 2014 FAA Academic Professional Award for Excellence for her service in the Department of Dance. Jackie is returning to the East Coast to be closer to family.

Our three graduating Masters of Fine Arts Candidates—Nico, Niall and Johanna—have all landed safely in NYC where they will continue to make, work, teach, engage and shape the NYC contemporary dance community. Nico will be continuing an ongoing collaboration with American Ballet Theatre dancer David Hallberg as he also pursues additional choreographic and administrative opportunities in the dance community. Niall will be creating new work with Jennifer Monson and performing with Tere O’Connor in the fall as well as developing new work of his own. Johanna will start new projects of short stature while pursuing a place to perform piece in NYC. We know these artists will have a profound impact on the field and we look forward to watching their work evolve. We miss them already.

We wish you the best in your new adventures. We will miss you all!

The distinguished reputation of Dance at Illinois as a center for innovation and outstanding instruction continues to grow, as demonstrated by the prestige and widely acclaimed creative accomplishments of its faculty. We are especially proud of Professor Tere O’Connor’s 2014 induction to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Jennifer Monson’s most recent honor as a Doris Duke Impact award winner. We are also delighted to welcome two new tenure-track and one visiting faculty member this fall.

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Dean’s Message
by Edward Feser, Dean College of Fine and Applied Arts
The distinguished reputation of Dance at Illinois...
To make a gift, please designate the desired fund on your check, made payable to the giving.illinois.edu to support and elevate our programming.

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We realize there are many ways to contribute to Dance at Illinois, from January 1, 2012 through July 15, 2014. We are profoundly grateful—we couldn’t do it without you! Listed to the right are donors to Dance at Illinois from January 1, 2012 through July 15, 2014.

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Howard Schein and
scholarship recipients

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Nic Neiderer Award (2014)
Awarded to a graduate student for an outstanding performance.

Sonic Magnitude Award (2016)
Awarded to a graduating senior who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the profession.

Outstanding Undergraduate Performance Award (2016)
Awarded to an outstanding undergraduate performance.

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Michael Alan Green (17)

A talent-based scholarship awarded to an incoming undergraduate student.

Outstanding MFA Choreography Award (2016)
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Joshua Hildreth (15)

For additional information regarding corrections: (217) 333-1010.

dance partners

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These scholarships support student dancers for four years, from founding director. For more years, the Department

Looking for information on Dance at Illinois? Thank you for your continued support of Dance at Illinois! be a pivotal force—donate now!

Dance at Illinois is an epicenter for the development of the dance artist/leader. Join the excitement and play a pivotal role. Please consider giving a gift, big or small, to support and network for our programming. We also take the opportunity to recognize and thank all dance contributors. We are profoundly grateful—we couldn’t do it without you! Listed to the right are donors to Dance at Illinois from January 1, 2012 through July 15, 2014. We realize there may be mistakes or omissions from this list. We apologize and invite you to contact us regarding corrections: (217) 333-1010.

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Architect Jack Sherman Baker
August 8, 1925–November 24, 2013
A cherished friend and supporter of the Department of Dance for many years, and a dancer. Designed the award-winning Springer House in 1956 for his friend, Margaret Elting, the Department’s founding director. For many years, the Department went on to host many events. His own sandals, a carpeted theater that he had so many opportunities to do what he loved most, to use his exceptional talent fully, and to fulfill his dream of getting his graduate degree.

Perry Souchuck (BFA ’73)
May 12, 1954–July 31, 2013
Described by Laura Deas of Laura Deas Observers and Musicians as “a beautiful mover, dancer and performer, with an extraordinary spirit.” Perry Souchuck passed peacefully in this life in her sleep on June 7, 2013 after battling types of AIDs for 30 years. Incalculably and with love she left us in the East River near New York city. She lived in memory of Patricia Knowles, 2013 photo, Patricia Knowles

William B. McClellan Jr. (BFA ’80)
April 7, 1978–May 14, 2014
Long-time Dayton Contemporary Dance Company dancer and choreographer, passed away as a result of complications from cancer. William graduated on May 6 from University of Michigan with his BFA in Dance. It was such a pleasure to experience his unique blend of talent during his undergraduate student at the University of Illinois. He was loved and missed by his friends. When he visited Illinois again in December of 2013 we realized all the more how fortunate we are to have had his friendship and to know that the friendship many opportunities to do what he loved most, to use his exceptional talent fully, and to fulfill his dream of getting his graduate degree.

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2014–2015 performance calendar

Dance Film Festival at the Art
September 2, 9 & 16, 2014

February Dance
February 5–7, 2015

StudioDance I: Site-Specific
March 12–14, 2014

StudioDance II: Site-Specific
April 24–26, 2015

Swear Concert
April 30, May 1 & 2, 2015

audition dates

BFA Program: November 8, December 7, March 2

MFA Program: February 11 & 12

2013–2014 faculty/staff list and magazine credits

Dance Faculty
Susan Becker, Visiting Lecturer
Joe Eckert, Professor, Department Head
Dea Dunaway, Visiting Lecturer
Carrie Dyer-Hoover, Visiting Lecturer
John Dyche, Visiting Lecturer
Ann Fitzsimmons, Visiting Lecturer
Sam Hook, Professor
Kara Kupfer, Visiting Lecturer
Community Engagement Liaison
Annie Landers, Visiting Lecturer
Deborah S. Lepak, Associate Professor
BC LA Co-Director
Lara Meldolesi, Visiting Lecturer
Jennifer Noonan, Professor, MFA LA Co-Director
Rebecca Smith, Visiting Lecturer
BC LA Co-Director
Ben O’Connor, Professor
Deborah S. Lepak, MFA LA Co-Director
Alisa Gelles-Weichman, Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow
Kristin Senosi, Assistant Professor
John Thompson, Associate Professor
Jennifer Noonan, Visiting Lecturer
Renee Worley, Professor
Pam Weller, Visiting Lecturer
Guest Artists
Jennifer Archibald
Kendra Arling
Elby Bronz
Rosamaria Casanova-Isaki
Jessica Corwin
Jon Lowenstein

Mark Morris Dance Group
Anne Jaffe & Kelly Caudle
David Zimdars
Jean Fraser

Staff
Sarah Abe, Space Coordinator/SMM Manager
Ben Back, Special Ed.
Alexis Borden, Office Assistant
Nico Brown, Office Graduate Hourly
Andrew Davis
Natalie Fiol, Photographer
March Tyler Head, Physical Therapist
Kirstie Simson, Assistant to the Head
Gina Melzo, Office Support Specialist
Angele Farinas, Graduate Video/Media Coordinator

NewsFlash: Professor Renée Wadleigh performed at Lincoln Center (NYC) with the Paul Taylor Company.

NewsFlash: Cindy Masko received the FAA Civil Service Award for Excellence.

Accompanists
Brian Behrns
Sara Chang
Kirstie Simson
Jason Polkavvony
Beverly Minneman
Richard Miller

Special Thanks to:
Fae Avriel
Diana Baker
Mark Minneman

Magazine Credits
Jacqueline Kinsman, Editor
All photography by Natalie Fiol, unless otherwise noted.

SURFACE 51, Design: www.surface51.com
Cover Image: Elinor Fujimoto (BFA ’16) in Big Tiny Little Dance
Back Cover: Abigail Kaesberg (BFA ’14) in Big Tiny Little Dance

Niall Jones (MFA ’14) and Rhea Speights in Jones’ Andrew 2013–2014

Niall Jones (MFA ’14) and Rhea Speights in Jones’ Andrew 2013–2014