

Scripps College
Dance

Claremont, CA



Fall 2013

Alumnae Newsletter

Produced by Emily Simmons SC '14

Greetings from Scripps Dance!

We have had a great time hearing from all our recent and not-so-recent alumnae here at the Scripps Dance Department. This newsletter highlights a selection of our outstanding alumnae with updates on their recent career and life achievements. An overwhelming majority of the alumnae we heard back from are involved in either dance or health careers. We have alumnae across the country working with a variety of dance companies, schools, and festivals as performers, choreographers, teachers and administrators. In the health sphere, alumnae are working as massage therapists, physical therapists, neuroscientists, and medical students.

At Scripps, we've just finished up producing our fall dance concert, *In the Works*, with the Pomona Dance Department. The concert featured pieces performed and choreographed by students including the preliminary works of our three dance majors' theses. In the Spring we will be travelling to Tempe, Arizona for the American College Dance Festival before finishing off the semester with Scripps Dances in April. This September we were lucky enough to have the alumnae-based company, Nine Shards, perform their piece *my five thousand north stars* at our studio.





Sydney Freggiaro SC '09

Sydney just finished her second year of working for Universal Studios during their fall season. She was the principal dancer and line captain in a show used to promote Halloween Horror Nights. Her second music video, *Vampiro* by Project Primal, also launched last month. Sydney choreographed for the video as well as appearing as the main dancer. She works the front desk and substitute teaches at a Silver Lake dance studio called The Sweat Spot,

and is a guest teacher and choreographer at The Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts and Huntington Beach High School. She recently set a piece on the advanced level students at HBHS that is being taken to various fall festivals in SoCal this season. Sydney has been tentatively offered the position of Director of Communications for a brand new theater/dance/music venue currently being renovated in Brooklyn. She will be helping to curate work for the space, network with various artists, and explore marketing for the arts. While out there she anticipates dancing for some companies.

Jessy Kronenberg PZ '02

After dancing with Asheville Contemporary Dance Theater, and teaching Modern Dance at EAFIT Universidad in Medellin, Colombia, I have now taken the reins from my former teacher and am the Dance Program Director at El Cerrito High School, my alma mater. At ECHS, I have started a chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts and established a Dance Conservatory for highly talented dance students.

Mary Grimes SC '94

After finishing my MFA at Mills College, I relocated to Denver to begin my position at a nonprofit organization titled Colorado Conservatory of Dance as the Community Education Manager. I am responsible for overseeing all of our community programs as well as implementing our elementary partnership programs, in which I work with Title One Elementary Schools, teaching elements of the state curriculum through movement.



Rachel Mudge SC '97

I was a semi-professional dancer for 15 years after leaving Scripps College. I now use my dance skills in a flying trapeze group. It is amazingly fun and so good for your core muscles.



Mary Callahan SC

Mary is currently finishing a self-designed degree in "Writing Dance" from NYU and frequently writes for publications such as Dance Informa Magazine, Broadway Dance Center's blog, and broadwayworld.com. She signed with dance agency McDonald and Selznick Associates and has booked jobs ranging from Broadway workshops, live television, regional theatre, and international commercials. Last year Mary began working as an assistant archivist for the Verdon-Fosse Estate where she is currently working on reconstructing and filming Bob Fosse's canon of choreography to preserve it for future generations.

Marissa Nesbit PZ '95

I just recently graduated with my PhD in Art Education from The Ohio State University. In April I was named a recipient of a Graduate Associate Teaching Award by OSU and this year's recipient of the Manuel Barkan Dissertation Fellowship Award. I just started a new position as Assistant Professor of Dance at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC.

J. Lindsay Brown SC '10

After graduation, Lindsay taught composition and improvisation to children of all ages in both California and in the Washington DC area. In 2013, she completed her MFA at the University of Michigan, where she focused on choreography and dance education. While in Michigan, Lindsay taught composition and improvisation workshops at University of Michigan, ACDF, and at various other dance festivals. In 2012, she received funding from the University of Michigan to research fairytales for her graduate thesis work, *Many Upon a Time*. This funding enabled her to attend the "Grimm (and you) in Lisbon" conference, visit Kassel, Germany, explore Versailles, take Graham class in Paris, attend the ImPulsTanz festival in Vienna to study Pilates, Parkour, and Contemporary dance, and attend a Pilobolus workshop in Connecticut. This research and subsequent year of rehearsal culminated in a 35 minute work titled *Many Upon a Time*, which was performed in the round at Betty Pease Studio Theater in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This work was later restaged in August, 2013, at the Fasseas Whitebox in Chicago as part of J. Lindsay Brown & Friends Chicago Debut "Twice Told: to the Moon and Back."



Lyna Ward de Leyna (Jaclyn Lee Ward) CMC '02

I currently live in San Carlos, Mexico, where I teach literature, English, dance, yoga and give art therapy workshops at two local universities. I am also a choreographer, a published writer and a painter. Right now I'm working on some exciting choreography with my dance students.

Maureen Breeze CMC '85

While I have retired from dancing professionally and no longer have my modern dance company, I still work as an artist-in-residence for Colorado's performing arts high school - Denver School of the Arts, as well as teach a little for Classical Ballet of Colorado.

Erin Owen SC '99

Upon graduating from Scripps, Erin relocated to NYC. She has since had the pleasure of working with many delightful choreographers, including Daniel Charon, Ivy Baldwin, Faye Driscoll, Melissa Briggs, Netta Yerushalmy, Karinne Keithley, Geraldine Cardiel, alexanDance, Bill T. Jones (Fall for Dance festival), and David Neumann (*I Am Legend- film*). She joined Doug Varone and Dancers in the Fall of 2006, though worked with Doug on previous occasions at the Metropolitan Opera and for a W Magazine fashion shoot. Erin also holds certifications in Pilates and GYROTONIC® instruction and has taught for several years in NYC. She currently resides in Brooklyn and is the happy caretaker of various lovely houseplants.



Julia Cost SC '11

Julia is co-director of Nine Shards, a dance theater collective based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She also works at San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, where she studied for many years under the direction of Summer Lee Rhatigan. She earned her MFA in dance from the University of California, Irvine in 2011. Julia is also a visual artist working primarily in watercolor and paint.

Katherine (KaeSau) Footracer SC '92

I work as a Physician Assistant (PA) doing primary care and urgent medicine for Lakeside Community Healthcare in West Covina, CA. In addition to an appreciation for the arts, my dance degree gave me an interest in the body that led me to massage therapy, and then medicine.

Karen Trevizio-Diaz SC '09

I am currently working at the Health Center at Southern California University of Health and Science in Whittier, CA as a massage therapist. We offer a variety of different treatments such as Acupuncture, Ayurveda, Chiropractic, Sports Medicine, and Human Performance. We believe in taking a holistic approach towards treatment, prevention, and wellness of the mind, body, and spirit. I enjoy coming together as a team with my co-workers and being able to offer a collaborative approach to healing our patients. I recently accepted a position there as an instructor for the Massage Therapy Program.



Sara Festini SC '09

I'm a fifth-year PhD candidate in the Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Area of the Psychology Department at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. My dissertation focuses on voluntarily controlling the contents of working memory via directed forgetting instructions, and I plan to defend my dissertation by the Summer of 2014. I am also involved in other projects examining the effect of emotion on motor skill learning, as well as investigating cerebellar functional connectivity in patients with Parkinson's disease. Relevant to dance, I am also currently a member of the University of Michigan's Rhythm Tap Ensemble, a student-run organization that choreographs and performs tap pieces in two formal shows each year.



SOMADOC
movement therapy

Andrea Cordova-Caddes SC '03

Andrea married her college sweetheart, Tom Caddes (HM '00), in October 2004. Andrea went on to pursue a Master's Certification in Movement Analysis from the University of Utah and Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Azusa Pacific University. Andrea completed a post-doctoral residency in Orthopedics at Casa Colina Centers for Rehabilitation. Andrea is a licensed physical therapist with a board certified specialty in Orthopedics. She is also a Registered Somatic Movement Therapist, Certified Laban Bartenieff Movement Analyst, Certified Pilates Instructor and Certified Reiki practitioner. Andrea opened a private practice in Claremont in January 2013 called Somadoc Movement Therapy. She is on faculty at Citrus College in the Fine and Performing Arts Department as well as a regular guest lecturer for the Physical Therapy Department at APU. Tom and Andrea are still dancing together, but mostly in the living room rather than competitions and performances!



Courtney Stallings SC '09

I am currently a medical student at Touro University California, College of Osteopathic Medicine in northern California. I'm not really keeping up with the arts at the moment, but look forward to a time in the future when I will be able to devote more time to it.

Mollie Hope SC '10

I am currently in my second year of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Duke University. In school, I am working on a research project with four of my classmates examining the use of functional outcome measures and pre-transplant physical rehabilitation in predicting post-lung transplant physical function and quality of life. In addition to school, I'm working in the pediatric physical therapy department at Duke Hospital, providing care for children with cystic fibrosis.

In dance related news, I have gotten involved with a physical therapist-run dance class series that provides free classes to children with special needs and their families. I taught the ballet course and provide assistance to the children who need it for the other classes. This past summer, I assisted in the physical therapy walk in clinic at the American Dance Festival.

Marissa Labog SC '99

After graduation, Marissa performed as a principal dancer with John Pennington and the LA Philharmonic, Oni Dance, Rosanna Gamson Worldwide, Company of Strangers, and Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre of which she is rehearsal director. She went on to found and direct the breaking performance group called "One Step Ahead." She has worked with artists Tina Turner, Christina Aguilera, LL Cool J, and brands such as Nike, iPod, and Coke. Moving onto TV and Film, Marissa has worked on the shows "The Drew Carey Show," "Fresh Beat Band," "Shake It Up" and films "House Bunny," "Bratz," and "Colombiana," to name a few. Marissa discovered the world of stunts while working with parkour originator David Belle. Currently studying acting with Diana Castle and Steve Tiesort, Marissa can also be seen horrifying viewers as a terrorist in "Act of Valor," seducing lovers in "Hail Satan," and courageously, sometimes drunkenly, coping with the aftermath of a catastrophic flood in the theater production of "Dirty Mean Tricks."

Abby Stopper SC '07

After working in non-profit arts administration at the Kennedy Center, I went back to school for Interior Design and Architecture in 2009-2012. I am currently working at Brayton Hughes Design Studio full time as a project designer in their hospitality studio. I work on hotel, spa, and restaurant projects around the world (currently Maui, Tunisia, Newport Beach, and China). Landing this job was a dream and I do feel that my dance background gave me an edge in the interview process. Beyond creating a point of interest and showing that I am engaged in a range of artistic endeavors, it also directly relates to design. Both dance and design work with 3d spatial elements and convey feelings/emotions/messages using space.

There is also a large coordination/production aspect to design that is much like choreographing and developing a show. You plan for months, create up till the last minute, and then have to run with the project as it unfolds.

I am also a dancer with a company, Nine Shards, which is a dance collaborative started by Julia Cost (Scripps '09). We have participated in residency programs with The Garage in San Francisco and most recently performed at ODC Theater and Scripps in August and September. The Scripps Dance Department was crucial to the formation of Nine Shards. I met Julia when I was a senior and she was in my thesis. Now, she is making work on me! Working with Nine Shards is a really enriching process and keeps me linked to the Scripps dance community.



Check our alumnae's impressive websites and profiles!

Marissa Labog SC '99

<http://www.marissalabog.com/>

Eddie Dillman SC '92

<http://www.smallfires.com/#!about>

Erin Owens SC '99

http://www.dougvaroneanddancers.org/bio_dancers.php

Sydney Freggiaro SC '09

<http://cargocollective.com/ObSYDian>

Julia Cost SC '11

<http://cargocollective.com/juliacost>

<http://cargocollective.com/nineshards/artists>

Karen Trevizio Diaz SC '09

<http://www.scuhealth.org/chlmassagetherapy.aspx>

Jessy Kronenberg PZ '02

<http://elcerritogauchos.net/dance/>

Meg Foley SC '04

<http://movingpartsdance.org/>

Mary Callahan SC

<http://www.missmarycallahan.com/>

Wendy van Wagner PZ

<http://www.wendyvanwagner.com/>

J. Lindsay Brown SC '09

<http://www.jlindsaybrowndance.com/>

Mary Grimes SC '94

<http://ccdance.org/about/#mary-grimes>