The CCSU Dance Education Program with Dancentral present:

LEGENDS

Streaming online Saturday
May 8, 2021 at 7 PM

NEW DATE

Link available at ccsu.edu/dance
FREE! Donations welcome

Program Director: Pascal Rekoert
Dancentral Director: Erica Nelson

Sponsored by the
School of Education and
Professional Studies
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT
The Dance Education Program offers two majors and a minor:

Dance Education, B.S.
Dance Education with a specialization in Entrepreneurship, B. S.
Dance, Minor

Students learn from our extraordinary and diverse faculty as well as internationally acclaimed artists-in residence, such as Jennifer Muller/The Works. From ballet to hip-hop and jazz to Afro-Caribbean, students will learn technique, dance history, and how to create their own dances. Students will experience the canon of American modern dance, learning to understand and respect the lineage while embracing the future of contemporary forms.

Interim Dance Education Program Coordinator/Director:
Pascal Rekoert, Assistant Professor

Dance Education Faculty:
Lillian Cook
Stephen D. Hankey
Erica Nelson
Ilker Ozbelli
Arden Warinsky
Cassandra Forsythe York
Message from the Director

It has been a journey and a half.

Besides talking about 2020, the year that made us clearly see what we took for granted so long - handshakes and hugs, smiles, and sitting in a crowded theater watching a live dance performance - I am talking about my first campus visit twenty years ago setting repertory work on CCSU student dancers. As a professional dancer, I effortlessly recognized Professor Catherine Fellows’ drive and commitment to the art of dance. Since then, I have stepped into various dance-related leadership roles, sharing our common goal of broadening and elevating dance education-at-large, and always in complete admiration of her force-of-nature presence both on and off stage.

Catherine Fellows recently retired. Her 44-year career at Central Connecticut State University was a tour-de-force and her rich legacy leaves us with too much greatness to fit on this page. Highlights include a beautiful dance complex dedicated specifically to dance, a wide range of dance programs and courses, and statewide K-12 dance certification. Catherine Fellows has been a catalyst for kinesthetic, academic, and societal change, pushing her students outside their comfort zone and into fields ranging from business entrepreneurs to collegiate leadership.

Today’s performance is a celebration of her tenacity and grace.
I hope you will enjoy the show as much as we did making it.
We would like to give a special acknowledgement to Catherine Fellows for sharing her love and passion for dance with each dancer performing today! She has inspired the choreographic vision for the pieces you will see in today’s performance. Her belief in each individual's potential to be a dancer and a lover of the performing arts has allowed each of us to flourish here at CCSU. Catherine Fellows is truly a CCSU dance icon. Today we would like to celebrate her 44-year career as a professor here, which has left us all with memories we will cherish forever. Thank you being our teacher, our friend, and our dance mom! Every step on the stage today is to honor you and we hope we make you proud!

Love,

Dancentral & CCSU Dance Education Department
CREW

Interim Dance Program Director..............Pascal Rekoert

Dancentral Director/Stage Manager..........Erica Nelson

Student Director/Dancentral President.......Rhiannya Byrne

Technical Director..............................Scott McKenna

Technical Supervisor...........................Merlin Muth

Lighting Designer...............................Craig Gehr

Assistant Light Designer/Board Operator.....Chris Gallagher

Technical Manager..............................Tyler Stout

Videographer....................................Ryan Pelligrinelli

Video Crew......................................Ken Honore and Isaiah Louis

Photographer....................................Rachel Russell

Tech Crew........................................Jenna Dube, Kyle Guarco, Lauren Santiago, Yael Santiago, Yucel Santiago
Welcome
Pascal Rekoert - Interim Dance Program Director

Scholarship Awards
Dr. Kimberly Kostelis - Dean, School of Education and Professional Studies

Opening Remarks
Erica Nelson, Rhiannya Byrne, and Pascal Rekoert

Womanhood
Choreography: Stephen Hankey
Music: Woman (Shake Your Booty) by Etta James
Dancers: Rhiannya Byrne, Megan Clabby, Margie Dadamo, Sydney Fanion, Monica Mulligan, Abby Nelson, Linnea Tucker, Jordyn Williams

I’m Every Woman
Choreography/Dancer: Lillian Cook
Music: I’m Every Woman by Chaka Khan

LadyLike
Choreography: Abby Nelson
Music: Bang Bang by Frank Sinatra and Nancy Sinatra and Somethin’ Stupid by Frank Sinatra
Dancers: Brianna Albanese, Tiana Boccuzzi, Allie Brown, Sabrina Cofrancesco, Sydney Fanion, Isabella Galdamez, Megyn Jasman, Lacie Low, Gianna Passarelli, Cloe Tranter, Linnea Tucker

Journey
Choreography: Khristopher Henry
Music: Ol’ Man River by Frank Sinatra
Rehearsal Director: Erica Nelson
Dancer: Larenz Young
Revolution
Choreography: Pascal Rekoert
Music: Talkin’ Bout a Revolution by Tracy Chapman
Costume: Veronika Brusa/BERENIK
Dancers: DesTahnee Manick-Highsmith with Lillian Cook and Dewly’s Maldonado

Livin’ It Up
Choreography: Stephen Hankey
Music: Summertime by Ella Fitzgerald
Dancers: Rhiannya Byrne, Megan Clabby, Margie Dadamo, Monica Mulligan, Abby Nelson, Linnea Tucker

Autumn Leaves
Choreography: Erica Nelson
Music: Autumn Leaves by Frank Sinatra
Dancers: Isabella Alfano, Megan Clabby, Margie Dadamo, Gia De Léon, Monica Mulligan, Madison Oquendo, Jordyn Williams
Understudy: Amanie Fleeting

Nitty-Gritty
Choreography: Stephen Hankey
Music: All The Way Down by Etta James
Dancers: Rhiannya Byrne, Megan Clabby, Margie Dadamo, Sydney Fanion, Monica Mulligan, Abby Nelson, Linnea Tucker, Jordyn Williams

Away
Choreography: Erica Nelson
Music: If you go away - Snk Remix by Pepper 966
Dancers: Isabella Alfano, Tiana Boccuzzi, Megan Clabby, Margie Dadamo, Gia De Léon, Isabella Galdamez, Monica Mulligan, Gianna Passarelli, Cloe Tranter, Jordyn Williams
Walk By
Choreography: Pascal Rekoert
Music: Walk on By by Dionne Warwick
Dancers: Tyler Barnes, Rhiannya Byrne, Sydney Fanion, Lacie Low, DesTahnee Manick-Highsmith, Abby Nelson, Linnea Tucker, Karilyn Vallarini, Larenz Young

That’s Life
Choreography: Erica Nelson
Music: That’s Life (Frank Sinatra Tribute) remixed by ProleteR
Dancers: Brianna Albanese, Tiana Boccuzzi, Nadia Caso, Isabella Galdamez, Gianna Passarelli

Sway
Choreography/Dancers: İlker Ozbeli & Sevi Orakoglu Ozbelli
Music: Sway by The Pussycat Dolls

Tribute
Choreography: Stephen Hankey
Music: At Last by Etta James
Dancers: Rhiannya Byrne, Margie Dadamo, Monica Mulligan, Abby Nelson

My Way
Choreography: Pascal Rekoert
Music: My Way by Frank Sinatra
Dancers: Tyler Barnes with Rhiannya Byrne, Sydney Fanion, Isabella Galdamez, Lacie Low, Monica Mulligan, Abby Nelson, Linnea Tucker, Karilyn Villarini, Larenz Young
Understudy: Jordyn Williams
Lillian Cook (Dance Faculty/Choreographer) A native of New London, Connecticut, Lillian M. Cook is a pedagogue, choreographer, humanitarian, and entrepreneur. Ms. Cook serves as the 6-12 Dance Educator for the New London Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School, Adjunct Professor for Central Connecticut State University, and founder/director of The Lion’s Den Dance Company (501c3). Cook has earned numerous credits and awards for her work as a dancer and choreographer at the competitive level throughout New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, California, and the Dominican Republic. Professional dance credits include the WNBA Connecticut Sun, NBA Nets, and New Kids on the Block. She occasionally offers master classes at Connecticut College and Northeastern University. Cook holds a BA in Business Administration from Eastern Connecticut State University and is pursuing an M.A. in Information Design. Cook believes her calling is to bridge the gap between talent and skill through equity. Additionally, she advocates for prestige in African and African diaspora dance forms.

Stephen Hankey (Dance Faculty/Choreographer) a native of Trinidad and Tobago, is a dancer, master teacher in traditional Caribbean folk forms, and choreographer. Mr. Hankey also teaches at the Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School. Stephen is the director of The Island Reflections Dance Theatre Company in Hartford, CT, and is the founding member, choreographer, and performer of The National Dance Theatre Company of Trinidad and Tobago. His choreography credits include J’ouvert (1995), Road March (1977), A Brighter Day (1998) and Red House Fire! Fire! (1999) for the Bagasse Company; Bassman with the Signal Hill Theater Workshop Tobago (1997); the “Voodoo Ceremony” for the ABC television film Production Creature, by Peter Benchley with Trilogy Entertainment North Ltd. (1997); and Ti Jean and His Brothers for Trinity College (2000). He has collaborated with Indiana State University, Trinity College, and Yale on special assignments. His long running Cultural Spectacular at the Bushnell Theater can be seen annually and has performed extensively nationally and internationally.
Khristopher Henry (Guest Choreographer) is a native of Boston, Massachusetts, and is a dance performance, BFA graduate of the University of Hartford at the Hartt School under artistic director Stephen Pier. Khristopher began his training at the Origination Cultural Arts Center in 2011 under the instruction of Shaumba-Yandje Dibinga. There, he studied Contemporary, Modern with Horton based technique as well as Hip-Hop and African dance. In 2011-2015, Khristopher was a dance major at the Boston Arts Academy where he began his ballet training with instructor Chris Alloways Ramsey; former dancer with the Boston Ballet. During his time at Boston Arts Academy he was able to work with choreographers Nathan Trice on a new work titled Conversions as well as Katherine Young; artistic Director of the Boston Conservatory. In 2013 Khristopher attended Complexions Contemporary Ballet’s Code 3 workshop where he was able to work with Desmond Richardson, Dwight Rhoden and Jae Man Joo. During his time at the Hartt School, Khristopher began to further his ballet training under the instruction of Hilda Morales and the other exquisite Hartt School faculty and modern dance, specifically Limón and Graham technique under the instruction of Nina Watt and Miki Orihara. In addition, he was able to work with choreographers Norbert De La Cruz and Brain Arias and Yoshito Sakuraba. Khristopher is currently a dancer with Boston Dance Theater.

Abby Nelson, (Student Choreographer) dance education major, choreographer, and performer, is a senior at Central Connecticut State University. She is currently completing her last semester as a Dance Education and Physical Education major. Abby has spent the last six years with the dance company. Over the years Abby has choreographed five pieces set on Dancentral dancers. Abby’s choreography presented in this show is her sixth piece! Abby has been a devoted Executive Board member holding the role of Secretary and Vice President. This year Abby submitted her work Lambent to The University of Saint Joseph's 5 x 5 dance festival among other colleges and professional companies! In the future, she plans to start her own dance company as well as work in a magnet arts school. Abby plans to work to get her masters and doctorate related to dance and education.

Erica Nelson (Dance Faculty/Choreographer) Residing in Hartford, CT, Erica Nelson is a classically trained dancer who received her BFA in Dance Performance with University Honors from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. She is pursuing her Master’s in Arts Leadership
and Cultural Management from Colorado State University. Erica is currently an adjunct professor of Dance at Central Connecticut State University where she teaches ballet, modern, dance production and repertory. She acts as the faculty advisor and director of the student dance group Dancentral. She also teaches dance and fitness at local studios and works as a stage manager for regional dance companies and for CCSU. Erica is on the Board of Directors for The Connecticut Dance Alliance serving as the Hartford Regional Coordinator. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of The END Ensemble, a project-based contemporary dance company. They have shown work throughout Hartford, Boston, and New York, and at dance festivals throughout New England. You can find them on Facebook and Instagram at @theendensemble and at www.theendensemble.org

Iker Ozbelli (Dance Faculty/Choreographer) was born in Turkey. He is an experienced Ballroom Dance Instructor with 20 years of experience teaching students in one-on-one and group settings. He is a choreographer for solo and group performances. He is educated in Mechanical Engineering Yildiz Technical University Istanbul, Turkey 1995 – 2000 and Masters in Management Information Technology Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) New Britain, CT 2002 – 2005. He is a gold certified dancer and District Dance coordinator. Currently he is responsible for developing students and staff in Arthur Murray Dance Centers in Glastonbury and teaching Ballroom at CCSU. He still continues to compete, teach and choreograph for every level and age group.

Sevi Orakoglu Ozbelli (Choreographer) was born in Turkey. She is licensed by Turkish Ministry of Sport & Youth, International Latin and Standard trainer and judge in Turkey. Sevi was the head of the Technical committee of Turkish Dance Federation from 2008- 2010. She graduated from Pera Fine Arts Flamenco Dance School in Istanbul, certified in Flamenco from Spain, Amor Des Dios Madrid. She is a two-time nominee for the Best Actress in Turkey award, and was the winner of the “36th Ismet Kuntay Awards” on Mrs. Future Actress in 2011. She has choreographed three pieces performed by Shaja Yogies in Italy in the Cabella World festival. She was educated in Naval Architecture and Off-shore Engineering with a Master degree in Human Resource Management. She is a licensed Psychological Astrologer from NCGR, NY.

Pascal Rekoert (Dance Faculty/Choreographer) currently Assistant Professor and CCSU Interim Dance Program Coordinator, danced professionally with European companies before moving to the USA. In 1998 he performed in "The Fall," a piece that garnered acclaim as "the
dance document of the 90's," receiving the coveted Prix du Bonheur du Rue St. Denis in Paris, France. As a choreographer, Mr. Rekoert presented his own work in theaters in Great Britain, Germany, former Yugoslavia, Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, United States, Canada & Mexico, and produced dance film shorts for the International Rotterdam Film Festival and various festivals throughout the USA. Before teaching at Central, Rekoert was Associate Artistic Director at Jennifer Muller/ The Works, setting work at Lincoln Center and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The first time he set foot on campus was in 2001, and he is happy to be at CCSU in a full-time capacity. www.pascalrekoert.com

DANCER’S BIOGRAPHIES

Brianna Albanese (Public Relations) is a junior majoring in Dance Education. She is the President of CCSU’s Dance Team and the Public Relations Officer for Dancentral. Brianna is part of the National Honor Society of Dance Arts and was the recipient of the Demetra Daniel Perrelli scholarship in Spring 2020. She continues to share her love of dance with others through teaching and coaching. She is excited to be able to perform on stage with the company members again!

Isabella Alfano is a junior majoring in Strategic Communication with a minor in Business. This is her second semester with DanCentral. It has been an amazing experience and has given her the opportunity to meet so many amazing dancers. Isabella is thankful for Dancentral for being so kind and welcoming. She is looking forward to having this showcase in person and her future with dance at CCSU.

Tyler Barnes is a Sophomore majoring in Dance Education and minoring in Psychology. He has enjoyed having the opportunity to expand his knowledge of dance here at CCSU and has loved every experience Dancentral has given him.

Tiana Boccuzzi (Vice President) is a junior majoring in Elementary Education with a concentration in English. Tiana is currently Vice President of Dancentral, and this is her fifth semester with the company. She is grateful to work alongside many beautiful and talented dancers. She also expresses gratitude to all the amazing opportunities the company brings. Tiana is looking forward to showcasing all the hard work and dedication our dancers and faculty have put in this semester!

Allie Brown is a senior majoring in Anthropology and minoring in Art. She is currently the Public Relations officer for the Anthropology Club, and this is her fifth and final semester with Dancentral. Allie is incredibly excited to showcase all the hard work the company has put into making a terrific show during such an unpredictable time and will always be grateful for the opportunities the company has offered her. She will cherish the memories she made here long after she graduates and wishes everyone the best of luck in accomplishing their dreams!
Rhiannya Byrne (President) is a Senior majoring in Psychological Science and minoring in Dance. Through her dance studies, she has received the Carol Ciotto leadership award and the Estelle Jones Triarhos Dance Scholarship. She has loved participating in each showcase, on campus events, and traveling to perform at other colleges. Rhiannya is thankful for all the Dancentral has given her through performance, creativity, and leadership.

Nadia Caso (Treasurer) is a Sophomore majoring in Dance Education. She is also a part of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. Nadia has been dancing for 19 years and is continuing it as her career. This is her fourth semester dancing with Dancentral, and she has enjoyed performing alongside her company members.

Megan Clabby is a Sophomore majoring in Elementary Education. She has been dancing for the past nine years and this will be her third showcase with Dancentral. She is so excited to be back in person in the studio and is so grateful to all the company members who have inspired her throughout the challenges of the past year.

Sabrina Cofranceso is a Sophomore majoring in Dance Education. She has been dancing for 18 years. Her favorite styles are Tap and Hip Hop. Sabrina is a member of the CCSU Dance Team. She hopes to one day fulfill her dreams in opening her own competitive dance studio.

Margaret Dadamo is an Exercise Science Major and Dance Minor. Margie has performed in Brass City Ballet Dance Company, Sacred Heart University Dance Company, and presently Dancentral. She loves Dancentral in its entirety for all the opportunities it has provided her between scholarships, the National Honor Society of Dance Arts, and leadership roles. She is most grateful for the memories made with her Dancentral peers.

Gia De León is a Sophomore majoring in Dance Education and minoring in Theater. She has been dancing for 15 years and this is her first semester with Dancentral. As she has always been a hip hop dancer, she is willing to learn new dance styles. Gia hopes to participate with Dancentral in future semesters as she has enjoyed this experience with her fellow dancers. She looks forward to succeeding alongside them and in her future dance career.

Sydney Fanion is a Freshman majoring in Speech Language Pathology and minoring in Dance. She was Team Captain at her hometown studio where she won many technical and performance awards. This is Sydney’s second semester with Dancentral. She is eager to continue her time with the club. She is looking forward to displaying all of the hard work she and her fellow company members have put into the Spring 2021 showcase!

Isabella Galdamez is a Sophomore majoring in Exercise Science and minoring in Dance. This is Isabella’s 4th semester with Dancentral and she’s very excited to show everyone what her and her fellow dancers have been so diligently working on.

Megyn Jasman is a Senior majoring in Psychological Science and minoring in Sociology. She is currently the President of the CCSU Psychology Club. This is Megyn’s 8th semester with Dancentral and is bittersweet about leaving the company after graduation. Megyn wants to thank
Dancentral for all of the memories and experiences to explore her passion for dance. She wishes Dancentral the best of luck in the future!

**Lacie Low** is a freshman majoring in Biomolecular Sciences. This is her second semester with Dancentral and has been with her home studio, Academy of Dance and Music, since she was two. She is excited to continue dancing and is honored to be a part of CCSU’s Dancentral. The dancers have continually worked hard and are very excited for the upcoming showcase!

**Dewlys Maldonado** is a junior at Central Connecticut State University with a major in Dance education with a minor entrepreneurship. She is also the president of Chi Upsilon Sigma Latin Sorority Incorporated at the university.

**DesTahnee Manick-Highsmith** is a Freshman majoring in Dance Education and minoring in Theatre Performance. She is honored to be a part of Dancentral and is excited to continue her dance journey at CCSU. She is excited to share her solo work with you during this performance!

**Monica Mulligan** is a Junior majoring in Dance Education with a specialization in Entrepreneurship. This is her first semester with Dancentral. She has been dancing for 19 years and continues to deepen her studies where she also teaches dance to students at Cheshire Dance Centre. She is so honored to be a part of Dancentral this semester and is eager to share the stage for the first time with the company!

**Abby Nelson** is a graduating Senior who has spent the last six years with the dance company. She will earn her undergraduate degree in Dance Education and Physical Education. Abby is currently a student teacher at the Cooperative Arts and Humanities Highschool. Over the years Abby has choreographed five pieces set on Dancentral dancers. Abby’s choreography presented in this show is her sixth piece! Abby has been a devoted Executive Board member holding the role of Secretary and Vice President. This year Abby submitted her work *Lambent* to The University of Saint Joseph's 5 x 5 dance festival among other colleges and professional companies! In the future, she plans to start her own dance company as well as work in a magnet arts school. Abby plans to work to get her masters and doctorate related to dance and education.

**Madison Oquendo (Sports Club Council Representative)** is a junior with CCSU. She is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Dance. This is her fifth semester with Dancentral and enjoys the opportunities that have been provided to her. Since the age of two Madison has been dancing and comes from a generation of dancers, grandmother and mother. Dance provides the freedom of expression. It heals the soul, and for her it’s the passion behind it that makes it so beautiful. As always, Madison thanks you for attending the show.

**Gianna Passarelli (Secretary)** is a junior majoring in Elementary Education with a concentration in English. She currently holds the position of Secretary in Dancentral and this is her fifth semester of dancing with the company. She is a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. Gianna cannot wait to show everyone what Dancentral has been working hard on all semester. She is very excited to finally be able to perform on the stage with her favorite people again.
Cloe Tranter (NHSDA officer) is a junior majoring in Dance Education and minoring in Business. She is the officer for the National Honors Society of Dance Arts at Dancentral and was the recipient of the Catherine J. Fellows Scholarship in Spring 2020. She is excited to be back dancing with her friends and can’t wait for everyone to see the show!

Linnea Tucker is a Freshman majoring in Dance Education. She has been dancing 16 years and this is her first semester with Dancentral. Outside of CCSU, she continues to share her love of dance by teaching at her home studio, Dance Legacy. She is grateful to be a part of the wonderful Dancentral community, and excited to perform next to all our great dancers!

Karilyn Villarini is a double major in Dance Education and PE. At the 2019 High School Dance Festival, she choreographed a piece for the dance students at Norwich Free Academy. She has recently partnered with Daniel Natal to teach Commercial Reggaeton dance workshops in Ripley Grier’s studio in NYC. Karilyn continues her training as a performer through a talent agency and DanCentral.

Jordyn Williams is a sophomore majoring in Accounting. This is her fourth semester with Dancentral and is grateful to have the opportunity to continue dancing in college. Outside of Dancentral, she is the Outreach Coordinator of Central Activities Network and works part time at RECentral. She is thankful to be dancing in person again and cannot wait for everyone to see the show!

Larenz Young is a senior majoring in Management and minoring in Dance. This is his fourth semester with Dancentral, and he is very thankful for the opportunities and support he has gotten from the company. He has been putting a lot of hard work and effort into preparing for this show with his fellow members, and he is so thrilled to be dancing with them on the stage!

CONNECT WITH US!

Dancentral @dancentralccsu

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### CAST PHOTOS

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<tr>
<th>Rhiannya Byrne</th>
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GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Gifts to benefit the Dance Education Program and students may be made by visiting: www.ccsu.edu/dance

Please indicate which funds you wish to support: Catherine J. Fellows Dance Scholarship; Demetra D. Perrelli Dance Scholarship; Estelle Jones Triarhos Dance Scholarship.

Donations by check may be made payable to the CCSU Foundation, Inc. and mailed to:
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If you have questions about your tax-deductible gift, please contact:
Mary Beth Papallo, (860) 832-3513, mpapallo@ccsu.edu

Any contribution, large or small, makes a difference.
On behalf of our CCSU Dance Education students... Thank you!

Catherine J. Fellows Dance Scholarship

The Catherine J. Fellows Dance Scholarship provides scholarship support for Dance Education Majors who demonstrate outstanding performance and potential and have thereby enhanced the quality of the University's dance program.


Demetra D. Perrelli Dance Scholarship

Provides support for Dance Education Majors who are outstanding in their dance performance and excel in their participation in Dance Education and have thereby enhanced the quality of the University's dance program.


Estelle Jones Triarhos Dance Scholarship (Dance)

Provides scholarship support for Dance Minors who are outstanding in their dance performance and participation and have thereby enhanced the quality of the University's dance program.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO

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