

THE FOLK DANCER

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2004 EDITION

EDITOR: KATIE ALLRED

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Time is flying by as usual and once again, it is time for an update from the "World Dance Division" at BYU-Provo. We have many exciting things going on this fall that we want you to know about. *Christmas Around the World* is coming up, and as most of you know, tickets will be on sale soon. We hope to see many of you there!

We had some exciting moments on tour this summer that we would like to report on. Our faculty members are all over the globe on noteworthy endeavors!

Once again, we hope that you will contact us and let us know where you are and what you are doing. If you know about anyone we may have lost touch with, please let us know. July 2006 will be an important month for all of us, as it will be our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Look for specifics in the Spring Newsletter. We hope to have as many of you here in Utah as possible. Please keep in touch with us. As always, we hope to see you at some of our performances in your areas. Take care and enjoy!

NEWS FROM OUR DIVISION

Ed and Vickie Austin toured Europe with the IFDE this summer. They attended festivals in Belgium and France and performances in both France and Switzerland. (See *PAC—Tour Report*)

Jeanette Geslison spent the summer teaching a few classes and spending time with her family. Her oldest daughter, Alina, took 5th place at the National Fiddle Contest, in Weiser, Idaho. It looks like she is taking after her very talented parents.

Tara Eyre presented a workshop in Taipei, Taiwan this summer. She reported on the results of her graduate thesis and was very well received. (See *Faculty Spotlight*).

Delynne Peay directed SPAC through over 60 shows in Utah this spring! After a quick break, she led the group to Nauvoo for an incredible two-week tour. (See *SPAC in Nauvoo*)

Susanne Davis joined SPAC in Nauvoo. It was a wonderful experience, one that we hope to have again next summer.

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

This summer, Tara Eyre presented a workshop at the CORD (Congress on Research and Dance) Conference in Taipei, Taiwan. In her joint presentation with Pat Debenham, Tara covered research from her graduate thesis, dealing with the use of Bartinieff Fundamentals in training the body to execute various styles of ethnic dance. Many of the participants in the workshop had been trained in Bartinieff Fundamentals, but had not understood its application to World Dance. To illustrate the connection, Tara taught a short Hungarian sequence followed by a few Bartinieff Fundamental exercises. The exercises were intended to help the participants understand Hungarian styling. The presentation helped those present understand how these exercises increase the ability to execute various styles of dance. Tara reinforced this connection by showing a video contrasting her dance team that had been taught the Fundamentals and one that had not. The participants saw a marked difference in the teams and were able to pick out the trained team immediately. The workshop was a huge success. Way to go Tara!

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Tickets for the annual *Christmas Around the World* Concert go on sale Saturday, November 6, 2004 at 8:00 AM, and are available at the Marriott Center Ticket Office. We are looking forward to an exciting show with several new pieces of choreography, including selections from Puerto Rico, Ireland, Israel and India. The concert will be held in the Marriott Center at BYU-Provo on December 3rd and 4th. The shows begin at 7:30 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings with a Saturday matinee at 2:00pm. Family passes are available for the Saturday matinee show. Once again, we will hold the Alumni Reception in the Cougar Room immediately following the matinee performance. (For those not attending the matinee show, the reception usually begins around 4:00 pm.) Bring your families and come visit with alumni and tour leaders from years past. We hope to see many of you there!

PAC-TOUR REPORT

Submitted by Ed Austin

The International Folk Dance Ensemble recently returned from their summer tour, which took them to the countries of Belgium, France, and Switzerland. The ensemble attended two festivals this year—the Schoten festival in Belgium, and the Martigues festival in France.

Upon our arrival, the Schoten festival committee honored us by announcing that we were the only group to ever be invited back to their festival seven times, (our last visit being twenty years ago in 1984). Jon Wood, our tour manager, met some people who knew the host family for his father, Russ Wood, in 1968; an interesting connection! While in Schoten, it rained almost everyday, making our last and only outdoor performance even more exciting and memorable than most.

We enjoyed several distinctive and scenic settings for performances on our tour this summer. Perhaps our most unique performance was on a stage built into one of the beautiful waterways that intersects the coastal town of Martigues. The most beautiful setting for one of our performances might have been the citadel in Ville Franche-sur-Mer, where we overlooked the Mediterranean Sea. It was an outdoor performance for invited guests only, and the rising of the moon was incredible.

Perhaps one of the most memorable shows came in Nice, France, at a beautiful outdoor amphitheater seating about 2700 people. As the venue became filled to capacity, many people, having been turned away, situated themselves outside the walls where they could listen. The opening announcement surprised many people as they learned that they would be watching a performance sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In response to the reaction I heard, I prepared myself to see some of the audience members excuse themselves. But, standing in a place where I had stood 18 years before, I watched as our dancers opened the hearts of their audience. Of their visits with audience members following the show, the students later reported that they had never experienced such warm reception and praise. They were overwhelmed with the response.

Tours touch our hearts, open our eyes and fill our souls with experiences that we never forget. The following comments were made by some of the participants on this year's tour. I am sure that many of you will remember similar experiences.

On this tour I have been reminded that we really don't know the extent of our influence. I have watched as people have been inspired and hearts have been touched by seemingly insignificant words and acts. This is a great reminder to always be about the Lord's business. (Leslie Nuttall)

Tour intensified my understanding of the impact one person can have on another. There are opportunities everyday whether we are in Schoten, Martigues, Provo, or gorgeous Carro! It's up to us to open our eyes to them. (Abby Hunter Lamb)

Tour really helped refresh my memory of how wonderful people are wherever you go and how important it is to show kindness. All of us as human beings feel the same things inside. Relationships are what this life is all about. (Ron Nuttall)

I was reminded of how much work we are able to do in the area of teaching people more truth about "Mormons." Many people have learned false notions about the LDS people in general and we can do much on these tours to give our new friends a clear and more accurate understanding of who we are and what we believe in. It is likely that they will spread what they have learned to their friends and their families. I can't think of a better way to spread the "good news". (Ed Austin)

I gained several things on this tour. First, I strengthened my testimony in Europe, of how God lives and is aware of all of his children. I also learned to count my blessings everyday, and to never take anything for granted, especially ice! But the things I will always treasure from this tour are the friends I made. (McKenzi Williams)

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

The BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble will have several performances this fall and early in the spring. Listed are the performance sites and dates so that you can plan to see them if they are in your area. For more details see- <http://pam.byu.edu>. (Remember that performance times and venues are subject to change, so be sure to check the website)

3/04/05- Flagstaff, AZ.
7:30pm TBA

3/05/05- Snowflake, AZ
7:30 pm Snowflake High

3/08/05- Tuscon, AZ
7:30pm Centennial Hall
@ U of A

3/09/04- Phoenix, AZ
7:30pm TBA

3/10/05- Litchfield Park, AZ
7:30 pm TBA

3/11/05- Prescott, AZ
7:30 pm Yavapi College

3/12/05- Camp Verde, AZ- 7:00
pm Mingus High School

For information regarding the performance schedules of other BYU-Provo performing dance groups, such as The Ballroom Dance Company, The Dancer's Company, Theatre Ballet, The Young Ambassadors, and Living Legends, please see: <http://pam.byu.edu>

NFO NEWS

The National Folk Organization of the United States of America is a leading organization specializing in the arena of culture. Greg Lund is currently the president of the organization. Recent events include the 8th Annual Pourparler in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, (near Madison) which was held on October 14-17, 2004. The Pourparler is a gathering of colleagues, teachers and participants to share dances and new ideas. In the past, the content has touched on Balkan, Scandinavian, Israeli, French, square dancing, contra dancing, Maypoles, old time couple dancing and many others! Several Utahans and BYU Alumni serve in leadership roles, on committees and in advisory councils in the NFO, including is our own Mary B. Jensen! To become a member and help support world cultures, visit www.nfo-usa.org.

SPAC

Submitted by Delynne Peay

"There's never been a better time to see Nauvoo!", said the Sister Missionary as she greeted the crowd in the Joseph Smith Academy Auditorium. The people gathered there had come to see a performance by the BYU Spring Performing Arts Company. The hour following was a celebration of dance, music, and culture. Perhaps more important than the celebration was the sharing of the Spirit of Christ.

This past August, thirty-eight of our dancers, musicians and technicians spent an incredible 12 days not only sharing the Spirit of Christ, but also partaking of the wonderful spirit of Nauvoo. Although the "City of Joseph" production was finished and the tourist season winding down, the performers had great success. The group performed in the Joseph Smith Academy Auditorium, and each evening the show ended with a standing ovation from a full house! In addition to performing, we toured near-by sights such as Carthage, Springfield (Abraham Lincoln's home), Hannibal (home of Mark Twain), Fort Madison and St. Louis. We traveled to Quincy (refuge city for the early saints) and performed for the local television live news broadcast at Washington Park (sight of the great Lincoln/Douglas debates). We also enjoyed a trip to Kahoka, Missouri where the students participated in an annual Bluegrass Festival.

We attended the other productions put on by the senior missionary couples and the young performing missionaries. These performances, "Sunset on the Mississippi", "Rendezvous at Old Nauvoo", "Just Plain Anna Amanda", and "Remembering Nauvoo" were wonderful. It seemed, however, that the most memorable time was the time spent in old Nauvoo, learning about life for the early Saints, hearing the lectures given on Joseph Smith and the church in those difficult times, and being inside the beautiful Nauvoo Temple. Our dormitory was located just outside the historic temple presenting a welcomed view each day. The last evening in Nauvoo, prior to the final performance, President and Sister Park, along with five other missionary couples with whom we had been privileged to work, served us a wonderful dinner in a beautiful banquet room overlooking the Mississippi River. This was their way of thanking us for coming and truly was an example of Christlike love. This summer, we did more than "see" Nauvoo, we had the blessing to "feel" Nauvoo, and that will never be forgotten.

NEWSFLASH!

The "Folk Dance Division" faculty at BYU-Provo would like to make a special announcement. We have just changed our name to "World Dance Division". We feel this is in the best interest of keeping abreast of current terminology. The term "folk" has more and more connotations of a Euro centric connection in our dance world. Often it refers to cultural dances that are performed in a recreational context. Our division has grown to include not only social/recreational dance and performance/stage dance, but also ethnic/ritual dance such as, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Irish, Polynesian, Spanish, and Chinese, at various levels. The term "World Dance" is used to imply interdisciplinary and multi-faceted movement that is performed by people throughout the world. The change in the division title will more reflect our prescribed curriculum. (Written by Susanne Davis)

NEWS FROM OUR DIVISION (CONTINUED)

Colleen West just finished choreographing a tap number for World of Dance, 2004. "Your Feet Too Big", was a jazz/tap piece displaying Rhythm and Broadway tap.

Katie Strong Allred is back teaching several classes after she and her husband, Aaron, had a baby girl this June. Hallie Allred is a healthy and happy baby!

Tina Shelley is no longer teaching in the division, but is busy teaching Irish dance at the Shelley School of Irish Dance in Pleasant Grove, UT. For those interested, her studio phone number is (801) 785-3491.

Gary Larsen is away this fall, teaching at BYU-Idaho. He is directing the Folk Dance team there while Charles West is on leave. We look forward to having him back with us for the winter semester of 2005.

Jiamin Huang is in China this semester where she helped lead a "Study Abroad" this past summer. We are also looking forward to having Jiamin back with us to teach our Chinese dance class in the winter semester of 2005.

Sara Lee Gibb, former Modern Dance Division Chair and Assistant to the Dean, was recently named the new Dean of the College of Health and Human Performance. She replaced Dr. Robert Conlee, who served us well. We welcome Sara Lee Gibb to this new position and look forward to our association with her in this respect.

REMEMBER WHEN

Remember when the folk dancers left Buenos Aires and went to Rosario, Argentina in May of 1993? Andrew Madsen writes: "I can't remember how I woke up this morning . . . Was it Scott Rand's cough?, Ed's laugh/singing? , or maybe Ladd pulling away his pop-tart covering? All I remember is that it was EARLY!!! . . . Our bus came – or should I say SUPERBUS! Two televisions, a bathroom big enough for Michelle to run laps in, and a flan maker. (Of course we'll be using the latter the most!) We packed the bus . . . and said our final goodbyes to our Argentine friends. We all got choked up as we waved to [our friends] and pulled out of Venezuela Street for our next 'adventure'. Buenos Aires has definitely been an experience we'll not soon forget. . .

We arrived in Rosario in the late afternoon. . . The good saints of Rosario planned a whole night full of activities for us, which caught us off guard. . . We participated in a dance exchange with one of the oldest dance schools in all of Argentina. The young dancers marveled at the band's playing and the technical skills of the short square's *Polka Quadrille*. . . Four couple clog was performed [and] everyone brought their clog shoes— just in case we wanted to teach them to chug. . .

Back at the church we had an unusual fireside/performance combination. Now this wasn't like doing Mehkereki while bearing our testimonies or anything like that. Rather, we had a shortened fireside in the chapel and then an almost full performance in the cultural hall. Interesting notes from the fireside: Ladd, April and Jeff gave great talks. We found out that April sloughed geography class during the South American section. ("I thought it was all jungle . . ."). Keven was 'coking' or rather 'spriting' the floor to make it less slick. Members were getting front row seats in the cultural hall and looking back into the chapel. We prepared for our show quickly. Ed instructed the girls to have smooth bums for the show, you know-Makinaw style- (he meant 'smooth buns'!) The show was great fun. The crowd was wired! [There were people] packed into the cultural hall, chapel and even on the stand . . . We enjoyed talking to the people afterwards as we always do. Marty met some of the missionaries he taught in the MTC, and Tiff met yet another "friend" from school. (How many does that make?) (Andrew Madsen, Tour History, May 24, 1993, pages 16-18)

Remember when the folk dancers visited Berlin in that same summer in August? Marty Matheson wrote, "The day began very early as we awoke and drove to the hospital to have breakfast at 6:30 am. We had all been anxiously awaiting today to perform for and mingle with the Chernobyl children. We drove to the Beelitz Hospital, which is a Soviet unit just outside of Berlin. About 20 of our friends from the German ward came with us . . . We performed a shortened version of our show . . . In the audience were other young hospital patients and members [of the church]. The show was narrated into Russian by the Berlin Mission President, President Schutze. The audience was very responsive . . . [and] went wild. When we performed Hopak, everyone's face lit up. We sang "Go Ye Now in Peace" and "God Be With You" in English. Many of us, as well as numerous hospital leaders were in tears. There was an incredible feeling of love felt between us. They chanted for more, so we sang "Great Things and Small Things". Each of the Chernobyl children came up to us and gave us a small gift and we gave them [each] a stuffed animal and candy in return. We also had *Article of Faith* cards and [copies of the] *Book of Mormon* to share.

We had fun mingling with them and watching them wear some of our props. They took us to their living quarters and sang us several folk songs. We spent our last half hour with them on a playground (we were still in costume). It was amazing to see the bonding that had occurred in such a short time. We were told that most of these kids would not be alive in a few years. Our hearts were touched as we made friends with suffering children from Chernobyl . . . Today was a day full of love, service and fun." (Marty Matheson, Tour History, August 9, 1993, page 59)

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Harman Scholarship

Summer Wilson
James Frazee
Aubree Walker

Viltis Scholarship

Justin Keyes
Crystal Robinson

Excellence in Folk Arts Award

Greg Crockett
Robert Gardner

Mary Bee Jensen Scholarship Endowment

Peter Lamb
Hillary Boeing

Norma Pardoe Performance Award

Marie Sonnenberg

Freshman Scholarship Recipients

Thomas Radcliffe
Sarah Sanderson
David Woolsey

Congratulations to these students!