

# THE FOLK DANCER

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2006 EDITION

EDITOR: EMILEE WRIGHT

## GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Submitted by Emilee Wright

Hello from the World Dance Division at BYU-Provo. Last semester was a busy one – a fresh, new start to a great year. Christmas Around the World – A Celebration of Peace was fantastic! We are so proud of our great students and faculty who put in so much time and energy to make a wonderful show. Hopefully many of you were able to attend. It was nice to see so many of you at the alumni reception.

Now we are preparing for Folk Dance Golden Jubilee, the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Folk Dance at Brigham Young University

In this issue, look for the following news we have to share:

- ❖ Golden Jubilee Information
- ❖ Updates on our performing groups
- ❖ News from our Division
- ❖ Upcoming performances near you

We are so happy to be able to keep in contact with so many of you. Please help us in our efforts by keeping us updated. If you change your contact information, please let us know. Also, if you know of someone who is not receiving this newsletter and should be, please let us know who and where they are.

We hope you enjoy the updates and will be able to join us this summer for the celebration of this wonderful program!

## MANY THANKS TO OUR ALUMNI

The Alumni Fundraising project is under way and donations are already starting to come in. Many thanks to those who donated. As a reminder, we are hoping to fully fund the Mary Bee Jensen Endowment and create two half-tuition alumni-funded scholarships. You will be hearing more from us at the reunion in the summer and throughout the next few years. But you don't need to wait until then. You can always send a donation directly to the Department of Dance, 294 Richards Building, Provo, UT 84602.

## NEWS FROM OUR DIVISION

Submitted by Colleen West

I would like to introduce two new part-time faculty in the world dance division: Emilee Savage Wright and Cynthia Streeter. Both of them previously danced on the Performing Arts Company and have given much of their time and talents to the program. We welcome them into our folk dance family.

Susanne has returned from England, Scotland and Ireland with a wealth of knowledge she wishes to share with the faculty and her students. From her findings she has published an abstract, written a paper, and gave an American Contra Dance Workshop at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Convention of Arts and Humanities in Oahu, Hawaii in January 2006.

Two of our PAC members, Quincy Robinson and Ben Watson are applying for a Fulton grant. They are going to conduct research comparing Ukrainian dance in Canada and Ukrainian dance in Ukraine. They will be attending two folk festivals in Canada: The Drummondville 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Folk Festival and the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Festival in Edmonton. This year only the top chosen groups will attend the Drummondville Festival, including our very own Performing Arts Company. Quincy and Ben then plan on traveling to Lutsk, Ukraine to attend the CIOFF (Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d'Arts Traditionnels) festival where many Ukrainian dance groups are invited to perform along with other international folk dance groups.

Quincy Robinson was also awarded an ORCA (Office of Research and Creative Activities) research grant in December 2005 along with Amanda Henriksen and Erica Bergen. Amanda and Erica will be traveling to Ireland to study Irish dance for three weeks this summer. Colleen will be the faculty advisor for each of their projects.

Colleen is planning on attending the Drummondville Festival this summer and possibly traveling to Ukraine to attend the Lutsk dance festival. She will also be conducting the fourth annual BYU Tap Dance Workshop which will be held June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

## UP TO THE MINUTE WITH PAC

Submitted by Ed Austin

This is going to be a very exciting year for the Performing Arts Company. We begin with a concert in the Dance Studio Theatre in the Richards Building on February 10 and 11, followed by two additional concerts in the LDS Conference Center February 17 and 18.

Then we will set out for New Mexico and Texas hoping to see many of you during our Mid-semester Tour, February 24 – March 4. (Don't ask me why we are not performing in Albuquerque!) Upon arriving home, we will begin work on our American repertoire for this summer's concerts and festival. After many years, we are hoping to have a new suite of dances to represent our pioneer heritage. I have asked Kathleen Sheffield to assist me with this project.

In April, we are very excited to have Ervin Vargas visit our university to choreograph a new Slovakian Suite made possible by a grant from the Fulton Chair. He has worked with SLUK, LUCNICA, and many other groups throughout Slovakia and comes to us with high praise from Vonnie Brown, Slovakian dance expert.

Following our summer tour to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Drummondville Festival in Quebec, we are looking forward to seeing each of you at our 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee IN CONCERT performance. It will be held in the DeJong Concert Hall and will be more than just a concert. We can't wait to see many of you at the reunion!

And last, but certainly not least—Christmas Around the World will be filmed this year for television. We are excited to have this dream come true at the conclusion of our Jubilee year. It will be the finale to our celebration year. (I wonder if I should do more than just one finale in honor of the occasion!?) We hope that many of you will be able to join us in our television audience in December. Put it on your calendar.

## **SPAC**

Submitted by Delynne Peay

SPAC has grown. . .we are one couple larger than in the past! And our calendar is already full! We have put together two new show line-ups and are excited to get going on learning everything. It will take some extra Saturdays and Wednesday nights, but hey, it just wouldn't be SPAC without extra. Delynne got her hands on some new music, and decided that SPAC needed a new Hopak! So, that was the first thing on the schedule. You'll have to come see it at one of the schools if you're in the area during May. We'll also be doing a new Kurdish Suite that was choreographed for the Eastern Arts Concert at U of U's Kingsbury Hall last November. We're bringing back "Gigue en Folie" from our 1999 tour to the festival at Drummondville, Canada. We have a young lady on the team who is from Japan, so we're hoping for a new Japanese dance to add to the repertoire, along with a lot of other music and dances that we know the children will love.

Our dancers this year are anxious to perform and bring lots of smiles to many Utah school children. Some of them are on this company as a result of seeing another SPAC group come to their school just a few years ago and plant a seed of hope and desire to do the very same thing when they came to BYU. And the legacy lives on! To all the BYU Folk Dancers who participated "back in the day", paved the way, and built the reputation that we stand on. . . SPAC-2006 says "Thanks."

## **UPCOMING PERFORMANCES**

The BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble will have several performances 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)

**2/24/06- Farmington, NM**  
7:00pm Henderson Fine Arts Center

**2/25/06- Los Alamos, NM**  
7:30pm Los Alamos Civic Auditorium

**2/27/06- Lubbock, TX**  
7:30pm Lubbock Civic Center

**2/28/06- Midland, TX**  
7:30pm Robert E Lee High School

**3/01/06- El Paso, TX**  
7:30pm Socorro High School

**3/02/06- Hobbs, NM**  
7:30pm Hobbs High School

**3/03/06- Alamogordo, NM**  
7:30pm Flickinger Center

**3/04/06- Deming, NM**  
7:30pm Deming High School

## **HEAD'S UP!!**

Clog Camp will be held **AUGUST 3-5 in 2006**. It will return to its regularly scheduled time in June for the summer of 2007.

# BYU International Folk Dancers - Golden Jubilee

## Celebrating 50 Years in 2006

### July 20, 21, 22 - Provo, Utah

We sure hope you've got this celebration on your calendars for this summer and are planning to come! **Just remember to reserve, July 20, 21, and 22** (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) in Provo, Utah.

If you know of someone who has not received this information, **PLEASE** tell them about it and get the word out!

We want to give you an update of what is being planned and what you can expect for this reunion. **In order for us to get an estimated count of who is planning to attend, would you please send an email to [mblewis5@yahoo.com](mailto:mblewis5@yahoo.com) and tell us who will be attending from your family.** This will help us to better budget and plan for this reunion.

Will you **PLEASE** give us an updated address, email, and phone number so we can update our records moving forward with the reunion.

#### Day 1 (Afternoon/Evening)

- Family Picnic in the Park (Daytime) - North Park, 500 W 500 N, Provo
  - Swimming, BBQ, games, and entertainment, fun for the **WHOLE** family
- Concert in the deJong Concert Hall (Evening)
  - PAC will showcase their International tour (returning from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Quebec)
  - There will be an admission charge for this event, families are welcome.

#### Day 2 (Morning/Afternoon/Evening)

- Family Dance Workshop (Morning)
  - Dances will be geared for the **WHOLE** family to participate; several skill levels will be available.
- Adult Dance Workshops (Afternoon)
  - Dances will be geared around the Classics I and II CDs.
  - Advanced classes for those up to the challenge will introduce you to additional styles and techniques.
- Musicians Jam (Afternoon)
  - Musicians will gather together for an afternoon jam session to include both our American and our International music.
- Tour Reunions (Evening)
  - Socialize once again with friends from your era and renew past memories.

#### Day 3 (Lunchtime)

- Banquet/Fireside (adults only please)
  - Program will include guest speaker, acknowledgements, media presentation, music, and art gallery.
- Open Evening for Personal Time
  - Traveling home, dinner appointments with close friends, visit family in the area, or just hang out and relax!

The committees are working VERY hard to make this event successful and as you can see we have a lot of exciting things we are working on and it will be a great time for everyone. We will be letting you know additional details as they become available such as the reunion cost, how to register, and items you can preorder (history book, DVDs, music CDs, t-shirts) on the alumni web site.

**Watch for the Folk Dance Alumni (<http://byufolkdance.com/alumni.htm>) web site to be online Feb 15th.** This site will be continually updated with detailed reunion information. We want this to be a growing resource and welcome any ideas you have. If you would like more information or to get involved, please contact one of our committee members:

- **Affinity Chapter/Reunion Committee Chairpersons**  
Brent & Maria Lewis (Orem) – 802-0197, [mblewis5@yahoo.com](mailto:mblewis5@yahoo.com)  
Jared Fugal (Treasurer) – 756-6390, [FugalJW@ldschurch.org](mailto:FugalJW@ldschurch.org)
- **Picnic in the Park (North Park, 500 W. 500 N. - Provo)**  
Daryl and Becky Smith (Orem) – 224-3553, [dbtss.smith@mstarmetro.net](mailto:dbtss.smith@mstarmetro.net)  
Greg & Maria Tucker (Orem) – 224-8334, [rmexpress@gmail.com](mailto:rmexpress@gmail.com)
- **Dancer/Musicians Workshops (Richards Building)**  
Tamara Chamberlain (Arizona) – 480-279-4420, [tamaratom@cox.net](mailto:tamaratom@cox.net)  
Mark & Jeanette Geslison (Provo) – 375-1188
- **Folk Dancer Reunions (Harmon Building)**  
Kristin Anderson (Pleasant Grove) – 785-9464, [mahana\\_10@hotmail.com](mailto:mahana_10@hotmail.com)  
Christy Holding (SLC) – 274-2718, [christineholding@comcast.net](mailto:christineholding@comcast.net)  
Doug Lang (SLC) – 694-5561, [doug@surefirehealth.com](mailto:doug@surefirehealth.com)
- **Folk Dance Banquet (Wilkinson Center Ballrooms)**  
Tiffany Smith Stefl (Sp. Fork) – 798-2119, [tiffanystefl@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffanystefl@hotmail.com)
- **Folk Dance Program (Wilkinson Center Ballrooms)**  
Josh Probert (Provo) – 422-6691, [josh.probert@byu.edu](mailto:josh.probert@byu.edu)
- **Folk Dance Public Affairs**  
Lyman Durfee (Orem) – 225-6722  
Clark Hirschi (Layton) – 240-5157, [HirschiCE@ldschurch.org](mailto:HirschiCE@ldschurch.org)
- **Folk Dance Website**  
Brent Lewis (Orem) – 802-0197, [mblewis5@yahoo.com](mailto:mblewis5@yahoo.com)  
Bryce Bassett (Kaysville) – 602-7570, [bbassett@harrisinteractive.com](mailto:bbassett@harrisinteractive.com)
- **Folk Dance Histories**  
Laurel Shelley (American Fork) – 763-9893, [shell704@alpine.k12.ut.us](mailto:shell704@alpine.k12.ut.us)  
Peggy & Kevin Wright (American Fork) – 756-6601, [dance\\_mom\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:dance_mom_1@yahoo.com)  
Lynn & Andrea Elliot (Springville) – 489-3056, [elliottl@byu.edu](mailto:elliottl@byu.edu)  
Blain Empey (Am. Fork) 756-1604, [blain\\_empey@byu.edu](mailto:blain_empey@byu.edu)
- **Folk Dance Endowment/Scholarships**  
Josh Probert (Provo) – 422-6691, [josh.probert@byu.edu](mailto:josh.probert@byu.edu)  
Lynn Elliot (Springville) – 489-3056, [elliottl@byu.edu](mailto:elliottl@byu.edu)  
Rusty Chambers – 225-4855; [roosterette@hotmail.com](mailto:roosterette@hotmail.com)  
Shane & Emilee Wright (Orem) – 360-8952  
Russ Wood (Sandy) – 943-3316, [wood-wood@earthlink.net](mailto:wood-wood@earthlink.net)
- **Folk Dance Faculty**  
Ed & Vickie Austin – 225-1862, [ed\\_austin@byu.edu](mailto:ed_austin@byu.edu), [vickie\\_austin@byu.edu](mailto:vickie_austin@byu.edu)  
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Colleen West – [colleen\\_west@byu.edu](mailto:colleen_west@byu.edu)  
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Many thanks! The Reunion Committee