ACDA Central Region 2016 - Teacher Bios:

**Gary Abbott** attended California Institute of the Arts and later danced/choreographed with Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. Abbott co-founded/choreographs Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and serves as Assistant Professor of Dance at University of Missouri Kansas City. Gary taught dance workshops in Sofia, Bulgaria and has been guest instructor at Spelman College/Atlanta, Georgia, Iliev Dance Foundation and University of Kwa-Zulu Natal Durbin, South Africa. Choreography includes Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Wyliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Theater and Dallas Black Dance Theater.

**Alyssa Alger** received her B.A. in dance from Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA. While there, she performed extensively, including the title roles in many classical ballets and original works. While working to complete her undergraduate degree, she performed professionally with Sacramento Ballet in Ron Cunningham’s The Nutcracker and Carmina Burana, and Balanchine’s Theme and Variations as well as numerous works with Ballet Concorso in Fort Worth, Texas. In 2010 she earned her certification in STOTT Pilates. In 2013, Alger graduated with her MFA Degree in Dance Performance/Choreography and her Certificate in College Teaching from The University of Arizona. While at UA, Alger had the opportunity to see her choreography presented in the Student Spotlight series of April 2012. Alger enjoyed many performance opportunities including the principal role in Balanchine’s Rubies. Excerpts from her Master’s Thesis have been selected for performance at The Pearl Choreographic Showcase in New York City, Michigan Youth Arts Festival and Michigan Dance Festival. Post graduation, Alger served as Artist in Residence for The University of Arizona School of Dance. During that time, she staged works for The University of Arizona Opera Theatre, performed in several works including Ben Stevenson’s Four Last Songs, and taught several courses to dance majors. For the 2015 spring semester, Alger acted as Ballet Chelsea’s Associate Artistic Director.

**Ruth Barnes** taught at the Merce Cunningham Studio in New York before moving to France in the mid-1980s – and then back to the US in 2000. The first American choreographer to benefit from a Fulbright Fellowship to work in the United Kingdom (1974-1975), she has toured worldwide as a soloist and created works for professional companies and with independent performers in the US and in Europe. Ruth recently produced and performed Here, There and Everywhere, a 50-minute solo created in collaboration with five choreographers and three composers based in Scotland. She is currently Coordinator of the Dance Program at Missouri State University (Springfield).

**Kristin Best Kinscherff** is an Assistant Professor and Head of Dance at SIUE as well as the director of the University Dance Company. She holds a MFA in Dance Performance from the University of Iowa and a BS in Theater and Dance from SIUE. Kristin is a
former company member with The Big Muddy Dance Company in St. Louis, MO. She is a founding member and choreographer of Turn of Change Dance Collective and has served as the Assistant Artistic Director of aTrek Dance Collective. Best Kinscherff has performed with Duarte Dance Works, University of Iowa’s premiere touring ensemble Dancers in Company, aTrek Dance Collective and The Slaughter Project.

**Sara Brummel** earned a B. A. Degree in Anthropology and holds an M. F. A. Degree in Theatre with a Dance Emphasis from the University of Arizona. She trained at the North Carolina School of the Arts, the Pennsylvania Ballet, and with many notable ballet and modern teachers. She performed with a number of ballet and modern dance companies, including the Pennsylvania Ballet, New England Dinosaur, Dance Company of Ontario, Grant Street Dance Company, and Contemporary Dancers of Winnipeg. Ms. Brummel has taught in many places, from Boston to Bogotá, Colombia. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Theatre and Dance Department at Missouri State University.

**Selene Carter** achieved her MFA in dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and received the Ruth Page Award, Chicago’s highest honor in dance. Recent critical reviews of Carter’s choreography hailed her work as “...splendid”...“sensuous, mythological…ebullient and sexy”and wrote that it “…brought warmth and tenderness to the many interactions it was built upon.” As an Assistant Professor of Contemporary Dance at Indiana University, Bloomington, in the Department of Theatre, Drama & Contemporary Dance she teaches dance improvisation, 20th century concert dance history, movement analysis, Evans dance technique and dance making. She is a certified teacher of the Bill Evans Dance Technique.

**Jonathon Cash** has been training as a dancer since the age of 9. He has studied at various studios around the country including Steps on Broadway and Broadway Dance Center. He has formerly been awarded the titles of Mr. Dance of Michigan and Mr. Kids Artistic Review. He has danced professionally with Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, Celebrity Cruise Lines, and Hardwire Productions in Orlando, Florida. He received his BFA in Dance Theater Performance from Marygrove College. Mr. Cash is the Dance Recruitment Counselor at Marygrove and is also the Company Manager for both Marygrove College Dance Company and Company2.

**Judith Chitwood**, Professor and Coordinator of Dance at Northern Illinois University. She began her training in the Chicago area. She earned her degrees from the University of Cincinnati where she studied the Horton technique of Modern Dance under James Truitt. Her performing career includes member of the Cincinnati Ballet Company, guest artist with MOMENTA in reconstructions of Doris Humphrey/Charles Weidman works and guest artist throughout Chicago. Ms. Chitwood is a certified Pilates instructor in Romana’s Pilates of New York working with Master Teacher trainer, Juanita Lopez. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Doris Humphrey Society.

**Cheyla Clawson Chandler** holds a BFA in Dance and MA in Sociology from Wichita State University. Chandler has performed works of various artists including, Robert Battle, Derrick Minter, and Douglas Nielsen. Cheyla was the rehearsal mistress for Martha Graham’s Diversion of Angels, Alvin Alley’s Escapades, Mark Dendy’s Rituals, Darrell Grand Moultrie’s The Zone and had the honor of restaging The Zone at WSU. Chandler’s recent choreography includes works for Wichita Contemporary Dance Theatre, Contemporary Dance Oklahoma, and nomadicLimbs of Milwaukee. Cheyla attended The Horton Dance Technique Certification Program in 2013, 2015 at The Alvin Alley American Dance Theatre School in NYC and has been accepted to attend again this summer. Her work, Anam Chara, was invited to perform June, 2014 at The National ACDFA Conference at The Kennedy Center in Washington DC. She was the recipient of the Dorothy Johansen Hauck Faculty Fellowship in Dance, 2015. Cheyla is currently on faculty at Wichita State University, teaching all levels of modern dance, choreography and the lecture class, Art of Dance.

**Mary-Jean Cowell**, coordinator of the Dance Program at Washington University in St. Louis began professional work in New York, studying with Merce Cunningham and Alwin Nikolais, among others. She performed in the Katherine Litz company, in work by performance artist Ping Chong, and in her own choreography produced by several Choreographers’ Showcases. She has since choreographed more than sixty dances presented in NYC, Hawaii, Tokyo, St. Louis, and other mid-west venues. In Tokyo she taught and choreographed for the Abe Kobo Repertory Company. Her research on Michio Ito has produced several articles and conference papers, and she has been practicing and teaching the Ito method since 2007. Awards include a Japan Foundation Grant, a Missouri Creative Artist Project grant, and a teaching award. M.A. in Dance and Ph.D. in Japanese Literature and Theatre.

**Sarah Cullen Fuller** is a full-time instructor of dance at Loyola University Chicago where she teaches ballet, pointe, modern, and contemporary techniques. She has worked for the past fifteen years as a performer, stager and educator for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and is also the founder of HSDC’s “Parkinson’s Project.”

**Natasha Davis** is the Associate Professor of Dance at Morehead State University. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Kentucky, holds a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Shenandoah University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. As the director of the dance minor program and principle choreographer of the MSU Dance
Ensemble, she has taught, performed and choreographed throughout the southeastern United States and internationally for dance studios, theme parks, outdoor theaters, dance competitions, conventions, workshops, college championship games and the NBA arena. A guest artist at various regional and national dance festivals, a former dance educator in the North Carolina public schools, and she is a certified Pilates Mat instructor.

Philip Edgecombe received his MFA degree in Performance and Choreography from the University of Arizona in May of 2006. He has presented his choreography at several national venues and festivals. Mr. Edgecombe has been a company member with Hedwig Dances, the resident contemporary dance company at the Chicago Cultural Center, and a member of Desert Dance Theater in Phoenix, Arizona. He has performed in works choreographed by many nationally recognized choreographers including Jan Bartoszek, James Clouser, Louis Kavouras, and Doug Nielson. In 2009, Mr. Edgecombe co-founded pH eXchange Dance Theatre with Hilary Peterson.

Paula Frasz has choreographed and performed around the globe, in Australia, Turkey, Austria and Greece. She was featured dancer with Mordine & Co. Dance Theatre of Chicago, with the Chicago Lyric Opera and guest artist with many dance companies. She is an Illinois Arts Council Fellowship winner, a Presidential Teaching Professor nominee and Coleman Fellow. Paula founded DanszLoop Chicago in 2002 and the company continues to perform regularly in Chicago and across the nation.

Amy Gammon graduated from Lindenwood University with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance. She is currently an Adjunct with Lindenwood University through the dance department and is working towards her Master of Arts in teaching with an emphasis in dance. She has also been teaching and choreographing at Performing Arts Centre for the past six years in areas of tap, hip hop, lyrical and jazz. For the past three years, Amy has assisted the tap teacher at Chicago's 24/7 Dance Convention and Tap the Map.

Rich Grund began his dance training at Northern Illinois University where he completed his Theatre B.F.A. in Dance Performance with minors in Music and Theatre. He trained two summers in London with Nancy Kilgour and Anna du Boisson and performed as a soloist for the American College Dance Festival before graduating as the Dean's Award recipient for the School of Theatre and Dance. Upon graduation, Mr. Grund joined the Dayton Ballet performing principal and soloist roles in over 40 ballets in the company's repertoire including works by Alvin Alley, Gerald Arpino, Septime Webre, Dermot Burke, Stephen Mills, Christian Holder, Collin Connor, Rebecca Wright, Marjorie Müssman, Christopher Fleming and many others. His most recognized ballet performances include leading roles in Dracula, Romeo and Juliet, A Christmas Carol, The Three Musketeers, TOMMY, There was a Time, and A Streetcar Named Desire. In addition, he was appointed Rehearsal Captain for the company and assisted in staging company repertoire. He received the Josie Award in Dayton in 2008. He is proud to come home to NIU as a Professor of Dance with emphasis in classical ballet training, male technique and partnering.

Kathleen Hickey, a native Chicagoan, is the artistic director, choreographer and dancer of Matter of Reaction Movement Project. Her work has been seen throughout the Midwest, including Chicago, Madison, and Lafayette, and she has also performed in works by Renee Murray, Brandi Coleman, and Rebecca Holderness at the Hyde Park Art Center, Mitchell Hall, and the New York Drama League. Most recently, she traveled to Prague to perform in Joel E barbar’s Passage at the PQ 2015 festival. Hickey previously taught dance in the Chicago Public Schools and at several ACDA Midwest conferences. In 2014, Hickey acted as a visiting artist at Wabash College and is currently dance faculty at Purdue University. Hickey holds a B. A. in Political Science from Purdue University and an M.F.A. in Dance and Performing Arts from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

DeeAnna Hiett University of Missouri Kansas City

Tina Kambour, MA, CMA, SMTT is a full time faculty member in the Department of Dance at the University of Central Oklahoma. Her choreography has been presented in Mexico, and in the U.S. including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She is a Certified Movement Analyst from the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies, and a Dynamic Embodiment Somatic Movement Therapist under the direction of Dr. Martha Eddy. From 1999-2008, she was a visiting faculty member at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida. She has taught throughout the US, in Mexico and in Northern Ireland. Most recently, she facilitated a Teacher Training workshop in Guatemala City, focusing on the use of imagery in teaching dance.

Sandra Kaufmann performed for ten years internationally as a member of the Martha Graham Dance company. She also served as a faculty member to the school and as Artistic Director of the Martha Graham Ensemble. Sandra is the founding director of the dance program at Loyola University Chicago.

Susan Koper, originally from New Jersey, currently lives and works in Indiana where she is on faculty at Ball State University. Susan teaches ballet, modern/contemporary dance and an online dance history class in the department as well as serving as a faculty mentor for student choreography projects. She describes herself as a contemporary artist, performer, educator and choreographer. She has
worked with many well-known artists and currently dances with the dance theatre collaborative z3movement project, performing in festivals throughout the country as well as in her own works as a solo artist. Susan received her BA in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame and her MFA in Dance on partial fellowship at Hollins University/American Dance Festival and is a featured graduate of the program. Her professional affiliations include membership in the Society of Dance History Scholars.

Christine Knoblauch-O'Neal, Ph.D. Professor of the Practice in the Performing Arts Department at Washington University in St. Louis performed for twenty years with such companies as American Ballet Theater and the National Ballet. Ms. O'Neal also danced in the film Turning Point, performed as Kristine in A Chorus Line, and toured with Dancers to Italy's Spoleto Festival. Her awards include a bronze medal from the International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria, a State Department medal in recognition of her accomplishment in Varna, and the 2009 CORPS de Ballet International Service Award. Her dissertation researched the work of the Répétiteurs of the Antony Tudor Ballet Trust in restaging the works of Antony Tudor.

Linda Lehovec began her training in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, with Made-line Cantarella Culpo. She holds a BFA from Juilliard and an MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she is currently an Associate Professor of Dance. Linda has danced for many contemporary choreographers including Joe Goode, Ralph Lemon, Stephen Koester, Bill Young, Tere O'Connor, Renée Wadleigh, Sara Hook, and David Parker. Awards include two fellowships in choreography from the Illinois Arts Council. Her work has been performed nationally and internationally. Since 2012 she has created two new works for faculty and students at the Departamento Universitario Obreo Campesino, Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile, and will return in November for a third residency, during which she will re-create a version of Kaivalya and re-stage one of her older works.

Willie Lenoir is a lecturer at the University of Kansas where he teaches jazz, musical theatre dance, African dance, Afro-Cuban jazz, big band jazz, and Limón-based modern dance. He has studied Limón technique with Betty Jones, Jennifer Scanlon, Fred Matthews, and members of the José Limón Dance Company. He is a regular master teacher at the American College Dance Festival Association's annual regional conferences. Lenoir also choreographs and designs and constructs costumes. From 2007 to 2011, Mr. Lenoir has had the pleasure of being one of five adjudicators for the Kansas Junior Miss Program.

David Marchant is Professor of the Practice at Washington University since 1994, teaching technique, composition and improvisation. David coordinates the Somatic Studies Certificate Program at Washington University and is a certified Alexander Technique teacher. David performs site-specific installations including tree-climbing as performance art. David and John Toenjes at U of Illinois, develop computer musical instruments played by dancing. David has published research on using contact improvisation as a therapy for Parkinson disease. He danced with Utah Repertory Dance Theatre, 1989 to 1991, and earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from University of Iowa in 1993.

Michelle Moeller is an Assistant Professor at the University of Central Oklahoma and is the Director of Perpetual Motion Dance, an Oklahoma City modern and aerial dance company. She completed her Master of Fine Arts in Dance at Texas Woman's University and her BA in Dance from the University of Central Oklahoma. Her choreography has been a part of numerous concerts and festivals, including four American College Dance Festivals, ROGUE in Fresno, CA, and the New Genre Festival in Tulsa.

Janie D. Ross Morgan is an Associate Professor of Dance at Missouri Valley College where she teaches modern, ballet, tap and jazz techniques as well as dance history and composition courses. She received her MFA in Dance from Arizona State University and her BFA in Related Arts/Dance from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. She has had the privilege of working with many choreographers, including Nora Chipaumire, Liz Lerman, Columbine Macher, Carley Conder and Michael Baxter. She has also presented numerous times at the National Dance Education Conference and her teaching/research interests include technique, composition, improvisation and community dance exchanges.

Reneé Murray, Visiting Assistant Professor of the Division of Dance, is a Chicago native and artistic director, choreographer, and dancer of Matter of Reaction Movement Project, a modern dance company founded in Chicago in 2006. She received her MFA in Dance from California State University, Long Beach in 2011. Her work has been seen throughout Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Murray has also performed works by various artists at the Dora Stratou Theater in Athens, Greece, Sushi in San Diego, San Francisco Art Institute, Highways in Santa Monica, the Orange County Museum of Art, New Jersey, and throughout Chicago. Murray currently teaches Modern and Jazz Technique in the Division of Dance at Purdue University and has taught in the Dance Department at CSULB.

C. Kemal Nance, PhD “Kibon” is a Post-Doc Researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and master teacher of the Umfundalai technique of contemporary African dance. He co-directs the Berry & Nance Dance Project, an all African American male initiative, and heads the Organization of Umfundalai Teachers, a consortium of arts educators who develop professional development
and pedagogy training for budding African dance teachers. Nance has taught African Dance to various national and international communities including the Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts in Kingston, Jamaica, Afro Dance Xplosion and African Utopia Conferences in London, UK.

Omar Olivas is an instructor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He holds an M.A. in Exercise Science from SIUE and a BFA from University of California, Irvine, where he graduated as a Haggerty and William Gillespie Scholar. During his professional career as a performer he toured nationally and internationally with Diavolo Dance Theater for five seasons (2009-2014). He began his professional dance career as a member of Jenny Backhaus’ dance company, BackhausDance, from 2007-09. He also danced in Donald McKayle’s student repertory dance company, Etudes. Omar’s teaching credits include teaching master classes all over the world and setting works on universities across the country.

Susan Panek received her M.A. in Education from the University of Michigan, Dearborn and a B.F.A. in dance from Marygrove College. Her teaching credits include The University of Michigan, Juliana’s Academy of Dance, Lascu School of Ballet, The Pointe Academy of Dance, Geiger Ballet Academy, Premiere Music & Dance, Cre8tive Fine Arts Academy and many others. Ms. Panek has choreographed for and performed as a back-up dancer with the Fabulous Fakes, a Las Vegas revue of renowned impersonators and has appeared in concert with Dance Nonce, Dance Detroit and Wrthm Dance Company, as well as in the Nutcracker with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra serving as its Ballet Mistress, Children’s Rehearsal Director and Executive Managing Director. She is a former co-owner and co-director of the Premiere Plus Youth Dance Program in cooperation with various local recreation departments. Ms. Panek’s choreographic works can be seen at Marygrove College, Orchestra Hall, The Hillberry Theatre, Actor’s Alliance and various community and high school productions. Ms. Panek has recently earned certification to teach Pilates Mat through the National Exercise Trainer’s Association (NETA) and also holds certification to teach Zumba as an active member of the Zumba Instructor Network (ZIN).

Hilary Peterson is an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance at The Holland School of Southeast Missouri State University. Hilary teaches both jazz and modern dance techniques and has studied the techniques of Lester Horton, José Limón, Paul Taylor and Gus Giordano. During her time at Southeast, Hilary has choreographed original dance works for numerous Fall for Dance and Spring into Dance performances as well as the musicals Grease, Little Shop of Horrors, Seussical and Sweet Charity. Her choreography has been presented at the American College Dance Association Regional Conferences, the Kansas City Fringe Festival, and in numerous venues in St. Louis. She is an active member of the National Dance Education Organization and serves as a board member of the American College Dance Association. Ms. Peterson received her M.F.A. in Dance from the University of Arizona and her B.A. in Dance from Hope College.

Michelle Rambo has been teaching dance for nine years in Hip Hop, Contemporary, Jazz and Tap. She received her Bachelors of Fine Arts Degree in Dance Performance from the University of Central Oklahoma and is the new Artistic Director for East Central University dance degree program. She has performed in the National Dance Association’s Gala Performance in both Baltimore, Maryland and Wichita, Kansas. She has also performed for Habitat for Humanity, Black and Gold of Ardmore, Ok and in the Oklahoma Centennial Parade and Neimans Children Parade. She has been apart of the Debbie Dance Intensive faculty for the past three consecutive years teaching along side Keith Clifton, Jackie Sleight, Rhonda Miller and Huggy Ford. Michelle has choreographed national hip hop pom routines for McLennan Community College and University of Oklahoma. Her work has also been seen during the post game performance for the professional NBA Oklahoma City Thunder and Disney World in Orlando Florida.

Beckah Reed is a Professor of Dance at Webster University’s Department of Dance and Artistic Director of Webster Dance. Beckah was co-artistic director for GASH/VOIGT Dance Theatre, an all women’s contemporary dance theatre ensemble, based in St. Louis. The company toured throughout the world, to countries such as Turkey, Greece, Hungary, Russia, Taiwan, Costa Rica, China, Germany... Beckah’s choreography, best described as theatre dance, draws on the use of props, voice, and the motivation of human interactions to create her pieces. Beckah enjoys her work in somatics, including qigong and taiji, focusing on healing energies and moving meditations.

Kathleen Ridlon is an Assistant Professor of Dance and the Coordinator for the Center for Community Service at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Ms. Ridlon also serves as the director for the Midwest Dance Group, a modern dance company dedicated to creating a sense of community through movement and dance making. She has created dance residences at Missouri State University in Springfield, Minnesota College, Northern Iowa University, and University of Oklahoma. Kathleen received her professional dance training at the Alvin Alley American Dance Center in New York City and holds an MFA from Smith College.

James Robey was formerly director of the Bare Bones Dance Project in New York City and James Robey Dance in Connecticut. His professional performing career included the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Connecticut Ballet, New York Dance Theater, Ground Works Dance Theater, Off Center Dance Theater, Ohio Dance Theater, Covenant Ballet Theater of Brooklyn, Cleveland Opera, Disney World,
George Salinas is originally from Dallas, Texas. He has dedicated decades studying and perfecting his craft as a professional choreographer, dancer and teacher. George is a graduate Dallas’s Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. He trained at the Dallas Ballet Academy, the Martha Graham School, and American Dance Festival. Mr. Salinas has spent over 15 years teaching and dancing at universities and with programs for underprivileged youth. His professional career has spanned both the national and international stage. He sits on the Indiana Arts Commission grant review panel for dance, Indiana’s Modern Masters and continues choreographing, teaching and lecturing around the country. He has performed solo masterworks and worked with renowned artists and choreographers: Tatiana Baganova, Kevin Brown, Charles “Chuck Davis”, Gregory Hines, Bill T. Jones, John Jasperse, Pearl Lang, Peggy Lyman, Luis Montero, Earl Mosley, Dennis Marshall, Donald McKayle, and Norman Walker and Martha Graham. He also has danced with Ballet Dallas, Ballet Hispanico, Oklahoma Festival Ballet, Mexico Lindo Dance Company, SD Prism Dance Company, Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico Company, the Modern Repertory Dance Theatre, and Dance Kaleidoscope. George has been a part of the Anderson University dance faculty since 2012.

Sara Semonis, Head of the Dance Program at Illinois State University, holds an MFA in Dance from the University of Iowa and a BA from Western Illinois University. She has been on faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Knox College, and held residencies/master classes at a number of programs including Friends University, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Iowa, Ball State, Contemporary Dance Omaha, Black Hill Dance Theatre, Canton Ballet, Victoria Ballet Theatre, Western Illinois University, Grinnell College, and the Universidade Federal De Viçosa in Brazil. In recent years, Sara has received several awards for her work through the College of Fine Arts at Illinois State University including both the Outstanding Research Initiative and the Outstanding Researcher Award. She served as a National Board Member for the American College Dance Festival Association 2006-2012 and has performed with Charlotte Adams and Dancers and Shelter Repertory Dance Theatre. She has created over 60 original choreographic works that have premiered throughout the United States and abroad.

Cecil Slaughter is a professor of the practice in dance in the Performing Arts Department at Washington University/St. Louis. He danced with the nationally acclaimed Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, and worked with such notable choreographers as Ulysses Dove, Talley Beatty, and Donald McKayle. As a fourteen-year veteran of DCDC, Mr. Slaughter performed extensively with the company throughout the United States and internationally. He has created several works for professional dance and theatre companies and has choreographed several productions for Washington University’s Performing Arts Department.

Audra Sokol is an Associate Professor of Dance at Ball State University and the Artistic Director of the departmental dance company, Ball State Dance Theatre. Her works have been selected to perform at various festivals across the country, including Triskelion Arts, WaxWorks, Harvest Chicago Contemporary Festival, Rapture/Rupture, and Dance Under the Stars in CA. Her works “The Cleansing” and “…and she was perfect.” were both selected for national festivals through Regional Dance America and the American College Dance Festival.

Shauna Steele is the founder and artistic director of Mocha Dance Project, which pursues projects engaging the fusion of photography, video, dance and collaboration. Her choreography has appeared in Robert Hay-Smith's Pollen: The Musical, The Tank NYC, Midwest RADfest, the Arizona Positivity Project and the Ypsilanti Fringe Festival. She has lead master classes and workshops in improvisational movement, African dance, modern dance, jazz, Afro-jazz and hip hop. Her professional credits include Windfall Dancers, Dancers Studio Inc., Sancocho: Musica and Dance Collage, Ann Arbor Dance Works, and RusticGroove Dance. She has performed in Robin Wilson's Slave Moth, in Alexandra Beller's Reasons for Moving, and Gay Delange's Motor Tango/Tangle.

Mitchell Stolberg is an Adjunct Professor of Dance at Rockford University and a faculty member at Rockford Dance Company. He holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Iowa. Before college, his passion for dance began with color guard and jazz dance. Since college, Mitchell has been a guest artist with Rockford Dance Company, and is a current company member of Without Shoes Modern Dance Company and Bad Wolf Dance Theatre. Mitchell has produced choreography for RDC II, Iowa State University’s Winter Guard, Downers Grove South High School Color Guard, Rockford University Orchesis, and Rockford Dance Company.

Janet Strzelec holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Dance from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing with a Musical Theatre emphasis from Lindenwood University. She is currently serving her ninth year as Chair of the Department of Dance and as Artistic Director for the Lindenwood University Dance Ensemble. Professor Strzelec has an extensive history of teaching, directing and choreographing in the greater St. Louis area including work with dance studios, high schools, and professional dance and musical theatre companies. Her performance credits include ballets, musicals, dinner theatre, television...
commercials and even Six Flags Productions. Some of Professor Strzelec's favorite roles are Adelaide (Guys and Dolls), Anna (The Kind and I), Roxie (Chicago), and dancing as a “Friend” and a ‘Wili’ in her favorite ballet—Giselle.

**Patrick Suzeau** Reviewed as a "very special performer...prodigious technique" (Dance Magazine) "physically expressive, a pleasure to watch" (The New York Times) Suzeau is a professor of Dance at the University of Kansas. His early career includes Les Ballets Modernes du Canada and Theatre de Danse Contemporaine while in Montreal, various groups and television work while in Mexico City. In New York he toured nationally as a solo artist for the Affiliate Artists program and performed for Mary Anthony, Pearl Lang, Anna Sokolow, Kuch/Gain/Maslow among others, and as a dancer/actor in off-Broadway works. The Juilliard trained Suzeau is the recipient of several grants and choreography commissions from private and public funds, including two Fulbright Fellowships (Lithuania, 2007 and Malaysia 2014-15) and the Master Fellowship in choreography from the Kansas Arts Commission (2009). Suzeau has just returned (February 2016) from a residency at Sangit Vishwavidyalaya University in India.

**Endalyn Taylor** University of Illinois Urbana

**Mary Beth Van Dyke** Purdue University

**Amy Wilkinson** holds an MEd in Higher Education from Loyola University where she is currently an Advanced Lecturer and where she is also the Executive Director of the IN/Motion Dance Film Festival. Ms. Wilkinson performed with Luna Negra Dance Theatre, Same Planet Different World, and Thodos Dance Chicago, for whom she also served as the educational outreach coordinator. Ms. Wilkinson’s choreography is performed at national, and international venues including the Ravinia Music Festival, Dance Chicago, The New Prague Festival, Nanjing China University, The Istanbul Festival of Dance, and recently, a collaboration with the International Choir and Orchestra of Saigon, Vietnam.

**Paula Weber,** Professor and Chair of Dance, received her BA from Butler University and her MFA from Smith College. She performed solo/principal roles with the Milwaukee Ballet, Albany Berkshire Ballet, Lyric Opera Ballet of Chicago and Hartford Ballet. She has worked with the country’s most renowned choreographers. Weber has taught in Shenyang Conservatory, China, Tianjin Conservatory, China, Sophia, Bulgaria and has received three prestigious “Kauffman Excellence in Teaching Awards” from the UMKC-Conservatory of Music and Dance. The Kansas City Ballet, Albany Berkshire Ballet, Allegro Ballet of Houston, and Wylliams/Henry Dance Company perform her choreography. She was selected for the 2011 National Choreographers Initiative. Weber is a site evaluator for NASD and an RDA adjudicator.

**Roberta Wong,** Indiana University Bloomington Theater, Drama, Contemporary Dance, is adjunct lecturer in ballet and modern dance. Recipient of two Creative Renewal Fellowships from the Arts Council of Indianapolis and three Individual Artist Program grants from the Indiana Arts Commission, she has danced with the Boston Ballet (apprentice under Bruce Marks), Indianapolis Ballet Theatre (under George Verdak of the Ballet Russe) and Dance Kaleidoscope (under David Hchoy) where she was also company teacher and rehearsal director. She is trained in Dance For Parkinsons and holds a bachelors of science in biology.

**Michael Worcel** has been on the dance faculty at Ball State University since 1992 and on the faculty at Anderson Young Ballet since 1990. He is a former member of Dance Kaleidoscope and danced for Equity dinner theatres and summer stock companies around the country, NCL cruise lines, and for eighteen months with the original Broadway First National Tour of 42nd Street. His directing and choreography credits include Ball State Theatre, Indianapolis Civic Theatre, Beef N Boards, summer stock, theme parks, and revues for NCL cruise lines. To date he has choreographed over forty musicals. He has had numerous concert dance pieces adjudicated and chosen for performance at Mid-states Regional Dance Festivals and was twice awarded a Certificate of Merit for Choreography from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for his work at ACTF festivals Michael was the recipient of the Ball State University College of Fine Arts Dean’s Teaching Award for 2002.

**Amy A. Wright** holds both a BFA and MFA in Dance from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX. Since 2007, she has performed in national and international venues with numerous companies and worked extensively as a teacher, lighting and costume designer, and production manager. In the fall of 2013, Amy took up a position as an Assistant Professor of Dance in the Performing Arts Department at Rockford University in Rockford, IL, where she has since reinstated the BFA, BA, and Minor programs in dance. She is also the founder and Artistic Director of the Bad Wolf Dance Theatre.

**Tricia Zweier** is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Lindenwood University. She earned an MFA in Dance and an MS in Kinesiology from UNC/Greensboro. At LU, she teaches mostly contemporary and jazz techniques, dance history, dance & technology, and dance science courses. Tricia has been commissioned to show work in Missouri, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Florida. She was a lead dancer and dance captain with Carnival Cruise Lines, and has performed with Atlantic City Ballet, Flatlands Dance Theatre,
and most recently with Leverage Dance Theater. Tricia is a member of the Congress on Research in Dance, The Dance Science and Somatics Educators, and The International Association of Dance Medicine and Science.