American College Dance Association

This spring, a group of ten Mercyhurst dancers and two Dance Department faculty had the privilege of attending the American College Dance Association East-Central Regional Conference. This year’s conference was held March 5th-8th at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Both students and professors had the chance to take classes, present choreography, and observe lectures throughout the event.

The American College Dance Association was originally founded as a means to support dance at the level of higher education. This has been done through the hosting of regional conferences and national festivals, where students (and faculty) can present their work and receive professional critique in an academic environment. Furthermore, ACDA conferences serve as a hub for networking between aspiring performers and experienced professionals.

Mercyhurst presented three works at this year’s conference: Laura’s Grace by Solveig Santillano and The Oath by Esmae Gold in one of the adjudicated concerts, and Insomniac’s Prayer by Veronica Plys in an informal concert. Overall, more than forty pieces from various schools were presented for adjudication, and twelve were selected to be performed in the closing Gala Concert. An additional concert was held featuring Dance-Works Chicago, a contemporary dance company focused on fostering up-and-coming artists.

Along with watching and participating in performances, students had the opportunity to take a variety of classes, including styles such as African Fusion, Ballet Kontemp, Improvisation, Hip Hop, Modern, Ballet, and DanceWorks Chicago repertory. Mercyhurst’s own Mark & Solveig Santillano taught a Contemporary Partnering class. Lectures were also available to attend, covering topics including Everyday Life as a Performer, Movement and Voice, and Dance for Film. As a whole, the conference offered valuable experiences and growth opportunities for all involved.

-Emily Jarrett

Beyond Words V

Spring is near and the Mercyhurst Dance Department is blooming with Beyond Words V. From March 18 to March 20, “Beyond Words V” will be presented at the Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center. It will showcase various choreography performed by Mercyhurst Ballet Theatre (MBT) and SoMar Dance Works. MBT will be showcasing Erie premieres by Tauna Hunter, C. Noelle Partusch, and Mercyhurst Alumna Kerry Wagner Skuderin. Tauna Hunter’s new piece presents the audience with a modern take on Marie Antoinette ladies and waiting, and dedicated to those who lost their lives in the paris attach in 2015. In contrast, C. Noelle Partusch demonstrates a humorous side with her hockey piece, “Swan Rink”.

On that same matter, SoMar will be premiering new pieces. One of them “God Bless aMErica, is inspired by the current social and political climate. As always, SoMar challenges its dancers with new movements, full of exploration that will not only amaze audiences, but also leave them thinking. The March 19 gala performance will benefit SafeNet, a non-profit
Dancing in Dungarvan!

This semester, the Mercyhurst Dance Department was very excited to send fifteen dancers to Dungarvan, Ireland to study abroad. As one of these dancers, I have been having an amazing experience and am absolutely thrilled to be here! We have been very busy, taking academic classes in the morning, dancing in the afternoons, and travelling on the weekends. Our first trip was to Dublin, where we got to see all the famous sights such as Trinity College and the Temple Bar district. We also got to experience the vibrant city life and explore on our own. Since then, several of our dancers have been making weekend trips on their own, travelling around Europe including trips to London and Brussels. There have also been other group excursions including a trip to Cork, where some of our lovely ladies got to kiss the Blarney Stone, and over to nearby Waterford to see the famous Waterford Crystal Factory and watch a hurling match!

Despite all of our travels, we have been hard at work during the week in ballet class. We train from 1:30PM to 4:00PM every day, and many of our dancers are also taking Choreography I and creating pieces of their own. They are definitely finding inspiration in this beautiful little town, which is surrounded by rolling hills and sparkling water. We are also working on putting together a showcase featuring works by Michael Gleason and Jacob Washabaugh which will take place at the end of the semester. Additionally, all of the dancers in Ireland are excited to be planning our contribution to the National Water Dance event taking place on April 16th. We are putting together a Dance for Camera project for the occasion and are extremely excited for everyone to see the picturesque beaches and harbors of Dungarvan and to raise awareness for the protection of water all over the world!

Overall we have had a wonderful experience in Dungarvan and we have been welcomed so warmly! We are so excited to continue studying, exploring and dancing in the weeks to come. Some exciting things on the horizon are the Saint Patrick’s Day parade that we will be marching in this Thursday, and of course our upcoming spring break in Paris! This had been the experience of a lifetime so far and we will hopefully pave the way for many other dancers to have this same valuable experience in the future!

-Sophia Cordeiro

National Water Dance 2016: The Ripple Effect

National Water dance is a venue for social change as a means to bring awareness to the impact humans have on the environment and uniting the community through dance, poetry, art, and music. The event is hosted by assistant professor and dance faculty member Solveig Santillano. It will be aired live in Florida and Ireland as well as other groups participating around the world. The Ripple Effect will “begin at Dobbins Landing, travel to the Maritime Museum for gallery exhibits, and culminate in the Blasco Library’s H.O. Hirt Auditorium with poetry, film, live music and a lecture on environmental preservation by Associate Professor of Chemistry Amy Parente.”

Every time you flush the toilet it equals about 4 gallons of water. There are many small ways such as shutting off the faucet when you wash dishes, vegetables, or when brushing...
of government and how it “has presented itself during events such as The Holocaust and in influential thought such as that of Karl Marx, I came to the conclusion that it also plays a role in art, and dance specifically.” Throughout the choreographic process she has left space for each dancer to explore their own movements and bring out their voice to the piece by taking bits and pieces of improv work and dancer’s choreography to make individual as well as group phrases. Esmae is bringing the collaboration of choreographer and dancer to a united and exploratory stance by seeing what looks best on the individual as well as the whole group of seven dancers. There is a mix of monotone phrases in which dancer’s repeat, on the edge of being robotic as a symbol, but still portraying an expressive voice. There are no stars in the piece, as it is a 10-minute dance of soloists.

We hope you take advantage of this raw exploration live May 6-8th and witness the exploration of the Mercyhurst dancers’s creative geniuses.

-Niusha Karkehabadi

**Upcoming Dates!**

**Beyond Words V**  
Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center  
Friday, March 18, 2016 - 4:30 pm  
Saturday, March 19, 2016 - 2 & 7pm  
Sunday, March 20, 2016 - 2:00 pm

**National Water Dance: The Ripple Effect**  
Dobbins Landing  
Saturday, April 16, 2016 - 4:00 pm

**Black & White Salon**  
Walker Recital Hall  
Saturday, April 2, 2016 - 7:00

**Raw Edges**  
Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center  
Friday, May 06, 2016 - 4:30 pm  
Saturday, May 07, 2016 - 2:00 pm  
Saturday, May 07, 2016 - 7:00 pm  
Sunday, May 08, 2016 - 2:00 pm