

# THE FOLK DANCER

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2005 EDITION

EDITOR: TARA EYRE

## GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Hello from the World Dance Division at BYU-Provo! There is excitement in the air as we settle in with changes in Division leadership, offer new courses to students, prepare for *Christmas Around the World-A Celebration of Peace*, start solidifying our Folk Dance Golden Jubilee, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Folk Dance at BYU, and start a scholarship fundraising effort! We are busy here and excited to update YOU on all of it!

In this Newsletter look for the following updates:

- Golden Jubilee information (*NEW!*)
- Fight for the Cure (*NEW!*)
- Christmas Around the World
- Tour Reports for PAC and SPAC
- Changes in our Division
- Noteworthy Faculty Endeavors
- Calendar Items

So, sit back, enjoy this newsletter, then join in the excitement of World Dance at BYU-Provo by participating with us wherever you can!

## NEWS FROM OUR DIVISION

Colleen West is our new World Dance Division Chair, and spent 10 days this summer in Ukraine learning wonderful new choreography and technique (See *Faculty Spotlight* on this page).

Susanne Davis is on sabbatical this semester doing research on English Dance Styles throughout the United States and British Isles. We are excited to see what she learns! (See *Faculty Spotlight* on page 3)

Delynne Peay spent a good portion of her summer touring with SPAC or teaching Summer Term. She also found time to teach a four week summer workshop at Roosevelt Elementary in SLC, developed a new course for Dance Ed majors that she is now teaching, and spent 10 days in Bangkok, Thailand with her husband, Garth.

Ed Austin toured the Southern States with IFDE and completed two major projects this summer! He spent 10 days in Wales doing research on Welsh clog dancing, and assisted in producing "Remembering the Prophet Joseph-Youth Spectacular and Youth Showcase" in the Marriott Center August 6<sup>th</sup>.

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## NEW DIVISION CHAIR

Colleen West, our new World Dance Division Chair, has been at BYU since 1979, she completed her Undergraduate and Graduate degrees in Dance, with a thesis on Ukrainian Dance and was hired immediately as Part-time Faculty. In 1992 she was hired as Full-time faculty, and became the Chair of the World Dance Division Fall Semester 2005. In addition to Division Chair, Colleen also coordinates the tap program at BYU.

As new Division Administrator Colleen will build on the solid foundation that has been created. She wants faculty on the cutting edge of world dance developments

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## FOLK DANCERS UNITE!

In your time as a Brigham Young University Folk Dancer you have touched souls, broken down barriers and brought hope to thousands of people. As Folk Dance Alumni, your work is not done!

The days of grueling rehearsal and fabulous performance are likely not a current part of your daily activities, however, your support is vital to help us accomplish the mission of the International Folk Dance Ensemble. We need to you to help us lift the hearts of others, be ambassadors for the Church, and to

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## CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

**DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup>**

Tickets go on sale Saturday, November 5, 2005 at 8:00AM, and are available at the Marriott Center Ticket Office. We are featuring new choreography from Romania choreographed by Sonia and Cristian

Showtime is 7:30 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings with a Saturday matinee at 2:00pm. Family passes are available for the Saturday matinee. Our **Alumni Reception** will be held in the Cougar Room immediately following the Saturday matinee (approx. 4:00pm). Bring your families and come visit with alumni and tour leaders from years past. See you there!

### **NEW DIVISION CHAIR (CONTINUED)**

through attending conferences and workshops that will benefit the program. Colleen fully supports funding for talented guest instructors, timeless costumes and funding scholarships for our excellent students. As the World Dance Division continues to grow and expand into the world, we will utilize technology, increase our caliber of dance, and share the spirit with everyone we can reach. This is an exciting time to grow and we are ready!

Colleen spent the first 10 days of August in Kiev gathering fantastic Ukrainian dance material, costume ideas and excellent music to bring back to BYU-Provo. She took classes from professional instructors at the University of Art and Culture at a workshop directed by Yuri Grekov, former dancer with the Pavlo Virsky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. She even had the opportunity of taking class from his Ballet Master! Colleen's experience is directly benefiting BYU students taking her Ukrainian dance class this semester. They are receiving wonderful education—both excellent technique and new choreography from the Bukovynian, Hutzul, and Poltavsky regions of Ukraine.

We are excited to have Colleen West as our new Division Chair and look forward to her leadership over the next few years!

### **PAC- TOUR REPORT**

Submitted by Vickie Austin

The Performing Arts Company had a wonderful experience traveling throughout the Southern States of Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina last Spring. They met many wonderful people, ate far too much delicious food, and danced their feet off as they performed for elementary schools, community events and concerts.

As always, the students did an outstanding job of representing the University, the Folk Dancers and the Church. They enjoyed their many host families and are feeling anxious for them as several of their performances were in areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with them.

### **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

#### **Mary Bee Jensen Scholarship Endowment**

Marie Sonnenberg & Dave McMullin

#### **Norma Pardoe Anderson Performance Award**

Rustin VanKatwyk

#### **Harman Scholarship**

Lindsay Ozbirn & Scott West

#### **Excellence in Folk Arts Award**

Crystal Robinson

#### **Viltis Scholarship**

Megan Leavitt & Jamon Andelin

#### **Performing Missionary Award**

Summer Wilson, Megan Keffer, Nate Hansen

#### **Freshman Scholarship Recipients**

Amy McClain, Kellianne Huntington

**Congratulations!**

### **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

### **FOLK DANCERS UNITE (CONTINUED)**

promote dance as a wholesome, uplifting activity worldwide. Your support will enable students to edify audiences, develop talents for the building of the Kingdom, and become good teachers and citizens in a world wide community.

Josh Probert is spearheading this effort as chair of the Alumni Fundraising Committee. Working with him are Rusty Chambers, Russ Wood, Lynn Elliott, and Shane and Emilee Wright. Now we need YOU!

Initial efforts are to ensure that the Mary Bee Jensen Scholarship Endowment is fully funded and can support two excellent students each year. In addition two NEW Alumni Scholarships will be added to support our students.

The committee has begun "50 for 50" campaign—\$50 from each alumni each year until the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Christmas Around the World* (the concert) in December 2010. However, you don't need to wait to hear from the committee to donate. You can unite with us now by mailing a check to Folk Dance Alumni Scholarship Fund, BYU Department of Dance, 294 Richards Building, Provo, UT 84602.

**NOW is the time! Folk Dancers UNITE!**

## **SPAC**

Submitted by Delynne Peay

SPAC Tour 2005 was yet another incredibly successful four weeks. The group was so dedicated to giving their all to each and every audience. We performed for close to 50,000 students in Utah public schools, and an additional 2,000 spectators in assisted living homes, church activities, and other BYU and local performances. We were excited to have some “new to us” hand-me-down costumes that were donated by Ned and Marian Gault, along with some fun, new choreography we included in our show this year from Sweden, Italy, and Switzerland. Both really added to our performance. And Gary Larsen knocked himself out with a great new clog number that demonstrated the very latest in the clogging craze! If you come to Christmas Around the World this year you’ll see it.

Our tour back to Nauvoo was certainly the extra cream and cherry on the top at the end of the summer! “We love to see the temple. . .” was on our mind and schedule several times throughout each day. It is situated right across the street from where we stayed, so it took less than 60 steps and 60 seconds to be at the front gate of the temple!

We performed our show “Cultural Rhythms” for an hour each evening at the Joseph Smith Academy Auditorium and packed the house each night. Other activities included a trip to Carthage, Quincy, Ramus, Warsaw, Yelrom, Montrose and Green Plains with performances in Keokuk and Fort Madison rounding out a very busy schedule.

We all came home with more gratitude and our testimonies strengthened for our dear prophet Joseph Smith, and all the sacrifices made by the early leaders of the church and the faithful saints. And as the sweet Sister Missionary shared with us in the upper room of Carthage Jail, “We can’t all be a Joseph Smith, but we can all be a Hyrum, who stood by his brother in life and death.”

### **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

Susanne Davis became our first Division Administrator when the Dance Department was organized 25 years ago. In her term as Division Administrator she focused on increasing the academic course offerings, and succeeded! The Division grew from course offerings of Polynesian and clogging to include courses in Irish, Chinese, Ukrainian, Spanish, Hungarian, and Advanced Folk Dance!

In addition she spearheaded the Folk Dance Minor which paved the way for a major, developed the teaching methodology and Reflection of Culture courses, and served as President of the Southwest District of the American Alliance for Health, PE, Recreation and Dance. She attributes the Division’s success to the fabulous faculty.

Susanne will present her research on English Dance in Hawaii at the Arts and Humanities Conference, January 2006.

Thank-you, Susanne for your wonderful service, for moving the Division forward and for your dedication to the faculty. We appreciate you!

### **NEWS FROM OUR DIVISION (CONTINUED)**

Vickie Austin also enjoyed touring with IFDE, took charge of Clog Camp in June and spent the rest of the summer enjoying her family, garden, and supporting Ed in his many activities.

Jeanette Geslison


Tara Eyre welcomed a new little boy, Chandler Brian Eyre, to her family on March 31, 2005. After a wonderful summer at home she is back this fall enjoying her *Irish* and *Rhythm and Dance for Education Majors* courses.

Katie Allred and her family are living in San Diego while Aaron prepares for podiatry school. They love the warm weather and being near the beach. They will be welcoming a new baby in April and hope to come back to BYU when Aaron is done with school.

Gary Larsen has accepted a position at BYU-Idaho. He will certainly benefit their program, and we miss him!

### **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.



# Cast Call for all BYU Folk Dance Alumni, Musicians, and Friends!

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Now that we've got your attention! Did you know that in 2006, the Folk Dancers at BYU will be celebrating 50 years of wonderful memories? Come celebrate it with us in the summer of 2006!

We want to give you plenty of notice so you will be sure to mark this event on your calendar. Please **reserve July 20, 21, 22 (that's a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) next year to come spend some time with us in Utah** to renew some lasting friendships. There will be plenty of time for talking, laughing, eating, dancing, and even taking pictures. (Isn't that what Folk Dancers do best?)

Just to give you a sampling of what's being planned...

## BYU International Folk Dancers - Golden Jubilee Celebrating 50 Years in 2006 July 20, 21, 22 Provo, Utah

### Day 1 (afternoon/evening)

Family Picnic in the Park (swimming, BBQ, games, and entertainment, we have a whole park reserved)  
Concert in the de Jong Concert Hall (returning PAC from their summer tour)

### Day 2 (afternoon/evening)

Workshops (dancing for the whole family, learn some of those fun folk dances once again that you've forgotten)

Musicians Jam (relive some of those fun folk tunes. Can you still play them?)

Tour Reunions (socialize once again with friends from your era, its time to laugh and smile again)

### Day 3 (lunchtime)

Adult Banquet (catered of course!)

Special Program (folk dance achievements & the people who made them)

Photo Gallery (folk dancers and musicians through the years)

*We are not done yet with all the festivities!*

As you can see we have a lot of exciting things we are working on and it will be a great time for everyone. **Remember, it won't be any fun if you don't come!**

We will be letting you know additional details as they become available. Watch for the **Folk Dance Alumni** (<http://byufolkdance.com/alumni.htm>) web site to grow with new and exciting information! We will be having tour histories available for you to download. We will have DVDs available for purchase of past *Christmas Around the World* showcases. We hope to have photographs available to download. We will have CDs of dance music available for purchase. We want this to be a growing resource and welcome any ideas you have.

Also watch for the **BYU Folk Dance Endowment/Scholarship** web site and the exciting things happening there. You can also stay current with the **BYU Folk Dance Alumni Affinity Chapter** (<http://alumni.byu.edu/Sections/Chapters/chaphome4.cfm?ChpID=428>) web site.

Please let us know if you have questions or ideas. We would love to use your talents, skills, resources, etc. that you have, that would be of great benefit for the upcoming reunion. We WANT to utilize your energies where we can. Don't be shy!

The Folk Dance 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee  
Committee Chairpersons, Brent & Maria Lewis ([mblewis5@yahoo.com](mailto:mblewis5@yahoo.com))