This semester, the Department invited us to “Spring Into Dance”, and in true Brockport style, we did so with abandon. We also bid a tearful farewell to a beloved professor, mentor, colleague and artist, Jacqueline Davis, through words, movement, and various dedications. On this page, you will read about our annual graduation dances concert, featuring solos performed by graduating students before they embark on the next exciting chapter in their lives. Further, you will read about SDO and Sankofa guest artists, Jonah Bokaer and Zelma Badu-Younge, respectively. You will hear another successful study abroad story from London, and get a retrospective on Dance Awareness Days and Dancing with the Athletes from this past February. There is also a glimpse into the National Dance Educator’s Organization student chapter, known as NDEO Brockport, who celebrated a particularly fruitful 2011-2012 academic year. Finally, we present a short recap on the rigorous scholarship that helps to make the Brockport Department of Dance so noteworthy. In addition to Scholar’s Day, the Master’s Level Research Conference, and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, the department individually recognized over twenty current and graduating students for achievements in artistry, scholarship, and academic performance. After a busy and exciting semester, we hope your summer is full of dance as well! www.friendsofbrockportdance.org

GRADUATION DANCE CONCERT BY ANGIE MUZZY

On Friday, May 11, we said goodbye to the graduating class of 2012. Twenty-one dancers graced the Hartwell Theater stage during Graduation Dances, which was dedicated to retiring professor of dance, Jacqueline Davis. The two shows consisted of solos that displayed extraordinary performance skills, artistry and talent. Each dancer demonstrated his or her own strength, presence and commitment to their performed works. Some of the graduating class self-choreographed while others performed works by faculty, alumni, and current students. The variety of choreography is just another example that the Department of Dance community prepares strong, smart, and stunning individuals for the field. We look forward to hearing about and perhaps seeing all of you talented Brockport alumni in the future. Congratulations to the class of 2012!
From January 30th to February 3rd, the Department of Dance welcomed dancer, choreographer, and visual artist Jonah Bokaer and his artistic collaborators: Daniel Arsham, C.C. Chang, and Adam Weinert, among others. Excitement and intrigue invaded the student body, for Bokaer’s artistic endeavor defies traditional boundaries and conceptions of dance. Bokaer taught technique and repertory classes and two workshops on visual arts and dance technology assisted by Adam Weinert. The workshops encompassed principles of animation, dance screening, motion capture, and dance composition. It also provided students the opportunity to compose on “Danceforms” animation software and challenged them to transpose movements created on the screen onto their bodies. This exciting week concluded with the presentation of REPLICA, an illusory duet that explores memory loss, pattern recognition and perceptual faculties through movement, architecture and dance screening; commissioned by the Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences (CPNAS, Washington, DC) the fulfillment and presentation of REPLICA requires the effort of a community of artist encouraging interdisciplinary and collaborative work.

Sankofa guest artist Zelma Badu-Younge was on campus in April for the culminating experience of a yearlong residency. During her final visit, Badu-Younge interacted with a variety of students from the dance department as well as a number of general education students. With each group Zelma shared the importance of music, dance and community in African culture. At the end of the week, she appeared in Sankofa’s annual spring concert alongside fourteen department dancers in her piece “Taking Flight,” which she had set during an earlier visit. Caitlin Mahon, a sophomore dance major with an environmental policy intent performed “Taking Flight.” When asked about her experience of working with Zelma she said, “the dance we were performing was much bigger than ourselves. It had a story with much deeper roots than just our lives and what we were doing on stage. It was about life in Africa and how everyone goes through their different journeys and hopes to ‘Take Flight.’” Mahon also said that throughout the rehearsal process, Badu-Younge shared stories about her own experiences in Ghana that had informed her choreography, further enriching the process for all involved. Badu-Younge is Dance Director and Choreographer for, Azaguno, a multi-ethnic ensemble that focuses on research, preservation and performance of African, African American, Caribbean and Latin American Music and Dance Styles. Educated in Canada, she holds a B.F.A. in Contemporary Dance and Choreography (Concordia University), M.F.A. in Dance Ethnology (York University), and a Ph.D. (with honors) in Integrated Studies in Education (McGill University.) Both her M.F.A. and Ph.D. research took her to West Africa, where she studied the Music and Dances of Ghana. Currently, Dr. Badu-Younge is Associate Professor of Dance at Ohio University. Badu-Younge first visited Brockport in October 2011 to teach master classes in African dance and a lecture on dance in Ghana, West Africa. Her final visit was funded in part by the Promoting Excellence in Diversity Grant Fund.

In the Fall 2012 semester, senior dance major Alisha Schneider traveled to London to study at Roehampton University. A native of Germany, Alisha had visited much of Europe before, but had never been to the United Kingdom, which help spark her interest in the long-standing relationship between the College at Brockport and Roehampton. While there, she took classes in dance, development of children’s literature, and gender, sexuality and performance, while traveling additionally to Wales, Scotland, France, and Spain. Alisha expressed how much she enjoyed the laid-back nature of the British culture, and the incomparable experiences afforded by studying abroad. Her advice to any student interested in studying abroad is first and foremost to do it, and not to hesitate! She also recommends signing up for a Skype account to keep in touch with family and friends in the United States, getting a good map, traveling as much as possible and staying in hostels. She also recommends to start saving money now, as extra experiences can be costly but are absolutely worth it. What Alisha missed most about Brockport was taking additional dance classes as she was only enrolled in two while at Roehampton. Alisha, who graduated this May with a BFA in dance, is spending her summer teaching dance and performing with faculty member Mariah Maloney at Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival. She looks forward to adding more stamps to her passport in the future!
As the 2011-2012 school year comes to a close, we celebrated more than just the graduation of another amazing class of dance artists, we also celebrated the retirement of Professor Jacqueline Davis, known lovingly by most as “Jacquie.” Jacquie was feted at a party held in her honor the last week of classes by current students from all the classes and programs. Jacquie was honored by words, tears and dances emphasizing the rigor, inspiration, support and encouragement she gave so freely to any student who walked through her door. She was praised for her impact in the department as an advisor, professor and colleague. Jacquie came to Brockport as a Physical Education Teacher in 1969, 43 years later she is retiring a full professor. Over the course of these decades Jacquie has served the college directly in various capacities including: both Chair and Acting Chair of the Department, Interim Dean and Interim Associate Dean for the School of Arts and Performance and as the Coordinator of the Arts of Children Program. As a Certified Movement Analyst, Master of Arts, Alexander Technique practitioner and a NY State certified K-12 dance and physical education teacher, Jacquie is most known for her commitment in the areas of dance improvisation, movement analysis, somatics, and education. Her commitment is further recognized through her active involvement in local, state and national professional organizations, her regular dance workshops in Germany through the Werkstatt Tanzpadagogik going on over 20 years and formally aiding the Student Dance Organization, formerly Dance Club, for 25 years. Since her tenure at Brockport the dance programs have developed a consistently strong foundation in somatics and Laban Movement Analysis influencing other highly effective movers in the Dance world including Sondra Frieliegh and Suzanne Newman. Jacquie is a recipient of Wayne State University’s Arts Achievement Award and the National Dance Education Organization’s 2004 Visionary Award. Jacquie has earned merit and respect for her creation and support of continuing development of community partnerships bridged between dance artists for the past 25 years through the facilitation of many wonderful dance residencies that include activities for all ages. As she retires from daily instruction Jacquie’s investigation of meaningful teaching and learning experiences in dance will continue to serve the department and be a presence in the dance community through her efforts in the on-going development of residency activity that is relevant and mutually satisfying to practicing artists, educators, students, and community members. This will include her most current work with third-time visiting artist Monica Bill Barnes, made possible by funding from the New York State DanceForce consortium. For Jacquie the future holds a plethora of opportunities. She intends to keep things open, but unlike many other retirees Jacquie isn’t going anywhere; she is a member of the community here and intends to stay that way. “This is my home,” she says. For those who still want to keep in contact with her it won’t be too hard. Jacquie will still walk the halls at Brockport and will maintain an office in the Dance Department. Her policy remains the same; if the door is open, stop in. Jacquie’s enthusiasm, honesty, respect, energy, and love will be missed in the classrooms of the Brockport Dance Department. Anyone who has ever had the privilege of having Jacquie as a teacher, advisor, mentor or colleague will surely attest to her ability to reach beyond the outer image, look into the heart, understand, respect and encourage what she sees. Her search for truth and understanding in movement will echo the halls of Brockport for many years to come.

DANCE AWARENESS DAYS A SUCCESS! BY NICOLE KAPLAN

Brockport’s Dance Awareness Days is an event that happens only once a year when our department and the community at large join together to embrace the world of concert dance, and all that it has to offer. On Thursday, February 23 and Friday, February 24, 2012, the doors to Hartwell Hall were opened to the local community for free classes, workshops and demonstrations that were taught by various faculty members and graduate teaching assistants, recent alumni, and working artists from throughout the nation. Organized as a mini-conference, these two days offer Brockport dancers valuable experiences and insight into the process of teaching and sharing work with others outside of his or her everyday scope. Additionally, aside from Scholar’s Day, Dance Awareness Days offers a unique opportunity for the general public to take a sneak peak at what goes on within our prestigious programs for both the undergraduate (BA/BFA) and graduate (MA/MFA) tracks alike. As a special treat for this year, a second Alumni Showcase took place Friday night on campus, as numerous graduates of our various programs gathered back into Strasser Theater to present, share and observe each other’s work; it was a pleasure to welcome Kelly Kavanaugh, Frederick Onufryek, Kristi Faulkner, Kim Goss and Leanne Schmidt back home to Brockport. It is truly inspiring to see where all of one’s hard work can lead for life post-Brockport, and it is obvious that the standard of excellence has been set equally high for both current students and future grads!
NDEO Brockport has had one busy year! With a newly revised constitution we were able to organize and conduct several highly successful events in the 2011-2012 academic year. These events included a grant writing workshop in the fall and the exhilarating Hip Hop Happening, a workshop and choreography showcase that served K-12 students from the region, in the spring. We also hosted our second annual Tiny Dance Concert at A Different Path Art Gallery in Brockport. NDEO Brockport prides itself in its mission to serve not only the students in the dance department but also our surrounding community.

As we look forward to the 2012-2013 school year we anticipate many exciting new opportunities for our chapter. NDEO Brockport will welcome the inauguration of its own chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts, as instituted by the National Dance Education Organization, which honors and recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of the members of NDEO Brockport on a national level! This organization will enable students to graduate with honors and show off their cords at graduation so that everyone has a visible reminder of the scholarship achieved at The College at Brockport and how it aids in advancing the field of dance at large.

The 2012-2013 officer team includes Co-chairs Matthew Frazier-Smith and Chelsea Gavazzi, Secretary Angie Muzzy, Public Relations Anna Corvera, Undergraduate Representative Natalie Swan, and Faculty Advisor Juanita Suarez. A few officer positions have been left available for entering students to have an opportunity for leadership in the department. These positions include Treasurer, Undergraduate Representative, and NHSDA administrator. Any student interested in developing leadership skills and working with a great team please contact Juanita Suarez. Keep up to date on all our events by checking out our NDEO board in the dance hall or our new Facebook page!

DANCING WITH THE ATHLETES By Juliana Utz

On Tuesday, February 16th dancers, athletes, and their collective peers filled the Tuttle North Gymnasium’s seats in anticipation of the 2nd annual Dancing with the Athletes. The Student Dance Organization, or SDO, and the College at Brockport Athletic Teams sponsored the event. Similar to ABC’s television show, “Dancing with the Stars,” this fundraiser pairs two members of the dance department with two members of a designated sports team. The winning team will have a large portion of the proceeds donated to their selected charity of choice. This year the fundraiser not only doubled in size, but also received generous donations from eight local vendors to be raffled off. Fifteen teams took the stage to impress the judges with their creativity, dance skills and collaborative effort. From dancing with umbrellas in a kiddie pool for the Swim team to football players pirouetting in tutus, the teams pulled out all of the stops to deliver a fantastic show. Judges included two faculty members from the athletic department, two faculty members of the dance department, and the BSG president. SDO not only participated in the dancing, but used their extensive lighting and sound abilities to provide all of the technical happenings during the show. The final team of the night, Men’s Basketball team members Olusola Adeneran and Lance Legister paired with freshman dancers Zack Frazee and Shawn Powell, impressed judges and audience members with their fusion of dance and athletics. It was the surprise costume change into afro wigs and sun glasses that brought down the house, and eventually crowned them as the winning team. Powell described his experience working with the athletes, saying “They took the same hardworking no non-sense approach they used in basketball games while in dance practice. Rehearsing as hard as they did definitely added to their performance being such a crowd pleaser. They were intense and hardworking and it showed on the floor.” The Men’s Basketball’s charity was Hoops for Hope.
The Dance Department was well represented at the college’s 29th annual Scholar’s Day and inaugural Master’s Level Graduate Research Conference, both held on campus in April. Scholars from the dance department contributed 15 presentations to Scholar’s Day including papers, performances and lecture demonstrations. Thirty-three students in the Arts for Children program shared research in an afternoon poster session. Dance faculty also participated in the day, presenting research and chairing sessions. The first annual Master’s Level Graduate Research Conference drew scholars from nearby colleges to present their research. Again, Brockport’s dance department made a strong showing, giving 13 sessions over the course of the day. Presentations varied in style as well as content. Some students read research papers, as Hannah Seidel did in “Re-choreographing Power.” Others, such as Elizabeth Osborn, presented lecture demonstrations. In Osborn’s demonstration titled “Dance Discoveries: One Choreographer’s Journey” she shared research she conducted as part of a Laban Movement Analysis course and her process of using that material to choreograph a dance piece. Dancers Matthew Frazier-Smith, Erin Lowden, and Kayla McNabb demonstrated. Finally, a few presentations were strictly performances. Mariyo Yamada let the dancing speak for itself with the presentation of her MFA creative thesis, “Lime Is The Sweet Name I Call.” In total, more than 120 students and faculty from the dance department participated in dance related presentations over the course of the two research conferences. Faculty participants included Maura Keefe, Greg Ketchum, Mariah Maloney, Suzanne Oliver, Darwin Priloeau, Khalid Saleem, Juanita Suarez, Kevin Warner, and Tamara Wilcox.

On March 26, six undergraduate dance majors embarked to Ogden, Utah, along with Assistant Professor of Dance, Karl Rogers. Morgan Bernat, Michelle Glynn, Caitlin Mahon, Meghan McGuire, Ayecia Simpson and Chelsea Spraker, were among the 20 College at Brockport students to attend the conference. They represented our department through presentations of choreography, posters and papers. Their hard work and dedication to dance research was rewarded with feedback from other undergraduate students nationwide.

Scholarship in Dance
BY JANET SCHROEDER

Spring 2012 Department of Dance Award Recipients

- Dawn and Jacques Lipson Award in Performing Arts: Janet Schroeder and Marielys Burgos-Melendez
- Departmental Scholar in Dance: Kathryn Townsend
- Nominees for Outstanding TAHSS Graduate and Undergraduate Students, respectively: Rebecca McArthur and Heather Kleinschmidt
- Nat Goodhartz Award: Christine Benincasa
- Pylyshenko-Strasser Graduate Award: Nicole Kaplan and Julia Zdrowski
- Santo Giglio Award in Choreography: Brett Cox and Kara Dudley
- Rose L. Strasser Dance Award: Jasmine Perez and Maya Gonzalez
- Payton Choreographic Award: Juliana Utz
- Pylyshenko Family Endowment for International Student Award: Marielys Burgos-Melendez
- Susan S. Collier Dance Award: Shawn Powell, Zachary Frazee, Rachel Keane, Roberta Guido, Kara Foote
- Bette Bailey Scholarship for Excellence in Dance: Michelle Glynn
- Ernestine Ford Graduate Scholarship: Matthew Frazier-Smith
- Monserrat Award: Oluyinka Akinjiola, Marielys Burgos-Melendez, Michelle Glynn, Nicole Kaplan, Janet Schroeder
- Summer Study Scholarships: Brett Cox, Rebecca McArthur, Elizabeth Osborn, Chelsea Spraker, Shawn Powell, Morgan Hasson, Falon Baltzell, Yuko Hashimoto

Congratulations!

National Conference of Undergraduate Research
BY: ERIN LOWDEN

New Scholarship for Dance Education

Additional thanks goes to Jacqueline Davis, who donated funds for an FOBD scholarship designated specifically for dance education related activity and for the enrichment of dance pedagogy student experiences.
Over the past 40 years, The Department of Dance has grown to become one of the leading programs in the country, and has been recognized as a “Program of Distinction” at the College at Brockport. Our faculty, students, and programs are recognized for artistic excellence and physical/intellectual rigor. Many students require the financial assistance afforded by scholarship programs like the ones offered through the Friends of Brockport Dance (FOBD) to support their education. Scholarships and other financial awards assist The College at Brockport dancers as they lay the foundation to become leaders in the field of dance as choreographers, performers, educators, scholars and administrators, in the Rochester area, nationally and abroad.

The Friends of Brockport Dance functions as:

- Engaged, informed, active members of the Greater Rochester arts community who recognize the significance of arts and education.
- An organization dedicated to supporting the Brockport Department of Dance as a world-class higher education dance community.

Visit us at: www.friendsofbrockportdance.org

Friends of Brockport Dance Membership
(Membership roster listed as of January 19, 2012)

Angel ($1000+)
Frances Moroney-Whited

Benefactor ($500-$999)
Jacqueline Davis

Patron ($300-$499)
Drumcliffe Parents Organization, Inc.

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To make a contribution, please make checks payable to:
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Undergraduate Scholars presenting at NCUR in Utah