Chair’s Update, Spring 2013.  
March 27, 2013

I hope everyone has had a productive winter and ready for new beginnings in the spring!

This past Winter Quarter we had many events and activities featuring the diverse talents and interests of our students and faculty members.

Starting almost immediately was our continued partnership with the Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA). Our students and community artists who worked with the department’s Regents’ Lecturer Meredith Monk (last spring) took part in her CAP UCLA project that premiered January 18-20 at UCLA’s Freud Playhouse. On January 17, MA/PHD graduate student Anna Creagh, Adjunct Faculty Patrick Polk, and Max Brooks spoke on The Walking Dead: Zombies in Haitian Vodou and Contemporary Popular Culture held at the Fowler Museum. We served as one of the hosts for Catherine Turoczy, Distinguished Visiting Scholar with the Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies (CMRS). Organized by WACD Professor Emerita Lew Thomas, Turoczy’s residency, January 14-19, included workshops, lectures, and master classes on Baroque dance for WACD, Theater, Music, CMRS, and off-campus with ARC (A Room to Create) students in Pasadena. The department also co-sponsored (with USC and the University of Paris) a very successful conference, Politics in Art Forms, Feb.7-8. WACD faculty Anurima Banerji served as lead organizer for the Feb.7th day of presentations on the UCLA campus and included presentations by her and WACD faculty members Janet O’Shea, Sabela Grimes, among others. During that time period the department completed its admissions process for both the undergraduate and graduate programs – another exciting new group of students will join us next Fall.

Mid-winter we presented our undergraduates’ annual production WACSmash’d! and MFA2 concert featuring two of our second year MFA students, Chankethya Chey and Samantha Goodman, and ending with our 10th week Culture Crossing presentations. The department’s and the Art|Global Health Center’s community partnership with Project HeArt brought high school student presentations on Feb.15th. To finish up the winter quarter we had Professor Emerita Elsie Dunin participating in the Fowler costume exhibition Resplendent Dress that opened in March. We were able to host her in a lecture for our World Dance Histories course, as well as visit with her before she departed for Croatia to continue her research work. Professor Emerita Allegra Snyder also joined in the visit that included a gathering of Dance Ethnology alumni, organized by alum, Edy Greenblatt. In between there were guest lectures/master-classes in our various courses, the “Chew on This” presentations by our graduate students and faculty (Tuesdays at noon), and WACUS’ undergraduate presentations of their master classes and town hall forums.

On-going research/publications/presentations by WACD faculty included Lionel Popkin’s concert tour to Philadelphia, Pittsburg, and Washington, D.C., Aparna Sharma’s film, Kamakha Through Prayerful Eyes, released by Berkeley Media LLC, Al Roberts’ publication of his new book, A Dance of Assassins: Performing Early Colonial Hegemony in the Congo, Susan Foster’s projects published by the PEW Center for Arts and Heritage http://danceworkbook.pcah.us/susan-foster/index.html. Congratulations go to Graduate Vice Chair David Delgado Shorter for receiving the Academic Senate’s Distinguished Teaching Award for 2012-2013. David Shorter also received a grant from the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts to complete his ethnographic film. Additionally, he received a Transdisciplinary Seed Grant from UCLA’s Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research to continue his work on a website he is developing for indigenous language revitalization. David Gere also received a Transdisciplinary Seed Grant to fund the development and research of a MAKE ART/STOP AIDS Process Model for the cultural adaptation of public health interventions.

Spring Quarter calendar of events will be very full – I hope to see many of you at these events!

Like the Winter Quarter, we are starting off with much activity even before April begins! First, surrounding the Trisha Brown Retrospective project in collaboration with the Center for the Performing Arts (CAP UCLA):
- **March 27th to April 21st.** WACD faculty (Lionel Popkin, Simone Forti) and MFA student (Laurel Tintin) will be taking part in several events. Over a dozen WACD and non-major students will be taking part in the piece “Floor of the Forest” (Hana Cohn, Rachel Getman, Samantha Goodman, Cyndi Huang, Sarah Jacobs, Katie Kaemmerling, Ahilya Kaul, Eydie McConnell, Emily Nelson, Anna Eliza Pastor, Myrrhia Rodriguez, Brynn Shivitz, Alexis Wilkinson, Elena Yu). Please see the excellent article on Trisha Brown’s residency activities in UCLA Today’s March 22nd article: [http://today.ucla.edu/portal/ut/dance-spectacle-a-bold-tribute-244366.aspx](http://today.ucla.edu/portal/ut/dance-spectacle-a-bold-tribute-244366.aspx). Much appreciation goes to Meryl Friedman of CAP UCLA and WACD’s Undergraduate Vice Chair Vic Marks in organizing the activities with the students!

- **April 8:** Adjunct faculty Viji Prakash’s guest Padma Shri Leela Samson will have a lecture-demonstration at 12:30pm, room 200 (tbc)
  and, at 5pm, room 208 – Professor David Gere’s intensive workshop, “Soap Operas for Social Change” with guest Sean Southey speaking to launch the 2 week intensive.

- **April 12:** SOAAdepartmental Open House for newly admitted students, organized by our Student Affairs counselor, Hayley Safonov, the program features faculty and students speaking and presenting works.

- **April 19-21:** Dance Under Construction and CORD special conference “Tactical Bodies: The Choreography of Non-Dancing Subjects” - organized by our PHD students, Alison D’amato, Doran George, Sarah Wilbur, featuring panels, performances, workshops, and keynote speaker Gabrielle Brendstetter. Faculty members Dan Froot, Rennie Harris, and David Rousséve will participate, among others on panels.

- **April 25-26:** MFA3 concert, 8pm Kaufman Dance Theater, “Exit Strategies” with MFA candidates, Alexx Shilling and Carson Efird.

- **May 18-19:** Not to be missed is our Senior Honors Projects showcase, directed by Dan Froot, May 18, 8pm, and May 19, 3pm Kaufman Hall, coinciding with UCLA Alumni Day (May 18th) – watch for more news on this day!

- **June 7-8:** Finishing the quarter with a bang will be our annual faculty choreography projects showcase - 8pm Kaufman 200. Directed by Professor David Rousséve, the presentation will include works by Rousséve, and faculty members Rennie Harris, Vic Marks, Lionel Popkin. Over 50 students auditioned and most of them have been cast to work with one or sometimes two of the choreographers.

- On-going activities will also take place in the spring such as our graduates’ “Chew on This” forum on Tuesdays at noon, our new Dance Workshops (a newly established forum for our dance-focused majors), the graduate Brown Bag lunch with the Vice Chair, and guest lectures or presentations during our Thursdays at Noon.

- In process throughout this year is faculty Aparna Sharma’s Arts Initiative funded project, Documenting Cultures: LA Art Worlds, in collaboration with Fowler Museum and guest faculty Emily Zeamer, the culmination of which will be shown at the Fowler Museum (date tba). Also in process is faculty Mary (Polly) Nooter Roberts’s project working with six graduate students on From X to Y: A Museum Takes Shape in the research and curation of mini exhibits for the Fowler’s 50th anniversary that will take place in the fall, October 12-13; she continues as consulting curator at the L.A. County Museum of Art--organizing an exhibition on Luba masterworks, Shaping Power, which will open in July 2013. Upcoming premieres of works include: Vic Marks’ world premiere of “what if, would you” presented by the AXIS Dance Company, celebrating its 25th anniversary on April 12-13, Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts in Oakland. David Rousséve’s “Daring to be Dumbo”, a work created or Dancing Wheels, a mixed ability dance company in Cleveland, premieres in May.

As you can see, there is much to look forward to this coming quarter and beyond. Please do check on announcements and postings from time to time for specifics and more on our website calendar. And, while the department (the UC in general) continues to have budget reductions and increased expenses affecting its programs, we are all trying to make a difference to ensure its well-being. Many thanks go to all our staff members who are more than doing double duty in supporting our many needs, making up for positions lost to budgetary cuts. (JUST IN! We welcome our newest member, Tiffany Long’s birth of her son, Jayden). **Tiffany,**
the department’s Academic Personnel Manager, will be on leave until late April, and during which we are fortunate to have retired staff Silvily Thomas return to assist the department.

**Heartfelt appreciation** goes to the “Friends of WACD”, alumni, and wonderful parents of our students for their support! Unrestricted contributions create opportunities to meet the department’s greatest needs, including student support and program improvements. I thank those who have made that contribution and I encourage all to do so. Please add to their gifts so that we can provide for full funding of all our classes, and further grow our scholarship and program support fund. This would be a most welcomed gift!

Wishing all the best for the quarter,

Angelia Leung, Chair

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For information about making a secure gift online, visit us at: www.arts.ucla.edu/giving.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!**  See the UCLA MAGAZINE article on the dance program in the department!
Here is the link http://magazine.ucla.edu/features/body-language-ucla-dance/