Many thanks go to those who have contributed to the department – whether designated to specific funds, the General Departmental Scholarship fund, or the Chair’s Discretionary Fund. Your contributions have made a difference in our students’ lives.
Incomplete list of updates on faculty and graduates’ projects—Chair’s Update, Fall 2013

WACD Faculty

Robert Een
A staged version of Robert Een’s opera “The Escape Artist” was presented to sold out audiences in February 2013 at the Meherabad Theater Festival outside Pune, India. He was commissioned by John Ransom Phillips and Art Pond to compose and perform music for a new off-Broadway play “Teddy & Will: Warring Presidents” in New York, June/July 2013. Een presented concerts of his original music in New York in April, Minneapolis in July and Atlanta in August 2013. Excerpts from “The Escape Artist” were featured on WNYC’s “New Sounds with John Schaefer” in April 2013.

SIMONE FORTI
Simone Forti and friends will be presented by HIGHWAYS PERFORMANCE SPACE: “That Fish is Broke” based on Simone’s work with News Animations, first performed in New York as part of the 2012 Judson Now performance series at Danspace Project. This September’s performances feature Simone, Brennan Gerard, and Terrence Luke Johnson. Performances will take place September 20-21, 8:30 p.m. in this evening of improvisational moving and speaking, during which the three artists interweave the flickering, fluid vision of the world brought to us by the news media, the writings of pivotal thinkers of the past, and their own personal experiences.

DAN FROOT
"Who’s Hungry," an ongoing series of experimental puppet plays that give a voice and face to hunger, will tour New England throughout 2013-2014. The plays, produced and written by Dan Froot, designed and directed by Dan Hurlin, with music by Amy Denio (a Meet The Composer commission), and performed by Sheetal Gandhi, Sarah Jacobs, Darius Mannino, and Zach Tolchinsky, aim to raise awareness of the lives of those of us who, on a daily basis, must choose between life’s basic necessities – food or rent, food or medicine, food or bus fare. The production weaves together the stories of five homeless and/or hungry residents of Santa Monica, California, incorporating puppetry, dance, music, and text.

> “Who's Hungry” at The Yard - Friday and Saturday, September 20 & 21, 2013, 8:00pm, The Yard, 1 Middle Road, Chilmark, Massachusetts 02535. dancetheyard.org
> “Who's Hungry” at Wesleyan University Center for the Arts - Friday and Saturday, September 27 & 28, 2013, 8:00pm, 283 Washington Terrace, Middletown, Connecticut 06459. http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?orgid=24317
> "Who's Hungry" at Charlestown Working Theater - Thursday-Saturday, October 3-5, 2013, 8:00pm, 442 Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown, MA; Box Office Telephone 617.242.3285

DAVID GERE
Over the summer, the Art & Global Health Center has pursued a very active agenda of research and activism. Director David Gere, assisted by Elisabeth Nails, co-led the Women's Health and Empowerment summer intensive at Kaufman Hall, alongside Prof. Paula Tavrow of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Prof. Carol Camlin of UC-San Francisco. This was a unique opportunity to put activist arts practices in direct conversation with medically oriented approaches. Students responded enthusiastically, and several incorporated arts-based methods into their final projects: full proposals for original public health interventions. Bobby Gordon (WACD Alum and AGHC Director of Special Projects) began laying the groundwork for expansion of the AMP! sexual health project to Rio de Janeiro via a partnership with the Theater of the Oppressed Center, and to Mexico City through collaboration with former Sex Squad member and WACD alum Veline Mojarro. Recent WACD grad and AGHC intern Sebastian Milla worked with Bobby to complete a full draft of the teaching manual to accompany a new collection of Sex Squad films. In South Africa, the Center's "A.R.T. Show"-an exhibition of art about AIDS—opened at the Adler Museum of Medical History, and a theatrical adaptation of the Through Positive Eyes photo project opened at the Drama for Life Festival, both in Johannesburg. In
Malawi, WACD grad alum Dr. Galia Boneh, director of the Art & Global Health Center – Africa, greeted the arrival of two new staff members hired with funding provided by the Global Health Corps. Back here at UCLA, new grants have recently come in from the Ford Foundation and the David and Linda Shaheen Foundation.

**JACKIE LOPEZ**

Jackie Lopez’s company Versa-style performs “FURIOUS BEAUTY” at the Ford Theater Saturday October 5th at 8pm. “Furious Beauty”, an evening of vibrant, eloquent hip hop dance theater, is a culmination of the group’s exciting works in 2013. In February, Versa-Style traveled to Chennai, India to teach and perform as part of the first ever “Chennai Hip Hop Fest.” Versa-Style also premiered their documentary, “Furious Beauty” at the LA Film Festival in July where it garnered glowing reviews. In that same month, the company served as Cultural Ambassadors for the U.S. through the Arts Envoys Cultural Exchange Program in Tel Aviv, Israel. The company worked on a 10-day tour of Israel teaching workshops and performing pieces from Versa-Style repertoire, both excerpts and full-length productions. Overall, Versa-Style is excited to share the love and creativity they experienced abroad with the Ford audience. Furious Beauty will include revamped Versa-Style favorites as well as brand new works, featuring the choreography of the world-renowned hip hop dance theater pioneer and WACD Adjunct Faculty Rennie Harris. For tickets visit: www.fordtheaters.org

**VICTORIA MARKS**

This past summer Victoria Marks spent three weeks at the Atlantic Center for the Arts as a Master Artist in Choreography. Working with seven associate artists, Victoria led an ensemble movement practice and shared the practice of Action Conversations. Atlantic Center for the Arts is an innovative nonprofit artists-in-residence program that provides artists with an opportunity to work and collaborate with some of the world’s masters in the visual, literary, and performing arts. Since the program began in 1982, over 3500 artists have been served from the US and around the world. [http://www.atlanticcenterforthearts.org](http://www.atlanticcenterforthearts.org)

Victoria also completed her new film “Action Conversations: Bellows Falls” and her new work for AXIS Dance Company, “what if you would” began touring throughout the U.S.

**PETER NABOKOV**

Peter Nabokov has completed The Journey to Ha’ako: The Origin Myth of Acoma Pueblo According to Edward Proctor Hunt. This book is a re-edited, annotated and newly introduced version of the Origin Myth of Acoma Pueblo as transcribed in the fall of 1928 by Bureau of American Ethnology chief, Matthew W. Stirling and finally published in 1942 as Bulletin 138 of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution. This new version will go into the Penguin Press’s Classics of World Literature series and will be published in 2014. Also slated to be published in 2014 for Viking Press is How The World Moves: The Odyssey of an American Indian Family, a history of New Mexico from 1850 to 2007 as experienced by multiple generations of an Indian family originally from Acoma Pueblo in western New Mexico. Other publications include a chapter on “Night Thoughts and Spiritual Adventures: Native America,“ for the sixtieth year anniversary of a highly influential publication, The Intellectual Adventure of Ancient Man (Oriental Institute, University of Chicago Press, 1946), as well as a fall 2013 publication concerning the life and work of Dr. Vaschenko in the North Dakota Quarterly. Currently in the works: a documentary film entitled Dust: An American Indian in Paris as well as a chapter in Contemporary Indigenous Architecture: Local Traditions, Global Winds, Memory and Architecture, secured for publication with the University of New Mexico Press. Peter will also be travelling to Minnesota and the Great Lakes during his 2013 sabbatical to research the revitalization of the ceremonial roundhouse with mentor, Professor Anton Treuer.

**ALLEN ROBERTS**

Al Roberts offered the invitational presentation “Visual Citizenship in Senegal: Contemporary Contests of Cultural Heritage” at the workshop “Do Cultural Heritages Forge Communities?” in the new “Humanities of Materiality” initiative of the Japanese National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka. Two other invitations to international symposia, “Testing and Contesting Regimes of Visibility” at the University of Cologne and “Bridging Histories of East and Central Africa” at the University of Bayreuth (held in Leipzig), were declined due
to an unexpected health intervention. A 14,000-word annotated online bibliography covering 150+ publications on Central African Arts was prepared on invitation from Oxford University Press (www.oxfordbibliographies.com).

MARY (POLLY) ROBERTS
Polly Roberts’ inaugural exhibition “Shaping Power: Luba Masterworks from the Royal Museum for Central Africa” opened on July 7 at LACMA and has been extended until May 5, 2014. This exhibition reflects material that is taught in her “Body Politics” and “Performing Memory” classes at UCLA, and represents her long-term research on Luba arts and culture together with WACD Professor Al Roberts. “Shaping Power” features Luba royal arts from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on loan from the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Belgium, and marks the establishment of a new gallery and educational program dedicated to the arts of Africa at LACMA. She has received extensive positive reviews and accolades for this project, and has given lectures and tours, organized public programs at both LACMA and UCLA, and developed two videos in connection with this project. See the many links available posted the department’s website and a feature story on our homepage. Also visit http://www.lacma.org/art/exhibition/shaping-power-luba-masterworks-royal-museum-central-africa that features a video interview with Prof. Roberts.

DAVID ROUSSEVE
David Roussève’s new dance/theater piece "Stardust" (begun as a WAC174 (Projects) course in S ’09) will have performances at the "Radar LA" Theater Festival at REDCAT Theater September 24-29 prior to national touring. The work features video art by Cari Ann Shim Sham* (WACD MFA alum), score by d. Sabela grimes (WACD MFA alum), dramaturgy by Lucy Burns (faculty UCLA Asian American Studies), lighting by Christopher Kuhl, and costumes by Leah Piehl. The cast includes WACD MFA alums Nguyen Nguyen, Taisha Paggett, Nehara Kalev, Emily Beattie, current WACD MFA candidate Kevin Williamson, WACD faculty Michel Kouakou, recent WACD BA recipients Leanne Iacovetta, Jasmine Jawato, and Charisse Aguirre, and current WACD BA student Kevin Lee. Also visit http://www.redcat.org/event/david-rousseve-reality

PETER SELLARS
In June, Peter Sellars toured his production of Desdemona to the Holland Festival in Amsterdam and the Teatro Festival Italia in Naples. In early July, he premiered a new work, Michelangelo Sonnets, with organist Cameron Carpenter and bass-baritone Eric Owens at the Manchester International Festival. Beginning in August, he will be rehearsing another new production, Henry Purcell’s Indian Queen at the Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre (Russia) with performances beginning in late September. Performances of Indian Queen will also take place at Teatro Real in Madrid this November. In October, Peter will reprise his production of Bach’s Saint Matthew Passion in Berlin with the Berlin Philharmonic.

APARNA SHARMA
Aparna Sharma began preproduction on her next documentary, WWW-When Women Weave. Aparna received a UCIRA Major Grant and a UCLA Faculty grant in the spring of 2013 to produce the documentary that surrounds the Tezpur District Mahila Samiti’s Women’s Weaving Workshop. Aparna encountered the workshop during research on Assam’s feature film, Joymoti (1935). For four years she has been tracing the film’s remains and collecting any materials related to it. On a field visit to the filmmaker’s home in 2011 she was introduced to the weaving workshop that he, along with feminist activists from his family, founded in Assam. This weaving workshop is politically significant because Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India movement activities in Assam from its campus in 1942. Today, this workshop rehabilitates tribal women who have been displaced following the violence perpetrated by the Assam movement. A first phase of production will be undertaken in December 2013. Over the summer, Aparna worked with her production designer to plan the materials they plan to document; how they will elicit the participation of the women weavers in this project; what outcomes will be generated to facilitate and contribute to the workshop’s goals and aims. Alongside preparation for WWW-When Women Weave, Aparna continued work on her in-progress manuscript on Indian documentary cinema. Her recent film, Kamakha: Througuh Prayerful Eyes was, over the summer,
DAVID DELGADO SHORTER
David Shorter reached a major benchmark in his work on Yaqui language revitalization by taking his Wiki for Indigenous Languages live in May. ([http://wil.cdh.ucla.edu/](http://wil.cdh.ucla.edu/)). This project also received a Transdisciplinary Seed Grant Award from the University, enabling him to move forward with the site’s further development. Shorter also recently completed his first film, *Lutu Chuktiwa*, which he premiered in a Yaqui pueblo on August 29th. ([http://cuttingthecord.wacd.ucla.edu/](http://cuttingthecord.wacd.ucla.edu/)) Please come to the L.A. premier here in Kaufman Hall on October 17th. Also, David Shorter will be recognized that same week by Chancellor Gene Block as a Distinguished Teacher of the Year awardee. ([http://www.oid.ucla.edu/grants/awards](http://www.oid.ucla.edu/grants/awards))

EMMA LEW THOMAS (emerita)
Emma Lew Thomas was at Berlin, where she taught a workshop on Mary Wigman at the *Freie Universität* for the *Institut für Theaterwissenschaft* chaired by Gabriele Brandstetter, the keynote speaker for the CORD Conference organized by WACD graduate students supervised by WACD faculty Susan Leigh Foster that met at UCLA WACD April 19–21. Lew’s workshop followed a two week assignment in Essen convened by Patricia Stöckemann where she worked with a team of dancers and choreographers on re-creating Stravinsky’s “Sacre du Printemps” in Mary Wigman’s choreography and staging, to be presented this fall under the auspices of the *Bayerische Staatsoper* at Osnabrück, Bielefeld and – hopefully – Berlin. While in Germany, Lew received an invitation from the FU to return for the winter semester as the Valeska Gert Guest Professor of Dance and Performance, focusing on post-WW II Wigman activities when she danced and taught in Germany, and her current creative projects. She accepted this appointment and will be returning to Berlin October – Feb. 2014 to work primarily with MA & PhD students preparing to investigate, research and write for, and about the burgeoning field of dance and movement performance.

NATSUO TOMITA
While at Positive Link and Nature Body House Dance Studio in Japan, Natsuo Tomita had the opportunity to teach an “Extend” class, which is a combination of stretches and exercises. In addition, she also taught an adult ballet class. Natsuo was also able to re-train in Barre au Sol (a floor barre and physical conditioning exercise) with her former instructor, Marc du Bouays, of the Paris Opera. This opportunity will allow her to bring new material to her students at UCLA this fall. In her third year involved in the program, she directed an intensive workshop for TFT/US Performing Arts. Ballet, contemporary dance, tap, jazz and musical theatre were showcased in a final stage performance.

SHEL WAGNER-RASCH
Some updates on her performances and teaching in 2013:
Again, this summer Shel Wagner-Rasch hosted the Eastside Contact Improv Lab Jam in Pasadena as well as continued teaching the “Be or Bring a Beginner” class at the Santa Monica Contact Improv Jam. In addition, Shel taught at the West Coast Contact Improv Jam in Berkeley during July. Other summer projects include a collaboration of evening performances at Art Share with Stephanie Nugent and Jones Welsh as well as a performance in “Burrow”, a Video Installation by Carole Kim at Lehrer Architects in Los Angeles. In collaboration with WACD faculty Cheng-Chieh Yu and other artists, Shel scored and filmed a piece for a film project.
Graduate students

As part of the International Congress of Art Education, Carmen Cebreros Urzaiz presented “Seeing Beyond the Gaze: Digital Archives and On-line Editions about Museums’ Collections” at the National School of Painting, Sculpture and Engraving in Mexico City as part of their 70th Anniversary commemoration. While in Mexico City, Carmen also presented a seminar, “Theaters of Memory”, at SOMA. In September, Carmen will teach a seminar titled “Museum as Pretext, Exhibition as Enunciation” in the Department of Fine Arts at the Autonomous University of Baja California.

Sharna Fabiano’s full length collaborative project, "Prawns a la Indigo," with Spitfire Physical Theater Company, premiered at Palác Akropolis in Prague in May 2013 and was shown again in July as part of the International Zero Point Festival. ([https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10200566006445794](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10200566006445794)). In August, Sharna presented a short piece of tango dance theater created with students at Oxygen Tango School of LA. Photos courtesy Spitfire Physical Theater Company.

Doran George is entering his sixth and final year as a PhD candidate with a Dissertation Year Fellowship. During this summer he has completed his third of four chapters. George has also just secured Arts Council of England funding to choreograph on British disabled dancer Catherine Long. He has two chapters under peer review for Oxford University Press anthologies. George has co-edited and authored the introduction for the final and largest ever issue of the thirty year running British Dance Theatre Journal. He has completed a 5th year of teaching intergenerational summer dance workshops for Los Angeles County Museum of Art. George has also contributed to the first ever print-edition of Transgender Studies Quarterly.

This summer Laurel Tentindo, second year MFA Candidate ventured to the UK to teach at Independent Dance and perform in Florence Peake’s work at the Baltic Art Center. She will return to the UK in September for a choreographic residency with Decoda. This summer Laurel created a group piece in Vermont called Falling Lines which was performed along with a solo at the Phantom Theater. She taught at the Trisha Brown Summer Intensive in NYC and will lead master classes at TILT in Milan before returning to UCLA. On October 21st, Laurel will present new work at Pieter and on the 27th she will lead a workshop. www.laureltentindo.com <[http://www.laureltentindo.com](http://www.laureltentindo.com)>

Sarah Wilbur’s essay, "Failing Perceptions: Policy, Production, and U.S. Dance Makers" was accepted for publication in the inaugural edition of the Journal of Emerging Dance Scholarship. JEDS is blind-reviewed international online journal published by the World Dance Alliance that features writing by scholars currently enrolled in or within five years of completing a graduate degree program in dance. The JEDS will go live late August, 2013 at: [http://www.wda-americas.net/jeds/](http://www.wda-americas.net/jeds/). Wilbur earned her MFA in dance at WAC/D in 2012 and is at work on her doctoral dissertation in culture and performance.