

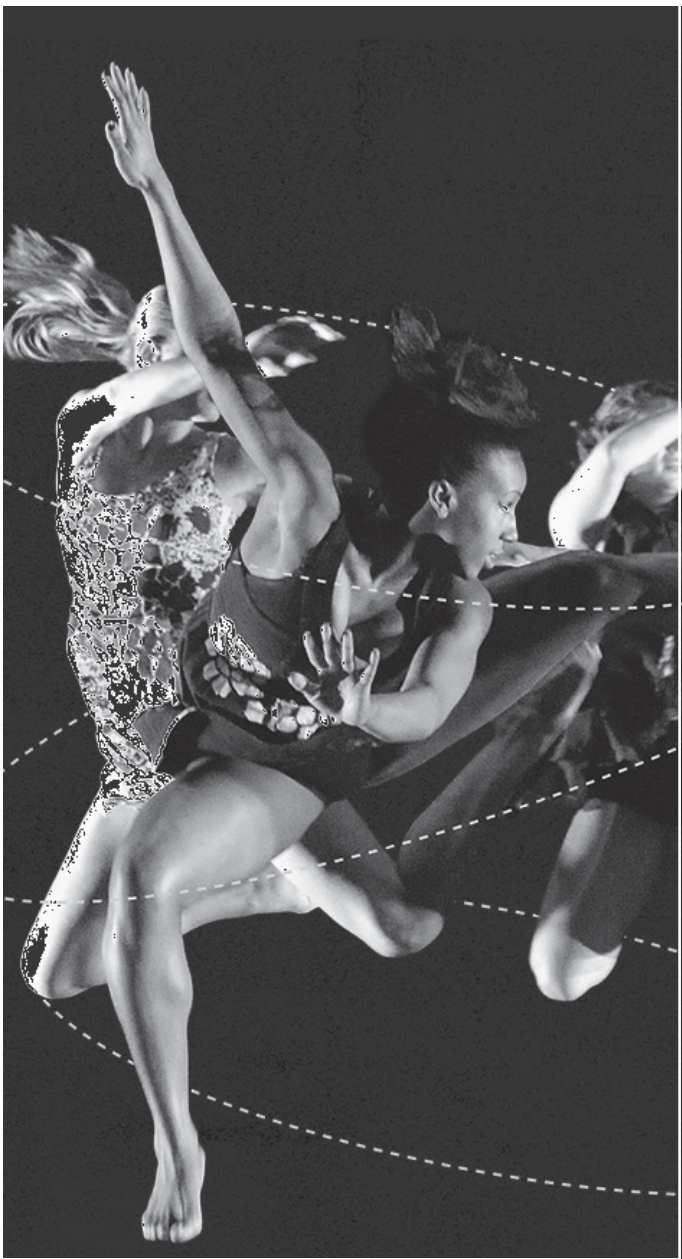
UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies presents

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Sara Pearson



SCHOOL OF
THEATRE, DANCE, &
PERFORMANCE STUDIES



Friday, March 10–Sunday, March 12, 2023

DANCE THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THEATRE DANCE

FEARLESS NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

Directed by Jennifer Barclay

KOGOD THEATRE

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2023

THE BOOK CLUB PLAY

by Karen Zacarías

Directed by Fatima Quander

KAY THEATRE

FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 4, 2023

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Sara Pearson

DANCE THEATRE

MARCH 10-12, 2023

THE LATE WEDDING

By Christopher Chen

Directed by Kathryn Chase Bryer

KOGOD THEATRE

APRIL 21-28, 2023

UMOVES: UNDERGRADUATE DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Patrik Widrig

DANCE THEATRE

APRIL 28-30, 2023

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Sara Pearson

UNASSUMING FORMS

Pre and post-show installation

Choreographers..... Marielis Garcia, Kate Ladenheim

Costume Designer Channing Tucker

Lighting Designer Mike Riggs

Projection Designer..... Roshanda Lazar

Sound Designer Veronica J. Lancaster

Performers..... Mary Kate Ford, Peter Pattengill,
Carlo Antonio Villanueva

Music Credits

Music composition by: Subhatra Sivam

Media design: Rashonda Lazar

Pre and post show music: Sam Crawford

... AND WITH THIS LIES THE NEED TO BE TOGETHER

Choreographer Kendra Portier

Costume Designer Channing Tucker

Lighting Designer Scott Monnin

Sound Designer Veronica J. Lancaster

Performers..... Brit Falcon, Mary Kate Ford,
Daniel Miramontes, Rebecca Steinberg

Music Credits

Music collage by Kendra Portier with original sound, Adam Crawley/ DJ Plié, Joe Westerlund, and Kayleigh Gallagher

PERSEPHONE RECONSIDERS HER FATE

Choreographers..... Sara Pearson, Patrik Widrig

Creators Shekinah Brown, Solé Calá, Char Cowan,
C Macko, Layla Nordrum, Emily Sheridan,
Alondra Torres Negron, Connor Voss, Brian Wilson,
PWDT dancers Tzveta Kassabova

Costume Designer Channing Tucker

Lighting Designer Mike Riggs

Projection Designer..... Rashonda Lazar

Sound Designer Veronica J. Lancaster

Poet..... Shekinah Brown

Performers..... Layla Nordrum, Emily Sheridan,
Alondra Torres Negron

Music Credits

Sam Crawford, Melody Gardot, Gorillaz, Silver Mt. Zion

VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

DANCExDANCE

Co-Creators.....	Adriane Fang, Bill Kules, Jonathan David Martin, Huaishu Peng
Co-Choreographers.....	Adriane Fang, Bill Kules
Director.....	Jonathan David Martin
Associate Director.....	Marielis Garcia
Performer.....	Anna Adhikari
Sound Designer.....	Samuel Crawford
Costume Designer.....	Becca Janney
Projection Designer.....	Rashonda Lazar
Lighting Designer.....	Scott Monnin
Data Flow Engineer.....	Mark Williams
Data Communication Engineer.....	Christopher Maxey
User Experience Designer.....	Bill Kules
User Interface Engineer.....	Anup Sathya Sai Kumar
Technical Lead.....	Huaishu Peng
Robot Designers.....	Anup Sathya Sai Kumar, Jiasheng Li
Track Fabricator.....	Zeyu Yan

DRAWING OUT THE LIGHT

Choreographers.....	Momar Ndiaye, Abby Zbikowski
Costume Designer.....	Channing Tucker
Lighting Designer.....	Mike Riggs
Sound Designer.....	Veronica J. Lancaster
Performers.....	Jasmine Caffee, Mary Kate Ford, Daniel Miramontes, Alondra Torres Negron

Music Credits

Mixtrack 1: Remix by Momar Ndiaye; Samples: -

Traditional Senegalese drumming (record from class): Bara Mbaye, Counting Bodies
Like Sheep to the Rhythm of the War drums by A perfect Circle

Mixtrack 2: Remix by Momar Ndiaye; Salawena by Amampondon, U_09-0 by Alva Noto

This performance will last approximately 90 minutes.

UNASSUMING FORMS

Choreographers' notes for *Unassuming Forms*:

Unassuming Forms is a choreographic installation that reflects upon surveillance and spectacle. In response to audience motion, a collage of digital bodies (both legible and abstracted) are triggered onto a projection of varying scales. A gesture made by an audience member has a resemblance to a pre-learned archive of movement on the computer. The action then triggers the video projection. The resulting digital bodies are multiplied and layered. This work is a small example of society's shared learning, both purposeful and not, intentional and not, recognizable and not. We (and our many forms) learn from each other.

Special thanks to: Brit Falcon, Adriane Fang, MK Ford, Luis Garcia, Alvin Mayes, Daniel Miramontes, Rebecca Steinberg, and Van Tran Nguyen for helping train our machine learning model.

... AND WITH THIS LIES THE NEED TO BE TOGETHER

Choreographers' notes for *...and with this lies the need to be together*:

That our lives are shifted by one another, subtly and profoundly, is the big concern of this work and the larger project it contributes to - Pantone. Bringing together dance professionals across the U.S. and now TDPS graduate students, Pantone is a series of interconnected, multi-modal choreographic variations. Each variation is uniquely tailored to the people performing it and how they choose to be and become together.

Special thanks to the performers for their vivacious rigor and care. Additional gratitude to the musicians and creative contributions of TDPS graduate students: Javi Padilla, Tristan Koepke (MFA '22), and Christina Robson (MFA '22). This research is supported by the UMD Graduate School's Faculty Student Research Award.

PERSEPHONE RECONSIDERS HER FATE

From the director:

Special thanks to the entire dance faculty and designers; to Jenn Schwartz, Mel Mader, Gab Ryan, and all the production staff and crew; and to choreographers Adriane Fang, Kendra Portier, Marielis Wentworth Garcia and Kate Ladenheim, Patrik Widrig, Abby Z and Momar Ndiaye for your work that invites us into journeys rich in passion, mystery, beauty, and humor. It is an honor to support you.

Choreographers' notes for *Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate*:

Who/what does one leave behind? What/who does one take along? Delight, rage, resistance, and beauty are experienced in mythic proportions. This is a time of reuniting with past and future loves, of holding on and letting go, of being alone in one's wilderness. Are we all not Persephone? And also within us, Hades? And the underworld – not a Christian hell, but our own shadow of darkness that must be acknowledged, transcended?

DANCExDANCE**Choreographers' notes for DANCExDANCE:**

Once upon a time, there was a small but plucky robot (its creators nicknamed it "Calico"). It had various sensors to understand its orientation in space, it could move based on given commands, it even had a light that could change colors. But its creators felt like there was more that the robot could do, if only they could find the right opportunity to explore it. One day, along came a brand new initiative that brought together a unique team of artists, designers, dancers, and programmers; they spent months brainstorming over Zoom, testing lots of ideas physically in a studio (a few brilliant ones and quite a few less than brilliant ones), brainstorming some more, testing some more, brainstorming, testing, until today. That's where all of you come in. Welcome. We've been waiting for you.

Our initial investigations when we started *DANCExDANCE* explored what art and performance could teach us about the utility of the Calico technology. Turning to dance was a clear first step and quickly we discovered that it invited a conversation on not just our individual relationship to technology (in particular artificial intelligence, robots, smart devices, etc.) but our collective relationship to, and responsibility for, the technology as well.

It feels like recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technology have once again conjured utopian visions of convenience and dystopian visions of killer machines. To us, these run in parallel to the hype and concern surrounding social media, where our ability to communicate and be influenced by the opinions of others has never been greater. In both AI and the digital collective there is a question of how much control we have as individuals over the world around us and, increasingly, over our bodies as well. But what could the future of human-computer interaction look like if humans and their creations could work together rather than compete for control?

We see the nature of digital culture and robotics as highly interactive and participatory and thus the role of the audience in this performance is one that is more active than passive. Where we go in our exploration of these themes tonight will be left, for the most part, up to you.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Arts for All initiative's ArtsAMplification collaborative grant program for kickstarting this project and supporting our initial explorations, workshops, and prototypes. In the process, we've enjoyed the challenge of working with collaborators from far flung parts of the University of Maryland community. Computer Scientists have learned to dance, designers have learned to code in Python, and we've all had quite a few conversations about what a "script" means. We've also learned a lot about what collaboration and live performance can be in an era of remote work and digitally mediated interactions. As with this performance, our process has been an incredible synthesis of the digital and the physical, technology and art. It's a journey that does not really end today, but starts a new and exciting chapter. Thank you for being a part of the journey.

DRAWING OUT THE LIGHT

Thank you to our wonderful cast for their hard work and trust in the process. And thanks to Kendra for coaching it in our absence. You all rock!

Anna Adhikari (Performer, *DANCExDANCE*) senior dance and communications double major, arts leadership minor. Scholarship Awards: Robert Smith Endowed Dance, TDPS Board of Visitors, Mulitz-Gudelsky Family. UMD credits: *Bodily Intelligence* (C. Rocher-Barnes), *That's All* (A. Daniels), *Goldfinch* (K. Portier), *Mural* (C. Wilt).

Shekinah Brown (Poet, Performer, *Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate*) is a senior at the University of Maryland, graduating fall 2023 with a B.A. in dance. She has been dancing around the DMV area, making solos about different stages of her life. Most of her projects are life stories, experiences that she hopes her audience can relate to. An everyday process, dancing has been a lifeline for her and has taught her patience, healing, growth, discipline, and that there are no limits to what she can do.

Sam Crawford (Sound Designer) completed degrees in English and audio engineering at Indiana University in 2003. His compositions and sound designs have included works for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company (Venice Biennale, 2010), A.I.M by Kyle Abraham (*Untitled Love*, 2022), Camille A. Brown and Dancers (*BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*, 2016), and David Dorfman Dance (*Aroundtown*, 2017). *La Medea*, a live film collaboration with director Yara Travieso for which he composed the music and wrote the libretto, premiered at P.S.122's Coil Festival in 2017. Crawford is a lecturer in sound design at the University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies.

Adriane Fang (Co-Choreographer, Co-Creator, *DANCExDANCE*) is a dancer, teacher and choreographer with a keen interest in multi-disciplinary collaboration. She was a member of the internationally renowned dance company, Doug Varone and Dancers, from 1996 to 2006 and has worked with several other choreographers including Colleen Thomas, Wally Cardona, Elizabeth Shea, and Bebe Miller. She has choreographed operas for Annapolis Opera and Maryland Opera Studio and dances for groups such as Compañía Ceibadanza in Ecuador, Shendandoah University and JMU. Currently on faculty at the University of Maryland, Adriane is the recipient of a 2007 New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") for her performance with Doug Varone and Dancers.

Mary Kate Ford (MK) (Performer, *Unassuming Forms*) is an artist working in dance performance, choreography, pedagogy, and film. They are an MFA candidate in dance and media at the University of Maryland and hold a BFA in dance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Marielis Garcia (Choreographer, *Unassuming Forms*; Associate Director, *DANCExDANCE*) is currently the Dance Artist in Residence within the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies at the University of Maryland. She is a Dominican American dance artist who has performed and toured with Brian Brooks (NY), Helen Simoneau (Winston-Salem, NC), Peter Kyle Dance (NY), iKapa (Cape Town, SA), and Douglas Dunn and Dancers (NY), among others. Marielis began studying dance at Dance Theater of Harlem, and then at the Alvin Ailey School, and her dance practice is driven by this strong lineage. She has a BFA in dance with a minor in education, and in 2020 received her MFA in digital and interdisciplinary art practice from City College of New York. Her research is driven by a strong somatic dance practice and by the concept of the 'multiplicitous performer.' Her professional affiliations include being artistic advisor for Judson Memorial Church Arts, writer for the Gibney Journal, curatorial work with STUFFED Arts and associate special programs curator for New York City's Museum of Modern Art in Judson Dance Theater: "The Work is Never Done" exhibition. In 2021 she was an Alvin Ailey New Directions Choreography Lab Grant recipient and Ballet Hispánico's Instituto Coreográfico resident. Her work has been presented both nationally, in Colorado, Kaatsbaan, Utah, and North Carolina and internationally in Canada, Italy, South Africa and Colombia.

Becca Janney (Costume Designer, *DANCExDANCE*) is delighted to have designed costumes for *DANCExDANCE*. Becca is a second-year costume design MFA candidate. UMD design credits: *Last Dance Lost Dance*, *Lost Patterns*, and *Fefu and her Friends*. Outside credits: Baylor Theatre (*Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Rhinoceros*, *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*), WaterTower Theatre (*Everything is Wonderful*, *Godspell*, *Harvey*) and Stage West Theatre (*Ada and the Engine*).

Bill Kules (Co-Creator, User Experience Designer, Co-Choreographer, *DANCExDANCE*) is a principal lecturer in the College of Information Studies, Director of the iSchool's iConsultancy Experiential Learning Program, past director of the Human-Computer Interaction Masters program, and a member of the Human-Computer Interaction Lab. This project—his first dancemaking work—explores his interest in the aesthetics and ethics of embodied engagement with information. Dr. Kules has performed locally in works by Heidi Latsky Dance, Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, and Dance Exchange. He holds a doctorate in computer science from the University of Maryland.

Anup Sathya Sai Kumar (Robot Designer, User Interface Engineer, *DANCExDANCE*) is a first-year Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago. He has deep problems with the attention economy and is focusing his research on methods to reclaim agency from the devices we use. In his spare time, he makes small dioramas in tins and watches restoration videos.

Kate Ladenheim (Choreographer, *Unassuming Forms*) is a choreographer, media designer, and creative technologist. She researches bodies in motion and how they impact and are impacted by systems of social and technological pressure. Ladenheim holds an MFA in media design practices from ArtCenter College of Design. She has conducted research in motion interfaces for robotics at U.C.L.A., and was the 2019–2020 Artist in Residence at the Robotics, Automation, and Dance Lab. Her artistic projects have been presented internationally, and her work has been celebrated in *Dance Magazine* as one of their “25 to Watch” and “Best of 2018.”

Veronica J. Lancaster (Sound Designer) is a graduate of the University of Maryland and is happy to be back designing at her alma mater. At the University of Maryland, she has collaborated on a number of Dance MFA thesis projects, as well as the Madden Dance Project. Previously, for TDPS, she designed sound for *Love and Information* and *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev*. Veronica has also been a regular collaborator with the Department of Performing Arts at Georgetown University. Outside of academia, Veronica is a company member with Rorschach Theatre and enjoys designing sound and projections for theaters in the DMV area and around the country.

Jiasheng Li (Robot Designer, *DANCExDANCE*) is a second-year Ph.D. student working at Small Artifact Lab in the Department of Computer Science. His research interests lie in human-computer Interaction and concentrate on accessibility, virtual reality, and haptic devices. His work aims to help people get a better immersive experience in both the physical and digital worlds. Before starting his doctorate career, Jiasheng received an M.S. degree in telecommunications from the University of Maryland and a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech.

Mel Mader (Stage Manager) is a senior theatre and English double major with a College Park Scholars Certificate in environment, technology, and economy. UMD credits include: Shared Graduate Dance Concert Spring 2022 (Stage Manager), *Hookman* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *32 Bars Heathers* (Scenic Designer).

Jonathan David Martin (Co-Creator, Director, *DANCExDANCE*) is a lecturer in the Immersive Media Design Program. He has created new works across a range of disciplines including VR, documentaries, theater, and installations. Projects include “URL vs IRL” for Andy’s Summer Playhouse, *Tangible Hope Project* (Best Documentary Series-BNMWFest), the original plays, *Point of Departure* and *Head in the Sand*, and the upcoming VR experience “City of Sand” as the co-artistic director of Smoke and Mirrors Collaborative. He is a pioneer in performance technique for VR, was a puppeteer in the Broadway cast of *War Horse* and is currently on Broadway in *Life of Pi*. MFA: NYU.

Christopher Maxey (Data Communication Engineer, *DANCExDANCE*) is a Ph.D. student in computer science working within the GAMMA Lab. His research focuses on synthetic data for artificial intelligence and machine learning applications as well as commonsense reasoning with visual-language models. Further interests include working with game engines and augmented reality. Chris obtained his B.S and M.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland before coming back to pursue a computer science degree.

Scott Monnin (Lighting Designer, *DANCExDANCE*; ... and with this lies the need to be together) first-year lighting MFA. UMD credits: Fall FMA Showcase (Assistant Lighting Designer) and *As You Like It* (Lighting Programmer). Selected outside Lighting Design: *Islander* (Associate) at Playhouse 46, *Chess the Musical* at Sandbox Theatre, *Mame* at Quincy Community Theatre, *Doubt that the Stars are Fire* at The Center, and *Wit* at the Seeing Place Theatre.

Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig (Choreographers, *Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate*) have been co-artistic directors of their internationally renowned PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER since 1987 and professors of dance at the University of Maryland’s School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies since 2009. Presenting “appealingly subversive, engaging, wry, and deeply affecting work” (The Washington Post), PWDT has gained an international following for their concert stage choreography and for their site-specific dance installations and community performance projects throughout the US, Europe, Latin America, Asia and New Zealand.

Recent highlights include site-specific performance works at two UNESCO World Heritage sites: Zeche Zollverein, a former coal-processing plant turned cultural center in Essen, Germany, and the Castillo San Cristóbal in San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate* will premiere in Elefsina, Greece this summer as part of the city’s festivities celebrating its designation as the 2023 European Capital of Culture.

Financial support has included funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Performance Network, USArtists International, MAP, the Rockefeller Foundation, USIA/USIS and TDPS among many others.

Huaishu Peng (Co-Creator, Technical Lead, *DANCExDANCE*) is an assistant professor in the computer science department and a member of HCIL at the University of Maryland. He directs the Small Artifacts Lab with multi-disciplinary research interests ranging from design and fabrication, virtual and augmented reality, and assistive and enabling technology. His work has been published in CHI, UIST, and SIGGRAPH and won Best Paper Nominee. His work has also been featured in media outlets such as Wired, MIT Technology Review, Techcrunch, and Gizmodo.

Kendra Portier (Choreographer, ... *and with this lies the need to be together*) is a dance artist—choreographer, educator, and performer. Portier has facilitated and presented dance across the globe from San Diego to Salzburg, Dushanbe to Athens (Greece, Georgia, and Ohio). She has a celebrated teaching style and has performed in a range of classical to contemporary works, most notoriously a decade-long tenure with David Dorfman Dance. Current performing collaborations include Jasmine Hearn, Lisa Race, the upcoming production directed by Big Dance Theater, and BAND—the interdisciplinary dance company that she directs. Portier is faculty at the University of Maryland, where she is awarded the Maya Brin Professorship in Dance.

Mike Riggs (Lighting Designer, *Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate; Unassuming Forms*) A first-year MFA candidate. Mike is an aspiring teacher. His dance credits include works with Dance Exchange, Misnomer, Momix, ODC, Pearson/Widrig, and Matthew Westerby Company. Mike lived and worked in New York for many years after earning his B.A. at Vassar. He and his wife Gina Grandi now live near Boone, NC, where she teaches theater at Appalachian State University.

Gabrielle (Gab) Ryan (Assistant Stage Manager) junior theatre and journalism double major. UMD credits: *Fefu and Her Friends* (Julia u/s), *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Anna Mae/Afua). Outside Credits: *32 Bars Heathers* (Dance Captain), *A Chorus Line* (Choreographer, Sheila u/s).

Emily Sheridan (Performer, *Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate*) third-year student pursuing a double degree in dance and computer science. UMD Credits: *Prayer for Humanity, FIXED: A Dance Drama, When You See Me Leave* (Choreographer, to premiere April 2023). Outside Credits: *Rebirth*.

Carlo Antonio Villanueva (Performer, *Unassuming Forms*) has recently performed with choreographers Neil Greenberg, Stephen Petronio, Christopher Williams, and Faye Driscoll. In 2022, his creative collaborations were presented in College Park, Washington, D.C., Haifa, and Marseilles.

Zeyu Yan (Track Fabricator, *DANCExDANCE*) is a computer science Ph.D. student at the Small Artifacts Lab in University of Maryland. He works in the area of human computer interaction within the field of personal fabrication, tangible user interface and accessibility. Prior to joining the University of Maryland, he received an M.S. in mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University and a B.S. in mechanical engineering at Zhejiang University.

FACULTY

Jennifer Barclay
Amith Chandrashaker
Andrew Cissna
Dan Conway
Sam Crawford
Crystal Davis
Adriane Fang
Leslie Felbain
Marielis Garcia
James Harding
Franklin J. Hildy
Helen Huang
Misha Kachman
Maura Keefe
Kate Ladenheim
Caitlin Marshall
Alvin Mayes
Jared Mezzocchi
Lisa Nathans
Sara Pearson
Kendra Portier
Fatima Quander
Scot Reese
KenYatta Rogers
Van Tran Nguyen
Patrik Widrig

STAFF

Gabrielle Ching
Crystal Gaston
Isiah Johnson
Susan Miller
Renee Nyack
Jennifer Schwartz
Catalina Toala
Teri Zillmer

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ronya Lee Anderson
Lindsey Barr
Zerihun Birehanu
Kevin Clark
Nicole Clockel
Christina Collins
Deja Collins
Atiya Dorsey
Eran Eads
Jordan Ealey
Britney Falcon
Lauren Farnell
Mary Kate Ford
Luis Garcia
Matré Grant
Leo Grierson
Bailey Hammett
Amanda Henney
Christian Henrriquez
Rebecca Janney
Shartoya Jn. Baptiste
Casey Kaleba
Mher Kandoyan
Mina Kawahara
Timothy Kelly
Marissa Kennedy
Jerran Kowalski
Gerson Lanza Ruiz
Margaret Lapinski
Kaela Lawrence
Rashonda Lazar
Gianina Lockley
Lin Luo
Alex Miller
Daniel Miramontes
Scott Monnin
Gavin Mosier
Tori Niemiec
Sofia Oliviar
Javier Padilla
Stephanie Parks
Peter Pattengill
Kristopher Pourzal
Heather Reynolds
Mike Riggs
Brandon Roak
Christina Smith
Rebecca Steinberg
Jared Strange
Melissa Sturges
Margarita Syrocheva
Sophia Terpermeister
Carlo Villanueva
Cody Von Ruden
Cyrach Ward
Mark Williams