

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Free Adult Tap classes offered on Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. All are welcomed!**
- **CSUCD has applied for a Community Fellowship Grant to offer Yoga, Tai Chi and Pilates classes to teens and adults.**
- **Good News! Funds were used to hire two college student interns to assist and teach classes for the Fall Semester.**

CSUCD STAFF

Vanessa L. Coles,
Director

Heather Malone,
Ballet Instructor

Erica Wallace-Jackson,
Hip-Hop Instructor

Darby Pack,
Modern & African
Instructor

Caprice Harris,
Modern, Jazz & Hip-
Hop Instructor

Nysia Whilite,
Tap, Hip-Hop, Jazz
Instructor

CSU Dance Expressions

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FALL 2009

Instructor Spotlight - Carl Pitts

This month newsletter instructor spotlight is Mr. Carl Sumner Pitts.

He attended Howard University; where he discovered Mike Malone, the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, Sylvester Campbell, and the Washington Ballet under the direction of Claire Jones. It was then he decided to pursue a career in dance and returned to Baltimore, where he received a scholarship with the Baltimore City Ballet Company.

After attaining the status of principle, he returned to Washington, DC to join the National Ballet under the direction of Ben Stevenson. Later, he was offered a position as Principal Dance with the Syracuse Ballet Theater. During this time he worked with

Paul Russell, another Principal Dancer who left Syracuse to join Dance Theatre of Harlem under the direction of Arthur Mitchell. Mr. Pitts returned to his native



Lauren Anderson is a
Company of the Houston
Ballet

Baltimore to begin his teaching career with Urban Services Cultural Arts Project under the direction of Norman Ross. The USCAP brought education in the

Fine and Performing Arts to the children of Baltimore's inner city. Since then, Mr. Pitts has taught at various schools throughout the USA and Europe including the Harlem School of the Arts (NY), Statiste Buhnen Dortmund (Germany), Westminster Ballet Theatre, and Baltimore City Public School System where he currently teaching at Forest Park High School as well as coaching the after-school dance team.

How blessed we are to have Mr. Pitts teaching Ballet classes at Coppin State University.

He was born in Baltimore, MD and graduated from Baltimore City College. His favorite style of dance is 'The Classical Ballet'.

Important Dates

Fall Tuition Payment—Due on the 2nd week of the month.

Parents can pick-up T-shirts the week of October 26

The Dance Studio will be closed November 19-21 for a Volleyball Tournament. Make-up classes are scheduled for Performance week in May. Classes are also can-

celled on November 22-28 for the academic semester break.

Open House will take place December 1-5 for each class. Students are encouraged to invite family and friends.

Holiday Gathering is scheduled for December 7-12. Each participant is asked to bring a healthy snack that

students can share with one another. Please sign-up in the Dance Office, Room 119.

The costume fee is \$50 per student per dance and is due by February 1st.

The Dance Recital will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010 the James Weldon Johnson Auditorium.

Dance Fact/Learning Moment



Did you know there are over 50 dance genres?

“A good dance student checks to make sure they are properly dressed and prepared for class”

“Stop by the office - Room 119 to sign your child into his or her dance class”

Ballet is a great foundational point for all dance styles.

We recommend that all dancers take ballet to learn dance terminology and proper alignment for the body.

Dancers spend lots of time outside of the studio stretching, preparing for class and rehearsal.

Tap originated in the United States through the fusion of several ethnic percussive dances, primarily African tribal dances and Scottish, Irish, and

English clog dances, hornpipes, and jigs.

Creativity always comes from the heart, and **hip hop** dance is about ingenuity, the way you dance. This form of dancing serves as, perhaps the best way to express one’s creative talent as it is a dance in which impressions as well as expressions come from the soul.

Modern Dance is a dance style that rejects many of the strict rules of classical ballet, focusing instead on the expres-

sion of inner feelings. Modern dance was created as a rebellion against classical ballet, emphasizing creativity in choreography and performance.

Did You know? Ashley Everett from Beyonce’s Single Ladies music video is a classically trained ballerina.

Check her out on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1NLAkfyhUQ&feature=related>

Proper Dance Attire & Reasons to Rehearse at Home

Proper Dance Attire:

A good dance student checks to make sure they are properly dressed and prepared for class with the following items:

- Leotards
- Tights
- No visible undergarments
- Proper shoes for specific style of dance

- Hair pulled back neatly away from face
- No jewelry of any kind
- No gum, candy or food

Reasons to Rehearse at Home:

The majority of our classes only meet one day per week.

It is very important that students spend a minimum of 20-

30 minutes per day reviewing the information presented during class time.

This will enable the students to move forward during each class versus having the instructor to constantly review materials taught during the last class.

This will ensure dancers will receive the full benefit of the technique taught during class.

Parents Corner - Work with Stefanie and Janice

FREE * FREE* FREE

Adult Tap Class is available to the community on Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 pm in the Coppin Center Dance Studio. All levels are welcomed!

Parent Appreciation Days -

Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5. Stop in the office for a light, healthy snack and conversation.

Parent Traveling Committee - We are establishing a traveling committee to enhance our students’ experience by attending concerts, plays and special dance classes conducted by master