

MEET THE DANCE FACULTY

JENNIFER PONTIUS

Associate Professor and Department Chair

Performer with a variety of ballet and modern companies/choreographers throughout California, Florida and Alabama including South Bay Ballet, Donna Sternberg and Dancers, and Charles Edmondson; staged numerous classical ballet repertory works as well as set original choreography for a variety of colleges and universities; received her Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Florida State University.

DANA E. NICOLAY

Professor

Artistic Director of Nicolay Dance Works; has worked with internationally recognized choreographers and teachers as a member of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Houston Ballet, the Dayton Ballet, Contemporary Dancers Canada and Space/Dance/Theater. He is a Certified Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analyst (CLMA) and his Master of Fine Arts degree in Modern Dance from Texas Christian University.

ANDY NOBLE

Associate Professor and Associate Chair

Co-Artistic Director of NobleMotion Dance, one of Houston's "A-list" dance companies; Associate Artistic Director of the Dance Gallery Festival; performance career includes six years with Repertory Dance Theatre where he performed in over forty choreographic works by such noted masters as Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Jose Limon; had the honor of working first-hand with many international artists such as Gideon Obarzanek (Chunky Move), Jø Strømgren, and Zvi Gotheiner; received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Florida State University.

DIONNE SPARKMAN NOBLE

Assistant Professor and Graduate Advisor

Co-Artistic Director of NobleMotion Dance; choreographic work presented at the 2014 National College Dance Festival at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; recently named one of Houston's 100 Creatives by the Houston Press; received her Master of Fine Arts in Modern Dance with an emphasis in dance technology from The University of Utah.

*Associate Professor
Andy Noble and
Assistant Professor
Dionne Noble's
"The Grid" was
chosen to perform
at the National
College Dance
Festival in 2014
at the John F.
Kennedy Center for
the Performing Arts.*

ERIN RECK

Assistant Professor

Artistic Director of Recked Productions; dancer, choreographer, teacher in NYC for over 12 years; performed in works by Sara Rudner, Susan Marshall, David Neumann, and Jane Weiner; received numerous grants for her choreographic work and facilitated many presenting and charitable dance events in NYC; received her Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Sarah Lawrence College.

ELIJAH GIBSON

Assistant Professor

Company member of Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago for eight years; performed and taught throughout the United States as well as in Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, and Mexico; choreographic work has been performed by national and international dance companies; received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

DAVID J. DEVEAU

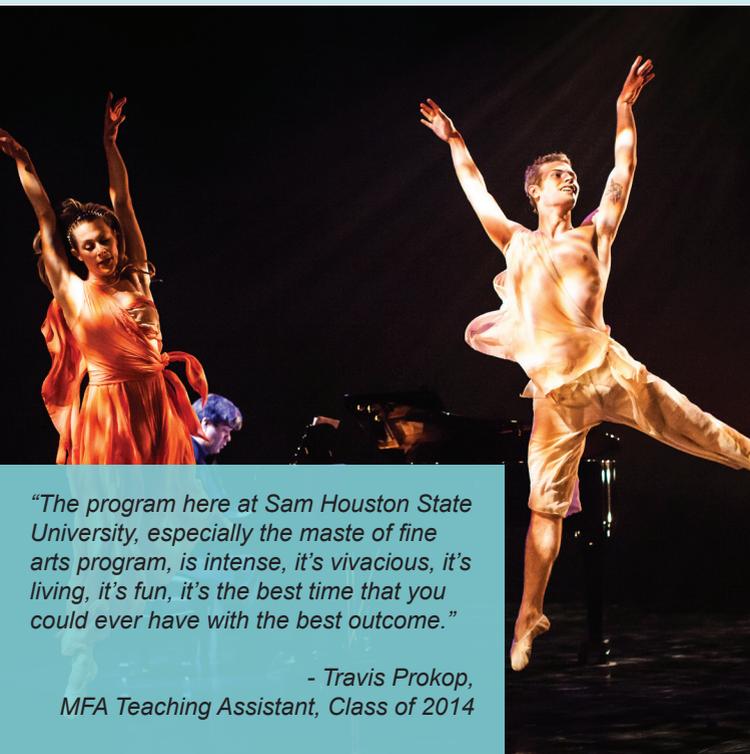
Visiting Professor

An international lighting designer and collaborator for dance; has recently designed work with the Dominic Walsh Dance Theater at The Joyce in New York City and with iMEE in Turin, Italy; collaborations focus on utilizing dance technology and dance on film; received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Sam Houston State University.

Explore more about our Dance faculty:
http://www.shsu.edu/~dnc_www/faculty

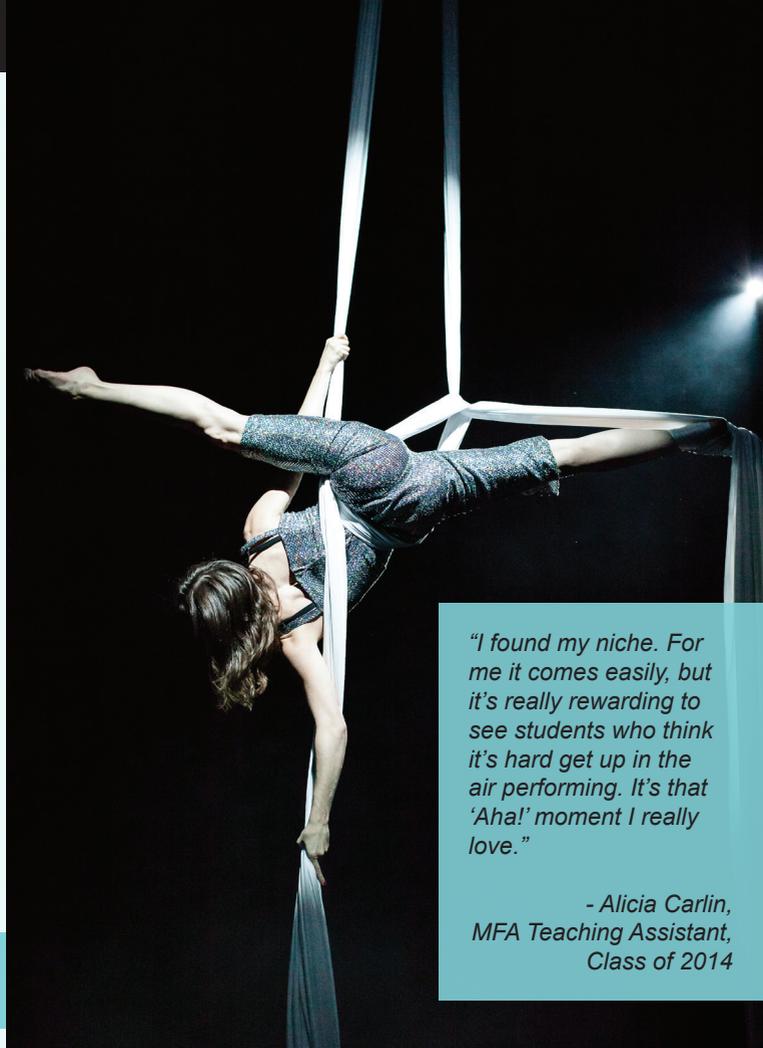
THE GAERTNER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Department of Dance is housed in SHSU's newly constructed \$38.5 million James and Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center. The 91,000 square foot building is shared with the School of Music and Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre and houses entirely new facilities for Dance including a 150-seat dance theater, four spacious studios, dressing rooms, a computer lab, a conditioning studio, and more.



"The program here at Sam Houston State University, especially the master of fine arts program, is intense, it's vivacious, it's living, it's fun, it's the best time that you could ever have with the best outcome."

*- Travis Prokop,
MFA Teaching Assistant, Class of 2014*



"I found my niche. For me it comes easily, but it's really rewarding to see students who think it's hard get up in the air performing. It's that 'Aha!' moment I really love."

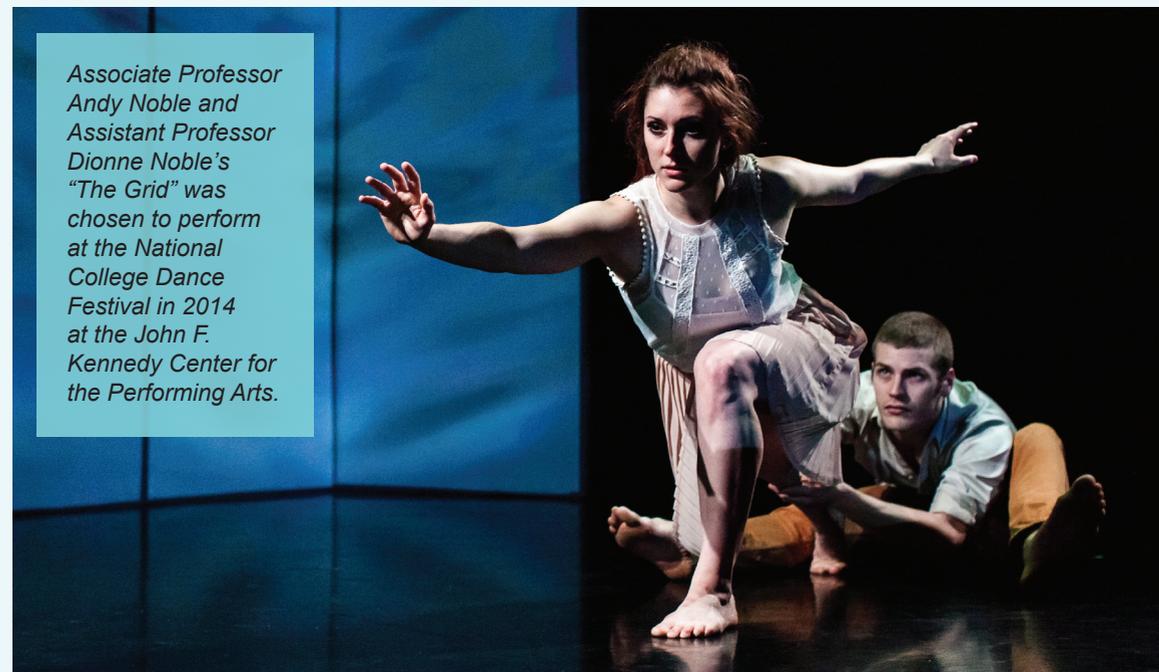
*- Alicia Carlin,
MFA Teaching Assistant,
Class of 2014*

ASSISTANTSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Dance offers Graduate Assistantships each year on a competitive basis. All graduate assistants must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours and work 20 hours a week or teach an equivalent of .50 FTE (6 credit hours) in exchange for a stipend. Assignments for assistantships are based on departmental need. Returning professionals can request information regarding availability for "high dollar" graduate assistantships.

MFA Performance Scholarships may be available to MFA students who demonstrate exceptional dance ability, maintain a minimum overall 3.5 GPA, fulfill all performance assignments, and demonstrate commitment to the department through active, voluntary participation.

Additional scholarships may be available through the Department of Dance. To explore these scholarship opportunities, visit shsu.edu/scholarships.





APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply to the MFA in Dance program, you will need to submit the following application materials:

1. Graduate Admissions Application (available online through ApplyTexas.org), along with the application fee
2. Letter of Inquiry
3. Resume/Curriculum Vita
4. Video Portfolio of Performance and Choreography
5. Three Letters of Recommendation
6. Transcripts of all Previous College Work
7. Confirmation of Degree Conferral

In addition, applicants must also attend an onsite audition that will include:

8. Submission of a Writing Sample
9. Interview with Dance Faculty
10. Technique Audition in Ballet and Modern Dance
11. Presentation of a solo performance of a choreographic work composed by the applicant

Note: International applicants must submit additional information. For International Admissions requirements, please visit shsu.edu/international.



Sam Houston State University
MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Graduate Admissions

Box 2478

Huntsville, TX 77341

graduate@shsu.edu

936.294.1971

shsu.edu/grad



DANCE

Master of Fine Arts



SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY



DANCE, THE ART OF MOTION

The Master of Fine Arts program in the Department of Dance at Sam Houston State University is a dynamic, challenging education that integrates creativity, performance, and scholarly pursuits. In addition to an intensive studio experience with substantive choreographic and performance opportunities, the MFA program offers exposure to philosophical, theoretical, and research orientations to dance as an art form. Courses in composition, dance theory, production, dance technology, and Laban Movement Analysis broaden the scope of study.

The MFA is a 60 credit terminal degree in dance taking three years of residency in the Department of Dance. For qualifying applicants with extensive professional experience it is possible to complete the degree in 4 - 5 semesters. The degree culminates in a creative thesis project designed by the candidate that expands the student's area of interest through specified research and creative investigation.

Graduates from the Department of Dance are successfully employed around the nation in a variety of careers including college and university teaching, performance, choreography, administration, and production.

For additional information, please contact the Dance graduate program academic advisor Dionne Noble at 936-294-1588 or dln008@shsu.edu or visit the program webpage:

<http://www.shsu.edu/programs/master-of-fine-arts-in-dance>