



Summer News 2014

Our dancers are doing great things!

With the school year behind us it is nice to look back at accomplishments, and look ahead to summer activities.



Sydney Box (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

This past school year, Sydney obtained the Scholar Recognition Award. An Ashland High School honor student, she achieved straight A's for all 4 grading periods during her freshman year.

Sydney auditioned and was accepted to study at the Kansas City Ballet summer intensive program, under the leadership of Artistic Director, Devon Carney. Mr. Carney was previously the Associate Artistic Director of Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet Master for the Boston Ballet, and Artistic Director of the Boston Ballet summer intensive program. Sydney will dance in Kansas City June 15- July 18.

Madeline Carter (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Madeline will attend the 2014 Musical Theatre Audition Summer Intensive at Interlochen Center for the Arts from June 14-20, and the Musical Theatre Workshop at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music from July 7-19. Both programs will include ballet, tap, and modern dance classes as well as Pilates and musical theatre style dance combinations, along with singing and acting.

This past school year, Madeline received first honors all four quarters as well as the highest GPA in Calculus, and French 4 Honors. She received the Military Academy at West Point Leadership Award, and participated in National Honor Society, Liturgical Ensemble, was Student Representative on the Monsignor Dunn Foundation Board, Treasurer of The International Thespian Society, Key Club, and the President of the French Club.



Amanda Ehrmantraut (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Amanda is very active on Ashland High School's weekly newspaper, The Panorama. This year she received an Ohio Scholastic Media Association Honorable Mention for a General Feature. In June, she will be attending the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Summer Journalism Workshop - Columbia University, New York, NY. Of course, she will also attend Opus II Dance Studio's Summer Dance Intensive. :)

Elyse Kulka (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Elyse received a Health and Physical education department scholar award, which honors achievements combining physical fitness and academics at Ashland High School.



Sabrina Lindhout (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Sabrina was accepted at Cincinnati Ballet, BalletMet, and Milwaukee Ballet summer dance intensives. She has chosen to attend the Cincinnati Ballet Summer Intensive June 15 -July 18.

(Summer News 2014 continues)



Nadia Maggelet (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Nadia was accepted to study at the Cincinnati Ballet summer dance intensive. She will attend that program in July.

Annie Olecki (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Annie was accepted at the American Ballet Theatre (ABT), Orlando Ballet, BalletMet, and Cincinnati Ballet's summer intensives. She will attend the ABT intensive in Texas.

At Lexington High School Annie received an academic letter and remained on the honor role through-out the year.



Reagan Steffen (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Accepted by Ballet Chicago and Cincinnati Ballet Summer Intensives, Reagan chose to attend the Princeton Dance and Theater Summer Dance Intensive in Jew Jersey. The program is hosted by ABT certified Risa Kaplowitz, former ABT Principal Dancer Susan Jaffe and Prima Ballerina Cynthia Gregory.

Through-out the school year, Reagan remained on the first honor role while taking mostly honors courses. She received an Academic Honors Award at the completion of her first year at Ashland High School.

Claire Thrasher (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Claire will study in the Advanced Program Summer Intensive at Lexington Ballet, Lexington, Kentucky, in June. She will return home in time to study at Opus II during the July summer intensive.

Claire is an Honors student at St. Peter's High School in Mansfield, having just completed her sophomore year. Claire received recognition at school for Outstanding Achievement in Spanish III, Theology II, and Honorable Mention for the National Spanish Exam Level 3. She was recognized for achievement in Fieldwork with St. Peter's Autism Scholarship Program, including dance instruction to students. In 2014 she was inducted into the National Thespian Society, St. Peter's Chapter. She is a Student Council Representative, member of Key Club, Spanish Club, and an Altar Server at school mass. During the 2013-2014 school year she was selected by school faculty to participate in the Young Leader's Institute, sponsored by the Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation (the Chamber foundation). Claire will spend a week this summer as a Spanish counselor for Camp OFLA, sponsored by the Ohio Foreign Language Association.



Rachel Weilbacker (Opus student/Ashland Regional Ballet member)

Rachel was accepted into the American Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre summer intensives. She has chosen to attend the Alvin Ailey program and New York City for a six weeks intensive study program.

This past school year Rachel was a regional finalist in the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition for a jewelry piece titled, "Tiny Dancers." She also received a second year academic letter and remained on the honor role through-out the year.

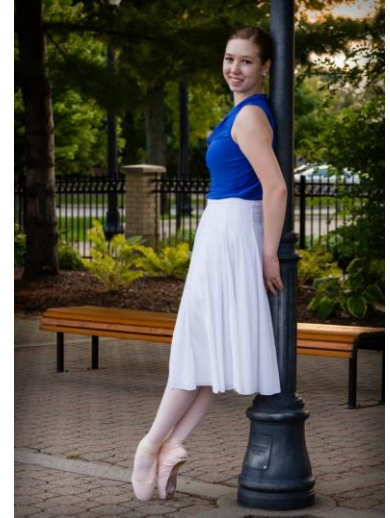
Alumni News



Anna Bentley
(former Opus student and Ashland Regional Ballet Alumni)

Anna spent the past year dancing with Soli Deo Gloria Contemporary Ballet as a Company Trainee. She performed with the company through-out their season and assisted with teaching and rehearsing in the workshops held through-out the area. Anna taught at Turning Pointe School of Dance, the company's affiliated school.

Soli Deo Gloria Contemporary Ballet is focused on bringing dance to those who may, otherwise, not have the opportunity to enjoy it. Because of this, Anna and the other dancers in the company have performed in a wide variety of performance venues. Anna states, *"It has been an incredibly exciting year and I have grown so much as a dancer and as a person. I am really looking forward what is in store for the next season."*



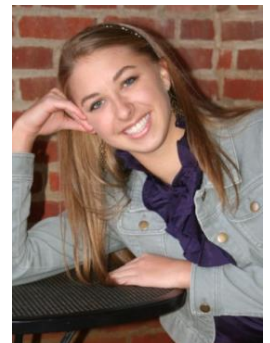
Kjersten McKinniss
(former Opus student and Ashland Regional Ballet Alumni)

Kjersten just completed her freshman year at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She is pursuing a major in athletic training and a minor in dance performance. This is a perfect combination for Kjersten as it combines her passions of health, teaching, and dance.

Kjersten was honored to perform in a choreography showcase for the dance faculty at Hope College. Selected by Linda Graham, the Dance Department Chair, to perform in *En Passant II*, Kjersten

danced the role of a *Knight* in a modern ballet based upon a game of chess. (Pictured at left is Kjersten as a *Knight* in a fight with the two *Queens*.)

Kjersten was awarded the Freshman Distinguished Artist Award by the Hope College Department of Dance. She was also given the opportunity to participate in the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Annual Meeting and Symposium in Chicago. This summer she will work at Stony Lake Camp in New Era, Michigan.



For more alumni news see:

Opus II Dance Studio Announces Special Summer Faculty

Note: I am continuing to collect news about our dancers (current and alumni). If you have news to share please forward it to me for inclusion in our next Newsletter. Thanks, and happy dancing.

Hellie Schussler - on behalf of the faculty and staff at Opus II Dance Studio and Ashland Regional Ballet.

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For class information and online registration go to www.OpusDanceStudio.com.

Click on **"CLASSES"** to find class schedules and tuition information. And check our **"Upcoming Events"** for a full calendar of Opus II and ARB dance activities.