



DEPARTMENT OF WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES

Welcome to all WAC students from Chair Angelia Leung

September 29, 2009

Dear WAC students,

Welcome to all new majors and welcome back to our returning students! I hope your summer was all that you wanted it to be and that you are ready to dive into your studies this Fall.

Despite the economic crisis affecting all of the UC's and specifically UCLA and the department, WAC has emerged a renewed department as a whole with strong subunits—dance and the study of arts and cultures, with distinct features yet connectedness through shared viewpoints and projects as demonstrated by faculty and student projects and courses. Credit goes to all the faculty, staff support, and student input in our process to improve our department. We anticipate on-going input from you as we implement the newly revised MA/PHD in Culture and Performance curriculum this year along with fine-tuning the MFA in Dance program and the revised undergraduate curriculum (dance and world arts and cultures concentrations).

Several changes have taken place over the past few months: The department is now resuming the governance structure of one Chair. In addition, we have developed two positions – Vice Chair of Graduate Affairs, and Vice Chair of Undergraduate Affairs. Chris Waterman, SOAA Dean, has asked that I continue as Chair of the department. Much thanks goes to Kathy Komar who served as Co-Chair with me last year in completing the cycle of the Academic Senate review of the department. **Victoria Marks** will serve as Vice Chair of Undergraduate Affairs. She continues the work she began as the departmental Undergraduate Faculty Advisor, while taking on a larger set of responsibilities. **David Delgado Shorter** will serve as Vice Chair of Graduate Affairs. His position is that of the formerly named Graduate Faculty Advisor. Much thanks also goes to **Allen Roberts** who had served as the Graduate Faculty Advisor the past few years. Student Affairs Officer **Wendy Temple** will provide staff support for both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Together we will work as a team to provide the quality education you deserve within the vision and mission of this department.

Unfortunately due to budget cuts the department lost three staff positions: Graduate Student Affairs, Public Information/Exhibition/ Archives, and Main Office Front Desk.



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This will place much more work on our remaining staff-- all this while adapting to salary cuts and furloughs imposed by the university. Please do understand that we will all work together to assist you but know that there will be some adjustments in our efforts. Some changes taking place include holding a one-hour main office closure between 1-2pm in order for our staff to focus on their respective work. There will be a posting of staff responsibilities/roles in case you wonder who to go to with your questions.

The department also saw the retirement of long-time staff member **Sam Jones**, who has served as the Technical Director for over 30 years. Sam has contributed significantly to the development of systems and processes in running the productions program, in addition to providing his artistic vision through his lighting designs for productions too numerous to count. I hope that we will still see some of him through special projects engagements. We welcome the presence of **Lorrie Snyder** as our new Technical Director. Lorrie has a very impressive and extensive background in this arena, including recent work on the initial RedCat theater development and the subsequent season. We look forward to her contributions to the department's productions!

There have been numerous projects and accomplishments the past year, and even just this summer. I want to be sure you know of this past year's faculty honors and accomplishments. Please do read the upcoming **WAC Newsletter** that will be posted on our website.

Most importantly I want to introduce you to the new faculty members joining us this Fall: **Anurima Bannerji** and **Dr. Aparna Sharma**. The department was fortunate to have had their hires approved prior to the budget cuts! Join in welcoming them to the department-- information on them is posted on the WAC website (link to Faculty). Together with our last year's new faculty members, **Dr. Mary (Polly) Nooter Roberts**, **Dr. David Delgado Shorter**, and **Dr. Janet O'Shea**, all will be contributing significantly to both our undergraduate and graduate programs and we are certain you will be happy to work with them because of your own interests. Please be sure you find an occasion to meet them—either through a course they will be teaching or simply meeting them during their respective office hours.

Coming up this Fall: We have the great opportunity to partner with **UCLA Live** in hosting some of their artists in residency activities – and whenever possible they will be scheduled during our Thursday noon **In the Garden** series. Included will be masterclasses/lectures hosted by some of our classes. Please watch the calendar of events for exact information. Coming up right away is South African performance artist **Pieter-Dirk Uys** solo performance on *Oct. 3 and 4, 7pm* curtain in the Gloria Kaufman



Dance Theater. Not to be missed is our **MFA's Upstarts** concert series featuring the work of **Michael Sakamoto** *November 21-22, 8pm* performances also in the Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater. Also in November there will be a holiday concert, **Giving Thanks**, presented by Judy Mitoma's Center for Intercultural Performance: *November 28, 8pm* at the Japan America Theater. This concert features adjunct faculty Viji Prakash's Shakti Dance Company, alum Linda Yudin's Viver Brasil company, and former adjunct faculty Haulau Keali'i O Nalani's company. Many of you already know of the department's involvement with **World AIDS Day** – which will be on *Tuesday, December 1*. Directed by **David Gere**, this is a full day of events and culminating with "48 Hours to Action" performance event. **Culture Crossing** will continue with its format of faculty curating/nominating student work (along with faculty works-in-progress) to present at this one-night presentation – *Wednesday, December 2, 6 PM* --we look forward to seeing your work! And last but not least, we'll end the fall quarter with **Pau Hana**, a sharing of work from our arts practice classes, scheduled for *Friday, December 4 6 PM*.

Save the dates! -

October 2 - Friday, 4-6pm – A WAC Mixer – In the Garden – sponsored by our undergraduate organization, WACUS. Please come meet and enjoy each other's company! Music and refreshments provided by WACUS.

October 6 - Tuesday, 12-1pm – WAC Townhall Meeting – Room 200 GKH – for all the WAC community.

There will be many events throughout the year and I hope to give you a quarterly update at the beginning of each quarter. Should you want to meet with me, I will have regular appointment times available. Please contact my assistant, Lilian Wu (lwu@arts.ucla.edu). I look forward to seeing all of you in the hallways, classrooms, and at events in our building, and on behalf of the WAC faculty and staff, wish you a productive new academic year!

Best,

Angelia

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Department of World Arts and Cultures