

Dear(1/3 randomly selected alum),

The Department of Dance at Hope has become a force on campus. More students than ever are participating in dance, and students pursuing professional careers in the dance field are choosing Hope for their training. As the reputation of our dance program grows, we are also attracting high-caliber faculty and professional touring companies, which benefit the arts scene along the Michigan lakeshore.

Hope College has been selected to host the 2024 Cecchetti International Classical Ballet Competition, which will be held in the United States for the first time and bring dancers from around the world to campus.

Our dance students are growing along with our reputation. They are not just excelling in the studio, but also in the classroom. Their dance training and rigorous liberal arts education at Hope are preparing them to lead lives of impact when they graduate. Our department graduates 100 percent of all dance majors in four years and all dance dual majors gain acceptance to their first- or second-choice graduate program.

While we celebrate these and many other accomplishments, our expanding program has outgrown our facilities, and we need your help. During the past 18 months, we have been raising funds for a state-of-the-art dance wing addition to DeWitt Center and renovation of dance studio space at Dow Center. As we wouldn't expect football players to play in the same pads they did in 1978, the athleticism, physical demands and current training practices of our dancers require updated performance and rehearsal spaces.

These improvements also are necessary to maintain our accreditation. The dance department has been nationally accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) for 40 years, a rare distinction for a private liberal arts college.

Will you help with a financial gift to create a premier space for Hope's nationally recognized dance program? Your gift will ensure that all students will receive the training they need and that dance majors/dual majors will be well-prepared to excel in the concert and commercial world of dance. Working together, we can continue the rich tradition of providing quality performances for lakeshore communities, maintain our valuable NASD accreditation and reach our goal of breaking ground later this year.

Grateful for your support,

Dear (Dance Alum),

During your time at Hope College you found both your calling and your family in the dance department. The hours spent in classes, rehearsals and performances (both on and off campus) crafted not only your time here at Hope, but also the person you would become after graduation. While our mission remains the same – to grow students in the four essential components of creative expression: artistry, physicality, intellect and spirituality – our national reputation and programs continue to expand.

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Our dance students are growing right along with our reputation. Students are not just excelling in the studio, but also in the classroom. Their dance training and rigorous liberal arts education, which we all value at Hope, are preparing them to lead lives of impact when they graduate. All dance majors graduate in four years, and all dance dual majors gain acceptance to their first- or second-choice graduate program.

While we celebrate these and many other accomplishments, our expanding program has outgrown our facilities, and we need your help. During the past 18 months, we have been raising funds for a state-of-the-art dance wing addition to DeWitt Center and renovation of dance studio space at Dow Center. This is a top priority for Hope College and a current focus of fund-raising efforts because these improvements also are necessary to maintain our accreditation. The dance department has been nationally accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) for 40 years, a rare distinction for a private liberal arts college.

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