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PROFILE
Nancy Moses

Nancy Moses is one of those faculty members who seems to be in perpetual motion. Nancy, who is an Associate Professor of Dance with a joint appointment in the Department of Speech Communication, Theatre Arts, and Communication Disorders and the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies, is busy over the last few years developing a new academic concentration that will allow K through 12 teachers in Massachusetts the opportunity to become certified in dance education. After visiting scores of schools and talking to hundreds of teachers, Nancy is convinced that it is time to recognize the importance of dance in developing a fully educated child and to more adequately train teachers to use dance as an integral part of the curriculum.

Nancy is certainly the right person to be advancing the dance concentration. She is currently the president of the Massachusetts Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and has, for ten years, been the motivating force behind the Dance Kaleidoscope project on the Bridgewater State College campus, which offers students a spotlight to showcase their dance talents. When talking to Nancy one immediately gets the impression that she is a professional who is determined to elevate dance to its proper place in education. As Nancy is quick to point out, dance is a performing art that people need to be knowledgeable about if they are to be well-rounded individuals. Moreover, dance in the United States is an important part of our identity, with jazz, modern and tap dancing deeply rooted in our culture.

During the past academic year Nancy has been busy engaging in a kind of a sales drive as she moves within her two departments, through the education bureaucracy, and among public schools in the state to promote the dance education program and the importance of providing certification for the dance component. Nancy is buoyed in her travels by the positive response from students, faculty, and educational planners who agree with her that dance has long been neglected and needs to have the proper recognition and standing in the academic community. Nancy is particularly impressed by current and former students who tell her that a dance concentration offered at Bridgewater would greatly enhance their teaching prospects and would position the college in the front ranks of dance education. Over the years, despite not having a dance concentration, Nancy has been blessed with a number of fine dance students who have gone on to careers in dance or have used their dance experience at Bridgewater to enhance their standing as recreation professionals.

Besides her vigorous pursuit of the dance education concentration, Nancy is also involved in more fully developing the archives of the great Afro-American choreographer, Danny Sloan. Sloan, who died in 1986, was a prominent dancer who headed his own dance company. Through the auspices of the Hall of Black Achievement, Bridgewater was fortunate to acquire the collection of his dance videos and the exclusive rights to his choreography. Nancy hopes in the future to get outside funding to develop an oral history of Danny Sloan and to put on a retrospective performance of his work. The opportunity to utilize the Sloan collection will certainly further deepen the reputation of Bridgewater as a regional center for dance.

Dance is clearly on the upswing at Bridgewater, and that sense of movement is closely tied to the energy and dedication of Nancy Moses. As Nancy is first to admit, there are still numerous obstacles to move through before dance can take its rightful place in the liberal arts curriculum at Bridgewater, but there is certainly no better advocate than Nancy Moses to ensure that dance gets a hearing and is given its just due. If Nancy gets her way, the future of dance and dance educators will be a bright one.