

## Editor's Note

The 2017 edition of *Dance Major Journal* continues the tradition of focusing on writing by dance majors *for* dance majors—and for the people who seek to understand them. What are their issues, and what have they discovered they can pass on? This is *DMJ*'s second year on the University of California's eScholarship platform. Two older back issues are still available on the University of California, Irvine Dance Department website under "Current Students."

This issue starts on a sad note with acknowledgement of the tragic loss of London Thibodeaux (1997-2017), a vibrant, talented young dancer who had just finished her second year in the dance program at University of California, Irvine and also performed with CADC, the notable Irvine hip hop crew. This issue is dedicated to her memory. After the remembrance of London, there is an essay written by one of her friends on the topic of what it's like to be an African American dancer in a largely white dance environment, a topic London undoubtedly could relate to. Her boundless curiosity might have led her to read about other "hot topics" for university dancers as well, including ideal body types, dress codes, casting biases, and obsession with dancers on social media.

Other essays from the dance major point of view in this issue include the questions: Why do college athletes get so many resources dancers do not? Do you have to move away from home to find dance success? Why do we need federal funding for dance? What tools can you add to your dancer toolbox to survive your schedule? And how can you become a better dance teacher? For those of you wondering whether or not even to *come* to university to study dance, the issue ends with two essays from dance majors who tell you how that decision can work out.

Currently based at the University of California, Irvine, *DMJ* welcomes submissions from dance majors and MFA candidates elsewhere. Word documents can be sent to: [Jennifer.fisher@uci.edu](mailto:Jennifer.fisher@uci.edu).

Thanks to all the talented and thoughtful dance majors and graduate students who have written essays in this issue, and who will undoubtedly keep contributing to the dance world in the future.

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