

Emily K. Gray, MFA

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DANCE EDUCATOR, ENTREPRENEUR, & PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Teaching & Advising | Dance Instruction | Curriculum Design | Program Marketing and Development

Over 17 years of experience in establishing and managing educational programs; expert in teaching and mentoring students and teachers. Excels at building stellar dance programs and fostering arts appreciation.

Outgoing and energetic dance instructor and mentor with expertise in multiple technical and social dances. Track record of success in designing, developing, and implementing dance and movement programs for students and offering participants opportunities to develop an interest and mastery of various dance forms. Expert in developing positive relationships with students, families, teachers, and staff members, supporting program initiatives, and managing operations. Effective at coaching teachers in coursework, providing course solutions, and mapping future material. Proven track record of creating, implementing, and leading dance programs, managing projects, and preparing future course material.

Core Competencies

Creative Lesson Planning | Communications and Program Marketing | Theatre & Performance Management | Competitive Dance Team Mentorship | Classroom Management | Student Advising | School Administration | Profit Maximization | Program Leadership | Operations Leadership | Dance Choreography | Team Leadership | Curriculum Development | Ballet, Modern, Jazz, & Tap | Cheerleading & Hip Hop | Student Choreography

Leadership Qualifications

- ❖ **Communication Expertise** – Excellent public relations and performance-based marketing skills; ability to work under stressful conditions and in difficult situations. Success in developing excellent relationships with students and fostering a pleasant work environment which result in a high level of commitment, performance, and learning.
- ❖ **Dance Programming Management** – Proficient in leading consistent yet progressive, clear, fun, and engaging dance classes for adult learners and grades PK-12. Adept at managing and coordinating private lessons schedules and different courses to ensure space for all dancing activities within the private sector and school settings. Ability to manage and mentor other dance educators working under leadership.
- ❖ **Problem Solving Skills** – Flexibility and adaptability to manage different situations and solve problems while working in a multicultural environment. Ability to work effectively in a dynamic private dance and/or academic school space. Proficiency in responding quickly to students' academic and socio/emotional needs and working in an inclusive dance educational setting.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

I am committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in my educational work, research, and training programs where all members create and feel a sense of belonging. The push toward a more accepting world is an ongoing process. I feel it requires individuals to identify and address both unintended/intended and visible/invisible barriers arising from discrimination, racism, bias, and organizational structures in an effort to promote change.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Leadership and Learning in Organizations, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
In Progress, Expected Degree Conferral in April 2025

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Choreography, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL, 2022
GPA: 3.93

Thesis: The Influential Force of Light: A Choreographic Response to the Effect of Lighting on Human Movement

Bachelor of Science (BS), Public Relations and Communications (Minor in Professional Education), University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, 2008
GPA: 3.86, Graduated Summa Cum Laude

TEACHING CAREER SYNOPSIS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA

2023 – Present

Dance Faculty

Designs and instructs dance technique coursework for students at MIT.

- Promotes positive self-concept in each student; provides encouragement to each student to develop skills.
- Creates a supportive classroom and learning environment for all students.

Endicott College, Marblehead, MA

2023 – Present

Performing Arts Entrepreneurship Course Co-Designer/2024 Adjunct Professor

Collaborates on new coursework to be implemented in the Performing Arts major in Spring 2024. New coursework will focus on leadership, marketing, and human relations within performing arts organizations.

- Prepares creative researched-based curriculum grounded in theories discussed by Bolman & Deal (2021), Delpit (1995), Greeno & Gresalfi (2008), Holland (1998), Lave & Wenger (1991), and Scribner (1986).

Campus Dance Academy, LLC, Jacksonville, FL

2020 – Present

Founder and Artistic Director/Current Board Member

Implements curriculum-based and auxiliary programs and instructs students in multiple dance styles, including ethnic dances from various cultures, to demonstrate and promote nuances of each. Communicates and collaborates professionally with school administrations, CDA faculty, parents, and community members. Provides age and skill level appropriate dancing experiences, including performative and creative explorative activities, and encourages students to think independently.

- Develops and directs programming with dance courses offered at each grade level.
- Developed and instructs adult learning/continuing education component of CDA for faculty.
- Mentored, trained, and guided a teaching staff to allow for additional classes and uniformity throughout the organization.
- Provides students with learning opportunities to explore the creative dance process.
- Plans, creates, and implements a dynamic dance classroom environment conducive to learning and relevant to students' physical, social, and emotional development. Evaluates students' progress using appropriate assessment techniques.
- Encourages, manages, and mentors dance and cheerleading teaching faculty for each campus.
- Designed, developed, and manages company website.
- Designed and manages interactive handheld device applications (app) for each campus to allow for effective class registration, costume management, communication with and marketing for parents, school administrations, and all CDA staff and faculty.
- Organizes multiple annual in-house and curriculum integrative performances per year for each campus.
- <https://campusdanceacademy.com/>

Achievement Snapshot: Prepares students for their overall dance education to continue at the secondary and collegiate levels and within the greater Jacksonville arts community. Promotes arts appreciation within students, parents, and school administrations.

Jacksonville Country Day School, (FCIS, FKC, Advance Ed/SACS CASI certified), Jacksonville, FL

2005 – 2017

Dance Department Director

Provided opportunities for students to participate in theatre festivals, performances, conferences, workshops, and district-wide events. Developed lesson plans and taught dynamic dance classes in ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, modern dances, pom, student choreography, and cheerleading.

- Designed and developed the JCDS Dance Program from its inception.
- Oversaw growth of 50% by the second year of the program. Growth continued each following year.
- Prepared creative cognitive psychology researched-based methods and curriculum to teach dance and choreography
- Mentored, trained, and guided a teaching staff to allow for additional classes and uniformity throughout the program.
- Coached an auditioned-based dance team that consistently won national titles in pom and hip-hop dances.

- 1st place UDA Nationals (2017)
- 2nd place UDA Nationals (2013)
- The Summit bid winner
- 1st place Cheersport Nationals Championship (2013)
- Established and maintained standards of pupil behavior needed to achieve a functional learning atmosphere.

Achievement Snapshot: *Choreographed for dance concerts, musical theatre productions and choral performances. Collaborated and co-taught with the music department and PE department to enhance both fine arts and athletics through dance.*

Infinity Allstars (Dance), Jacksonville, FL

2008 – 2012

Dance Choreographer and Coach

Instructed, organized, and managed various phases of the cheerleading and dance program, including recruitment, technique, safety standards & protocols, and performance.

- Promoted positive self-concept in each student; provided encouragement to each student to develop skills.
- Created a supportive classroom and team environment for all students.
- Held organizational meetings for team prospects and encouraged students to participate.
- Coached and instructed cheerleaders ages 3-21 during events and practices.
- Won multiple championships for cheer and hip-hop genres including 1st place at The State (2009) and Cheersport Nationals (2009)

Achievement Snapshot: *Oversaw academic and personal well-being of cheerleaders. Proactively provided effective leadership in cheerleading activities and events.*

Jacksonville Children’s Chorus (Choral Choreography), Jacksonville, FL

2006 – 2010

Dance Choreographer

Developed ideas and created choral and riser choreography for elementary through high school age singing ensembles. Discussed ideas and plans with JCC Director, costume designers, and musical leaders.

- Demonstrated dance movement and instructed elementary, middle, and high school age choral groups.
- Taught and rehearsed age-appropriate dance choreography with an engaging, fun, and student-centered approach.

Achievement Snapshot: *Assisted choral leaders and directors with the implementation of movement as an accompaniment for music education.*

NFL Jacksonville Jaguars (Performance), Jacksonville, FL

2006 – 2009

Professional Cheerleader

Performed as a professional dancer and cheerleader with the National Football League for four consecutive seasons.

- Demonstrated mastery of choreography in large scale arena/stadium.
- Consistently traveled nationally and internationally for performance related events.

Achievement Snapshot: *Performed at 10 home football games each season, and supported the Jacksonville, FL community through outreach projects and service-based efforts.*

PRESENTATIONS AND TEACHING METHODOLOGY DESIGN

Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) Annual Conference (November 2022)

- Dance Entrepreneurship
- Development and longevity of auxiliary-based programming (specifically dance) in efforts to increase revenue in independent schools.

North Florida Orff Chapter (2018)

- The Dance Dots (patent pending): Developed and patented a teaching methodology to aid in the choreography and classroom management for grades PK3-12. This system is designed for dance teachers, music teachers, and all instructors who work with children in a movement capacity.
 - Presented and used at various independent schools and private studios throughout the North Florida area
 - <https://www.thedancedots.com/>

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Nantucket Dance Festival:** Ethnographic researcher for cultural development during the restructuring of the festival. (2023)
- **Parents of Independent School Network (PIN) Tower School Representative:** Liaison for Tower School in Marblehead, MA focused on bringing relevant information from PIN events surrounding Health and Wellness to the school community (2023-2024).
- **Institute of Classical and Modern Dance (ICMD):** Mentored high school dance students in India through Zoom (2021)
 - Focused on inclusive dance relating to disability within dance.
- **Jacksonville University Sirens Dance Team:** Aided in the reconstruction of the collegiate performance dance team
 - Judged the dance competition held for local studios as a fundraising effort - Winter Classic (2017).
 - Organized and hosted the team holiday fundraiser (2017 and 2018).
- **Wolfson's Children's Challenge:** Directed multiple performing groups within the event showcase to aid in the annual fundraising event and celebration for Wolfson's Children's Hospital (2014-2016)
- **Disney Performing Arts:** Developed and directed elementary school performances chosen for Walt Disney World Orlando's Downtown Disney (2010-2014)
- **Designed Jacksonville Country Day School Smith Center Dance Studio:** Committee member who assisted in design phase before and during construction. Supported the financial campaign for the building through participating in school-wide speaking engagements and fundraising efforts (2010-2012)
- **NFL Jacksonville Jaguars Nassau, Jamaica Outreach Effort:** Conducted resort performances nightly and tutored underprivileged PK-8 students (2007)
- **NFL Jacksonville Jaguars Jr. Roar:** Worked with hundreds of dancers (ages 5-18) to perform during one halftime show per season (2006-2009)
- **The Bridge of Northeast Florida:** Taught dance classes for this after-school, non-profit organization developed to educate and support low income and urban neighborhoods (2008-2009)
- **Children's Home Society of Florida:** Taught dance classes and mentored students through this non-profit organization that helps support families before foster care becomes an option (2008-2009)
- **USO Outreach:** Supported the United States of America Airforce and Navy through NFL performances and appearances annually (2006-2009)
- **Jacksonville Children's Chorus:** Choreographed for Michael Jackson tribute for the entire program (2009), Judged for an annual fundraiser - Dancing with The Stars (2016)

CHOREOGRAPHY

- 00:08:20** -- Episcopal School of Jacksonville - Guest Artist in Residence (2022)
Willy Wonka And The Chocolate Factory -- The Bolles School - Musical Choreographer (2020)
Panhellenic Dance Concert – University of North Florida – Choreographer (2017)
Wild -- Presented at Universal Dance Association and National Dance Alliance (2012)
Boom -- Presented at Universal Dance Association and National Dance Alliance (2012)
Time -- Presented at Universal Dance Association and National Dance Alliance (2011)

AWARDS, HONORS, AND CERTIFICATIONS

- ABT® Certified Teacher in Pre-Primary through Level 5 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum**
- Certificate of Dance Entrepreneurship - International Dance Entrepreneurship Association**
- Certificate in Dance Education - National Dance Education Organization, In Progress**
- United States All Star Federation Certified Teacher in Level 1 and 2 Cheerleading and Stunting**
- 2007 NFL Jacksonville Jaguars ROAR Veteran of the Year**
- 2005 University of Florida DANZA Most Outstanding Artist Award**
- 2004 Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Tap Captain & Outstanding Tap Dancer Award**

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

NDEO, National Dance Education Organization

**NDEO Early Childhood Dance Education Forum Moderator

I.D.E.A., International Dance Entrepreneurs Association

Protects the reputation of dance education and makes a commitment to ensure all students, regardless of age or skill level, are offered a quality dance education.

***Florida Dance Education Organization**

***National Football Cheerleaders Alumni Organization**

***Professional Cheerleaders Alumni Foundation**

United States Allstar Federation

* Non-profit 501 (c)3 organizations that provide dance, cheer, and mentoring clinics to underprivileged youth at area community centers through charity clinics.

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

Jacksonville Jaguars Roar (NFL Dance/Cheerleader), Member of the Roar, 2006-2009

Jamco & Soundstage (Tap and Clogging Company), Company Member, 2004-2005

University of Florida Danza (Dance Company), Company Member, 2004-2005

The Florida Ballet (Dance Company Training Center), *The Nutcracker, La Bayadère*, 2000-2004

DANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Teachers College, Columbia University Ed.D. Dance Education Degree Program, New York, NY, 2022-2023

Enrollment and Research in Association with my Doctoral Studies

**Arnhold Scholarship*

Broadway Dance Center, New York City, NY, 2018

Dance Teacher Summit, New York City, NY, 2010 & 2011

The Florida Ballet, Jacksonville, FL, 2000 – 2004

Ballet and Performance Training

Laurie Picinich-Byrd

Douglas Anderson School of The Arts, Jacksonville, FL, 2000 - 2004

Dr. Phyllis Penney, Ronda Stampalia, Linda Reifsnnyder Jenkins, Jeanne Glogowski, Ellie Barrett, Janet Dygan

Mark Spivak's Institute, Jacksonville, FL, 2000 – 2004

Mark Spivak

Art Of Dance, Jacksonville, FL, 1997 - 2004

Sabrina Hollingsworth

SUMMER DIRECTORSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

The Bolles School Dance Experience: The Bolles School (2018-present)

Camp Musical Theatre Stars: Episcopal School of Jacksonville (2021 - 2022)

Camp Broadway Stars [aka Camp Spotlight]: Jacksonville Country Day School (2005-2017)

YMCA Dance Camp: Williams YMCA, Jacksonville, FL (2007-2009)

PERSONAL TRAITS

An avid runner who has trained and completed five marathons:

Donna Marathon (2015)

Jacksonville Bank Marathon (2016)

Disney Marathon (2016)

Chicago Marathon (2016)

Boston Marathon (2019)

Runner-up for the 1st Place Sports Grand Prix (2015-2016)

COMPUTER SOFTWARE COMPETENCY

Microsoft Office 360

Google Suite

Apple iWork

Adobe Photoshop

Adobe Audition

Adobe Premiere Pro

Isadora

Tableau

Qualtrics

Zotero

Website Design

App Design

Blackboard (as a student)

Canvas (as a student)

2U (as a student)

REFERENCES

Darren Dailey, President and Artistic Director

Jacksonville Children's Chorus

10131 Atlantic Blvd

Jacksonville, FL 32225

(904) 353-1636

ddailey@jaxchildrenschorus.com

*Can speak to my choreography and teaching experience.

Drew Upchurch, Director of Auxiliary Programs

The Bolles School

7400 San Jose Blvd

Jacksonville, FL 32217

(904) 256-5071

upchurchd@Bolles.org

*Cell phone: (904) 540-1866

*Can speak to my administrative and teaching experience.

Katie Black-Bowling, Director of Fine Arts

Episcopal School of Jacksonville

4455 Atlantic Blvd.

Jacksonville, FL 32207

(904) 396-5751

blackk@esj.org

*Cell phone: (904) 887-8903

*Can speak to my administrative and teaching experience.

Peyton Blair, Director of Dance

The Bolles School

7400 San Jose Blvd

Jacksonville, FL 32217

(904) 256-5071

blairp@Bolles.org

*Cell phone: (615) 775-1647

*Peyton has worked for my company, CDA, as the Managing Director and has been a collaborative partner in the arts. She has recently accepted the position of Director of Dance at The Bolles School. She can speak to my administrative and teaching experience.

Lori Benson, Preschool Director

Providence School of Jacksonville

3115 Discovery Way

Jacksonville, FL 32224

(904) 223-0809

lbenson@prov.org

*Cell phone: (904) 226-6129

*Can speak to my administrative and teaching experience.