Our spring semester began with the musical-comedy, history-tragedy *William Shakespeare’s Troilus & Cressida*, an original adaptation by guest director Sara Romersberger, visiting from Southern Methodist University (Dallas, Texas). Although a recounting of the traditional story of the Fall of Troy, the play adds another pair of star-crossed lovers, Troilus and Cressida into the mix of political intrigue and conflict between the values of romantic love and family honor during a time of war.

The production featured choreographed sword-combat, armor designs by Colin Wintz and a student musical director, Nathan Patrick Nelson. The cast of twenty-three included six students making their debut on the Gonzaga stage along with the return of Father Kevin Connell, S.J. as King Priam. A post-show discussion following the first Sunday matinee was led by Dr. David Oosterhuis, professor of Classical Civilizations, Professor Heather Easterling, professor of English and Dr. Erik Schmidt, professor of philosophy.

The Annual Spring Dance Concert showcased the classroom work of dance students in Ballet II, Jazz II, Modern II, Urban and Choreography. In addition, students from the ACDA Company performed *Unfolding: The Undergraduate Experience*, choreographed by Suzanne Ostersmith, to explore and interpret the four years of personal and academic growth of students through movement and gesture. The concert also included original music by student composers, as well as two student choreographed works adjudicated and selected to perform, Alex Balkovatz’s *Storm* and Vanessa Fisher’s *Ellipse*. Student designers worked collaboratively with all of the choreographers to create the lighting for each piece under the leadership of Courtney Smith. The highlight of this year’s Spring Dance Concert was the performance of *Lily*, originally choreographed and performed by American modern dance pioneer Löie Fuller, historically reconstructed by Jessica Lindberg Coxe and Megan Slayter, guest artists from the Greater Austin Dance Academy (Austin, Texas) and Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, Michigan) respectively. Students Helen Schantz and Laura Miller worked extensively with Ms. Coxe and Ms. Slayter along with Suzanne Ostersmith and student research assistant Elaina Pignolet to learn and execute the beautiful and physically demanding choreography.

**THIS SUMMER**

**Löie Fuller in the Garden**

July 15, 1:00pm-6:00pm

Maryhill Museum, Goldendale, WA

[www.maryhillmuseum.org](http://www.maryhillmuseum.org)

Lectures and performances organized by Suzanne Ostersmith, and her students. Ostersmith will present lecture-demonstrations on both Löie’s work and how it informed her recent contemporary work with students at Gonzaga.

A film of the dance work presented in the Spring Dance Concert will include the reproductions of lighting techniques, dance style, and signature costume for Löie’s Lily Dance, as well as a reimagined Löie Fuller-inspired piece choreographed by Professor Ostersmith.
Spring Festivals & Conferences

23 students participated in the Region 7 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) in Denver, CO, Feb. 20-24. The department’s fall 2016 production, Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play was one of the three productions selected from the region to perform at the festival, making this the first time in school history a production has traveled to KCACTF.

We are pleased to announce the results of our student participation at 2017 KCACTF:
- Irene Ryan Scholarship Finalist: Elizabeth Spindler with partner Dan Martin
- Irene Ryan Scholarship Semi-finalist: Talena Kelln with partner Jackie Bertagnolli
- Musical Theatre Scholarship Audition Finalist: Annika Perez-Krikorian
- National Playwriting Program Semi-finalist: Art Por Diaz

As a regional semi-finalist, Art was invited to the national festival in Washington, D.C., April 16-22, 2017. He was again recognized for his achievement in playwriting for his 10 Minute Play, A La Roro, with The Artists Striving Against Poverty Scholarship. He will receive the scholarship in June as Artist-As-Citizen in New York City.

We inaugurated two career treks with students to Seattle, one for theatre in January, led by Leslie Stamoolis, and one for dance in March, led by Suzanne Ostersmith. Students met with industry professionals, alumni and others to learn about employment opportunities.

20 students traveled to the Northwest Region of the American College Dance Association (ACDA) at the University of Oregon, Eugene, March 29-April 1. Students participated in workshops and performed adjudicated works for a panel of professionals from around the country.

Seven students presented their undergraduate research in theatre and dance during the annual Spokane Intercollegiate Research Conference (SIRC), April 21-22. We are pleased to announce senior Theatre major Talena Kelln for winner of best poster for her presentation of her research on and staged reading of Martin McDonagh’s The Pillowman.

Waiting for Godot: ZAGLAB
June 8-10 and September 7 & 9 @ 7:30pm
June 11 and September 10 @ 2:00pm

ZagLab is an experimental initiative from GU’s departments of Theatre & Dance and Art. Our inaugural production is an original, site-responsive production of Samuel Beckett’s Waiting for Godot within an immersive ceramic installation.

Beckett’s play humorously depicts the futility of action and inaction. Our two weekends of performances in June and September, marking the beginning and end of the installation period, will respond to the unpredictable nature of the installation and raise questions about our collective response to climate change.

Directed by Charles M. Pepiton with costume design and production management by Courtney Smith and prop design and stage management by Abbey Plankey, our production stars alumni Talena Laine and Elizabeth Spindler along with current students Regina Carrere and Jaron Fuglie. Art faculty Mat Rude and guest artist J.J. McCracken will create the installation alongside student artists.

Waiting for Godot is produced with support from Terrain who also hosts the performances at their art space.

Terrain
Washington Cracker Building
304 West Pacific Avenue, Spokane, WA
www.terrainspokane.com
TICKETS $20
https://www.eventbrite.com/o/terrain-13979305917

Weaving Our Sisters’ Voices continued as a small touring production directed and organized by student Janine Warrington between December and March with performances at Gonzaga, Whitworth University, churches and non-profit organizations for over 200 people. Advised by Suzanne Ostersmith and featuring a student cast, the show creatively retells women’s stories from Scripture as a way to create dialogue, empower viewers, and inspire hope. Suzanne Ostersmith is currently working with the Center for Digital Humanities to further express and share this original Gonzaga production.