

# MICHIGAN BALLROOM DANCE TEAM

2018 ELECTIONS

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## Executive Board Candidates

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# 1 Forward

## **To the Michigan Ballroom Dance Team,**

Please find below the 17 nominations for the 9 executive board positions. By self nominating, each candidate has committed to a potential year of volunteer effort to maintain effective operations of our team, and to also serve as a role model for our community. As with any democratic process, the weight of responsibility does not solely rest with these 17 people; it is essential that you, the voters, read and consider all the statements below.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Amos Cao  
President, Michigan Ballroom Dance Team

## **2 Candidates for President**

### **2.1 Lizzie Nabney**

I am running for president because I want to give back to a team which has given me so much over the last five years. Being on A-team for two years and serving as your treasurer this year have put me in a unique position to understand current team operations and inspired me to continue in a leadership role.

When I became treasurer, the team had been operating at an unsustainable loss for several years. This year, I turned our finances around, raising over \$15,000 in grants which I used to benefit current team members. I put over \$10,000 into competition subsidies, including introducing a new subsidy for Arnold registration. I increased lesson subsidies by 10% this semester, saving team members thousands of dollars. As president, I will mentor the new treasurer so the team can continue these increased subsidies. I also went far beyond the requirements of my own role, helping extensively with MichComp, covering team teaching at short notice and dedicating hours to mentoring newcomers every week.

The biggest challenge facing the team next year is defending our national title, since Arnold was closely contested. I intend to improve OSB attendance by increasing registration subsidy, and I want to encourage couples to compete in American styles by offering extra American lessons. I value the team as a supportive community which helped me through tough times in graduate school and I would be honoured to serve as your president to help our team continue to be fantastic next year!

### **2.2 Saharsh Hajela**

Thank you for these past four years – I would be honored to serve as our team President!

Being a member of A team this year helped me realize that being a good dancer doesn't always overlap with competitive success. I've personally experienced the frustration of being cut from the first round of Bronze Latin after months of hard work. My primary focus as president will be to support the team competitively. Some ideas I have are revisiting alumni workshops, changing the timing of American lessons, and trying different kinds of rounds.

This also includes building relationships with other teams to explore new

practice methods. During my week with the California dance teams, I saw their unique rounds. The team did rounds three times, the first focused on endurance, the second on footwork, and the third on performance. I loved this experience because I hadn't thought of organizing a practice that way before and its beneficial effects were clear.

The past four years has taught me so much about being a leader and putting the team before yourself. From my roles PR and Recruitment Chair, managing social committee, organizing team dinners, and founding Dancing With The Professors, I know the most powerful aspect of our team is our vibrant community and promise to continue my strong record of social involvement.

250 words is not nearly enough. I request that you please read my full platform here. I hope my passion for the position and experience shines through. Thanks for your consideration!

## **3 Candidates for Home Competition Coordinator**

### **3.1 Anna Haynes**

Hi everyone!

As your Home Comp Chair for the 2018-2019 year, I plan to uphold the high standards we've come to expect for MichComp by getting plans set far in advance, working closely with Susan, and empowering a dedicated group of committee members to be more involved with the competition's planning and execution. My biggest goal is to give MichComp committee members more ownership over their tasks and to give them the skills to take on more team leadership in the future. I think important steps were taken this year as far as fundraising and bridging connections with other teams, and I plan to keep these trends going in the next year. I hope to work with many of you to keep MichComp running smoothly!

## 4 Candidates for Curriculum Chair

### 4.1 Brenda Shih

My name is Brenda and I am running for curriculum chair. The curriculum chair plays an important role in ensuring team members receive the dance lessons they need to thrive on the team. This includes the lesson scheduling, setting up the newcomer and club teaching schedules, organizing American lessons, and overseeing the mentorship program. There is a lot of planning involved as curriculum chair and I believe that is where my strengths play in. As an individual, I am very organized and attentive to detail. I have held leadership positions in the College of Pharmacy, so I know the importance of planning ahead of time, often months in advance. Furthermore, I have been a dedicated member on the ballroom team for several years, so I am familiar with the team structure and the timeline of when lessons schedules and mentorship pairings are released. I believe my familiarity with the team will help me execute the job smoother.

In addition to curriculum chair duties, I think the biggest strength I can offer is my creativity. In a team, I am often the idea generator. I am forward-focused and love envisioning new things we can do to benefit the team. As curriculum chair, I have ideas that I would like to try. One idea is holding fitness workshops throughout the semester, such as collaborating with Group-X, a fitness program on campus. Overall, I believe I am qualified for this position and have ideas that I can bring about to the team.

### 4.2 David Williams

Hey everyone, you might know me as the person who harassed you about Rooms and Rides this year. Much to everyone's (myself included) surprise, I'm running for board again because I really think that I proved myself to be well suited for it this year. Not only did I fulfill my duties as Away Comp Chair in a logistical sense, but I also took the time to try and connect with as many people on the team as possible, whether that meant taking the time to talk to people I don't normally see at parties, or helping newcomers at DTS when they asked for it. Being on board really made me be critical about my own actions and work, because I believe that the board should consist of role models for the rest of the team. I wanted, and still do want, to continue being one of those role models.

At this point, I've been on the team longer than almost everyone else on the team has been in college (4 years, going on 5). As a current B team member with this amount of experience, I feel very confident in my ability to effectively communicate lesson plans between Steve and Susan and the rest of the team. That, coupled with the organizational and communication skills that I learned from being Away Comp this year makes me a great candidate for Curriculum Chair.

Thank you for your consideration,  
D\$

### **4.3 Joshua Reminga**

Hello everyone, my name is Josh Reminga. I've just finished my second year on the team and I'm partners with the wonderful Lizzy Xiong. I'm on a member of the B team, on social committee, and the facilities chair for Ballroom Dance Club.

After two years on the team, I still use the same phrase when recruiting: "Ballroom was the best decision of my college career," and I truly mean that. I want to provide the same kind of amazing experiences I had on the team to team members through a leadership position on the board. I believe a core aspect of an effective board member is both commitment and the ability to connect with the team. I'm committed to both team and my partner. I go to lesson twice a week and haven't missed a lesson yet, I'm typically at DTS four nights a week, and I attend the ballroom club for extra practice.

I believe I would prove to be a good fit for Curriculum Chair. As Curriculum Chair I would be in charge of scheduling lessons with Susan, mentorship, and creating the team and club teaching schedules. I have a good relationship with Susan and I've been both a mentee and a mentor. Additionally, my club board experience will help in scheduling teachers for the club and newcomer lessons. Lastly, I love dancing the American styles and will be sure to schedule American seminars with Steve and Susan.

See you at EOS!!!!!!  
Josh

### **4.4 Sarah Tsung**

With a love for dance education, I hope to help members maximize the ballroom resources available. The best dancers benefit from both formal



instruction and casual mentorship – because of experiences teaching dance and working at American Ballet Theatre, I hope to coordinate access to both more easily.

For three years, I have taught lyrical dance at Kenville Studios. I've coordinated multiple weekly private lessons in addition to middle school and high school group classes. And, I've created the first lyrical competition team. (My girls' first comp this year is this weekend!) The ability to schedule space ahead of time, clearly and frequently communicate plans with students, other staff, and parents, and an ability to be flexible (haha) have led me to success with my girls at competition.

Additionally, I spent last summer at American Ballet Theatre in NYC working in the National Training Curriculum Department. My internship focused on developing teacher training intensive sessions for seasoned educators. With some teachers flying in globally, we ensured every detail of the sessions was meaningful and that scheduling information was correctly distributed well in advance. From this internship, I gathered how crucial a sound curriculum plan is to the development of a dancer (be it a world-class ballerina or us fools tryna stay on time in mambo) and the importance of consistent communication.

From my experiences, I've seen the value of great coordination of lessons and mentorship for a dancer's growth. So, I'd love to contribute my efforts and ideas to our team!

## 5 Candidates for Technology Chair

### 5.1 Cecilia Scotta

My name is Cecilia and I'm running for tech chair. My previous experiences, dedication to the team, and interest in social interactions makes me an excellent fit for board. I'm currently entering my third year on UMBDT and not only know how the team structure works and have established positive relationships with every level and age group within the team.

I've worked hard to help the team in every way possible because I love this family. When I broke my foot this year, I still offered to help newcomers and lent them whatever possible. I helped Peter organize the tie-dye social. I helped on fundraising committee and volunteered at Michcomp so that I could help in every way possible. I also threw informal events that helped the team bond such as the Slumber Party.

Lizzy has set the bar incredibly high as a tech chair, and I want to follow in her footsteps. As a senior in STAMPS, I'm very proficient in camera/design technology/HTML coding/Photoshop. I've also undergone several training classes to develop my leadership skills. This will help me in the group setting of the team.

Furthermore, as one of the few returning seniors, I'll naturally be positioned to help lead the team. Since I'm only taking two classes in fall and three in spring, I have nothing but time, energy, and commitment to give. I'd be disappointed if I wasn't allowed to use the skills I have developed to give back to the team.

### 5.2 Jack Boezwinkle

Hello UMBDT!

For those of you who might not already know me, my name is Jack Boezwinkle and I'm running to fill the position of tech chair during the 2017-2018 season. In addition to managing the team's online presence and uploading competition videos, it is my goal to work closely with the PR, recruitment, and competition chairs to find new ways to incorporate media into our advertising. In my time as your tech chair, I will rely heavily on my past experience in photography, videography, and audio recording to serve our team to the best of my ability, and I will keep looking for new and innovative ways to engage the U of M community and increase interest in

ballroom dance. While maintaining our website and other media accounts, I will also focus on community outreach. Competition photos, headshots, and promotional videos featuring UMBDT dancers will keep dancers and non-dancers alike interested and updated as to what's going on in the dance community. I will assist recruitment and advertising efforts as much as I can, and by maintaining relationships with current and former board members, I will be able to draw on input from others to better help the team. I am hopeful that I will be a valuable asset to the board and the team, and I thank you for your consideration.

## 6 Candidates for Public Relations Chair

### 6.1 Christopher Stewart

Hello Everyone! My name is Christopher Stewart and I am running for the 2018-2019 Public Relations Chair. Thank you for taking the time to look at my platform and goals for the coming year.

**About Me:** I am currently a senior studying Conservation Biology and German. I joined the ballroom team my first semester and being involved in the team's community has been a key factor in shaping me as an individual throughout college. I've been an active part of the team for 4 years now and am currently on B Team.

**Goals:** The most important job of the PR Chair is consistently organizing social opportunities for the team in order to strengthen a sense of community within the team and to improve relations with all outside groups. I aim to approach this responsibility with enthusiasm so as to not only maintain, but also improve the bonds that draw the team together. More specifically, I intend to ensure to the best of my abilities that there are consistent social opportunities for the team, from welcome week to finals week with a focus on dance related events, more one-on-one social opportunities (Coffee dates, ballroom buddies, etc.), and a continuous expansion of our relations with other university student organizations. In addition to social ideas, I will execute any and all responsibilities the position may bring me including apparel, email correspondence, and community outreach.

Thank you for reading, I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the team next year.

### 6.2 Tara Holz

After two years on this team, I believe that I would meet and exceed the expectations of serving as this team's Public Relations chair. I served on social committee for the past two years and have been in charge of successful events both years. I was also on MichComp committee this year and also held the position of the Ballroom Dance Club's treasurer. As a social committee member, I undertook projects that built relationships with outside organizations. While on MichComp committee, I helped plan for the competition months in advance and headed a sub-committee during setup. As club treasurer, I had to meet weekly deadlines to apply for funding and respond

to receipt deadlines once funds were awarded. I believe that these roles have equipped me with planning and organization skills that are essential for this position.

As PR chair, I vow to answer emails punctually, handle requests from outside organizations for lessons and showcases in a timely and professional manner, prioritize SAPAC meetings each semester, stay on top of apparel orders, and lead a fun and successful social committee. To do this, I plan on getting the competition schedule as early as I can so that I can plan events around these weekends, scheduling dances and events months ahead of time rather than a few weeks or days. I hope have to opportunity to serve you as a professional representative between the team and outside organizations and as a reliable and amiable board member for new and returning members.

## 7 Candidates for Recruitment Chair

### 7.1 Jeb Hamel

Hello! My name is Jeb Hamel, and I am running for recruitment chair! I'm a sophomore on C team, and this is my fourth semester dancing. I am currently Public Relations Chair of the Ballroom Dance Club, a position which has given me experience working with a team of officers to run a dance organization. Our team largely achieves its success because of our large recruiting classes, and each year's recruits are the future of the team. This team is my favorite group of people, and I am excited to contribute to its success. I absolutely love meeting people and forming new friendships, and my goal is to find, recruit, and retain a whole new group of newcomers to add to our snazzy community. As recruitment chair, I will cooperate with the board and work diligently to achieve these goals. Flyers greatly increase public awareness of our team, so I will work with others to cover campus with flyers early and thoroughly. This includes dormstorming and hitting the most populous campus areas. Recruitment doesn't stop once they've paid dues, however. Once the newcomers have joined, I will keep welcoming them into the team by attending the Saturday newcomer lessons (and encouraging other returning members to attend), emailing out mid-semester check-ins, organizing comp buddies, and arranging post-newcomer lesson dinners. I will be present at DTS, and support our future newcomers. I love this team, and will work as hard as I can as UMBDT's recruitment chair!

### 7.2 Saharsh Hajela

Hi everyone! I'm Saharsh and I'm so excited to be running for re-election as Recruitment Chair for the team. Being recruitment chair was one of the most fulfilling things I have ever done, and I would be delighted to serve in that role again.

As I am the only candidate running who has previously been recruitment chair, I feel I am the most qualified candidate for this role.

In addition to my experience, I bring a strong enthusiasm, attention to detail, and individuality to the role. When I was Recruitment Chair, I individually messaged every newcomer to see how their semester was going half-way through. I attended every newcomer lesson, and made sure to know what was being taught so I could help if necessary.

## **Ballroom Executive Board Experience**

### Recruitment Chair, 2016 - 2017

- Recruited over 120 newcomers to the team
- Organized key events such as Welcome Week and G+G Night
- Maintained meaningful relationships with newcomers and Pre-C via individual and group interactions

### Public Relations Chair, 2015 - 2016

- Planned team-wide events that occurred every 2 weeks
- Guided and delegated to the first team social committee
- Acted as liaison for the team to outside organizations

### Founder of Dancing with the Professors, 2016

- Constructed and executed the concept, structure, and timeline for the event
- Delegated and prioritized tasks for 3 committee leaders and 2 subcommittees
- Supported feedback loops between all professors, student leaders, and the board

## 8 Candidates for Treasurer

### 8.1 Clara McFarlin

Joining the UMBDT has been one of the most fulfilling decisions of my college experience. This team provides a strong sense of community and abounding inspiration – both on and off the dancefloor. I aspire to give back to the team by serving in the leadership, helping to ensure that many more dancers in the future will be able to derive the same sense of community and inspiration that we do. The position of Treasurer is an extremely serious task. From my experience serving on a corporate board as Grant Manager and as a non-profit board as President, as well as my time during the 2017-2018 year on the Fundraising and MichComp Committees, I deeply understand the importance of optimally managing our funds and maintaining healthy lines of communication with the University and community. We have had an extremely successful year as a result of smart financial practices. My goal is to continue those practices in the 2018-2019 year. In expansion of the success from this year –

**Grants:** Consistent application for grants will be a priority. In addition to our current funding, I intend to pursue the grant opportunities that would fund specialized events. (ONSP – engagement with incoming students; IMPACT Grant – partner with non-profit, etc).

**Fundraising:** Based upon the successful 2018 MichComp fundraising campaign, I believe it would be in the interest of the team to adopt and improve the 2018 model for use in a Fall fundraising campaign. The funds would provide opportunity to support team activities and lower dues.



## 9 Candidates for Away Competition Chair

### 9.1 Fabiola Galguera

To My Ballroom Friends,

My time on the board this year has been amazing. Last year, I was motivated to run for board by my need to give more to this team. This year, I was able to do just that and quite frankly, I am not ready to stop. I have gained in-depth knowledge on how this team runs and have gained skills that will help me continue to contribute to this team in the best way possible. This year, I humbly ask that you all consider me for your Away Competition Chair. Some of the main points of my platform include:

- Adding registration dates for all competitions to the team's public calendar. These dates would include the due dates for competition registration as well as the due dates for Rooms and Rides.
- Integrating competition information more visibly on the team's page.
- Streamlining the process of requesting specific people in Rooms and Rides form.
- Starting to collect formal data on team attendance to different competitions to establish which competitions are best for us to attend.
- Working with Michcomp Chair to establish strong relationships with other teams across the Midwest.

My complete platform will be available on a Facebook page I will share with the whole team. As Away Comp Chair, I will expand on the hard work of my predecessor, D\$, to fulfill the mission statement of the team: *We are a competitive, collegiate ballroom dance team that seeks to share our love of dance by fostering a fun and supportive environment while striving for continuous improvement.*

Kindest Regards & Happy Dancing,  
Fabiola A. Galguera

## 10 Candidates for Practice Coordinator

### 10.1 Corey Flynn

As practice space coordinator I would keep up relations with DTS owners so we can continue to have a consistent practice space off campus; keeping DTS clean is an important part of maintaining our team's relationship with the studio, so, I would make sure the chores system continues to be implemented and efficient. I want to use a staggered chore system so DTS can be closed on time each night. Also the use of shuffled playlists in studio A has been successful and I would continue that but add to them to increase variety. With closure of the Michigan Union next year I will make sure to reserve other spaces as early as possible so that the team can have occasional practice space outside of DTS in the League, CCRB, or IMSB. It's very important for the team to have more space to practice standard dances before competitions. Next year I will make sure the team has newcomer lessons with our coaches on Saturdays again, as this is a big draw for people to join the team and the best way for new members to learn and improve. I will also maintain the integrity of the practice space coordinator position by being a dedicated and involved board member.

### 10.2 Joshua Reminga

Hello everyone, my name is Josh Reminga. I've just finished my second year on the team and I'm partners with the wonderful Lizzy Xiong. I'm on a member of the B team, on social committee, and the facilities chair for Ballroom Dance Club.

After two years on the team, I still use the same phrase when recruiting: "Ballroom was the best decision of my college career," and I truly mean that. I want to provide the same kind of amazing experiences I had on the team to team members through a leadership position on the board. I believe a core aspect of an effective board member is both commitment and the ability to connect with the team. I'm committed to both team and my partner. I go to lesson twice a week and haven't missed a lesson yet, I'm typically at DTS four nights a week, and I attend the ballroom club for extra practice. Additionally, my experience as the facilities chair will prove useful in the role of Practice Space Coordinator. The positions share many of the same responsibilities such as booking and opening dance spaces and attending

board meetings. As a board member I would strive to book more standard and smooth practice spaces for the team as DTS can often be crowded and too small to work on the large movements these styles require.

Thank you for taking the time to read my platform and I hope to see you all at EOS!!!

Josh