

## Faculty/Mentor Statement

Abby Snyder, dance major and archival enthusiast, has been instrumental in helping the WVU Dance program properly organize and archive historical departmental materials as well as add to the historical knowledge of WVU's rich background. I suggested this project for Abby having already been familiar with her strong organizational skills and attention to detail. We met regularly, troubleshooting, and fine-tuning strategies for success. Abby reported progression of the project to me throughout this year. She also suggested a thorough reorganizing of materials and documentation which greatly added to its success.

As part of the project, Abby conducted interviews with alumnae that brought further insight to the growth of the program (established in 1928), prepared proper storage arrangements for the materials to ensure their safe keeping, created highly organized contact lists of alumnae, and created new approaches to move forward with the planning of next year's dance program reunion, which includes celebrating the legacy of the Grande Dame of WVU's dance history, Katherine "Kacy" Wiedebusch. Abby's contributions also extend to the success of the American College Dance Association's 50 anniversary celebration. It is because of her research that first-person testimonials of the 1973 inaugural ACDA Festival (of which WVU was a founding member), as well as donated archival materials, will be an important part of the anniversary presentation.