

# Carolina Dance Masters, Inc. Newsletter

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Dear CDM Members,

Spring time is just around the corner we are busy busy busy getting ready for rehearsals, competitions and performances galore!

Let's catch you up on what's been happening around CDM the past few months...

## CDM's Diamond Anniversary-Celebrating 75 Years

The weekend began on Thursday with the Board of Directors meeting, the rehearsals for Solo Titles with choreography by Member **Angie Henley** and the faculty flying in. On Friday the Solo Title competition began with interviews during the morning, then a quick change for the class auditions. By the evenings end the talent portion for the Petites and Juniors began. (More on the winners later in the newsletter...)

Saturday began the convention classes with a flurry of activity and an all star faculty beginning with **Shelly Pack-Manning** (National 1st VP of Dance Masters of America), **Jeanette Thaggard**, **Brad Parquette**, **Alex Anderson** (Mr. Dance of America 2010), CDM's own **Noelle Marsh** (SYTYCD), CDM's own **Sterling Masters** (currently touring nationally with "Wicked"). Special guests were sisters **Jordan Betscher** (Junior Miss Dance of America 2010) and **Danielle Betscher** (Teen Miss Dance of Ohio 2010). We were delighted to have Zumba classes taught by our members **Jackie Olson**, **Nicole Little**, and **Laurie Flora**- way to go ladies!

Our Diamond Anniversary Gala, featured hues of gold and white, celebrating CDM's 75th Anniversary. As always, Past Presidents **Betty Newell** and **Tori Melby** with the assistance of their behind the scenes helpers, created a wonderful atmosphere with their decorations and presentations. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed a special video presentation showcasing many memories of CDM's members past and present, conventions, workshops, and competitions. Thank you to ALL who submitted pictures for the slide show! Our banquet entertainment began with a hip-hop routine choreographed by **Alyson Badgett** starring 36 of the 2010-2011 Junior Members. Also performances from our National Title holders, including CDM's own **Connor McKenzie** (Teen Mister Dance of America 2010). Closing the gala was a beautiful number choreographed by **Tori Melby** featuring the CDM members.

On Sunday, classes continued and the membership had an opportunity to spend a little time together with the "Membership Luncheon" and the first of 2 annual Grand-body Meetings. Thirteen new members were obligated. CDM is pleased to welcome **Alison Williams**, **Corky Cotter**, **Hayley Leis**, **Christy King**, **Candice Dillingham**, **Rebecca Stone**, **Molly Morgan**, **Erin Whitney**, **Shannon Young**, **Whiteleigh Cook**, **Karissa Roberts**, **Leigh Holtzman**, **Galen Duffy**. The membership luncheon concluded with a "Happy Birthday" tribute to CDM and blowing out the candles to a great weekend. We had a great time and hope that all of you did too. We'd also like to say a big "Way To Go.." to convention chairperson, **Merle Reese**.

## CDM Junior Member News...

First meeting for the 10-11 Jr. Members was held during the very busy Fall Convention weekend. There are 72 members for the 2010-2011 year.

**Laura Thornburg** and **Melissa Zaleski** conducted the meeting as the new Junior Member advisors. The new Jr. Members also voted for their new board with the following results:

-President      Lauren Knox (student of Ann Freeman & Jackie Olson)  
-V-President    Jordan Justice (student of Jami Osteen)  
-Secretary      Sloane Barnhardt (student of Ann Freeman & Jackie Olson)  
-Treasurer      Abby Zaleski (student and daughter of Melissa Zaleski)

The first year applicants write an essay on "What Dance Means To Me". This year's essay winners are...**Alexis Leechford**, student of **Leslie Ingram**...**Anne Robinson**, student of **Jenny Griffes**...and **Bridgette Jones**, student of **Leslie Ingram**. Congratulations to these young ladies.

The **next Junior member meeting** was conducted during the Winter Workshop weekend, February 5, 2011 at the Center for Performing Arts in Graham.

## CDM Scholarship Auditions

The annual CDM Student Scholarship auditions were held during the Winter Workshop at Center of Performing Arts on Sunday, February 6th, 2011. CDM gives \$1000 in total awards during this process. The Scholarship Co-Directors **Laura Thornburg and Connie Moore** reported a great turnout for the auditions.

Students were able to audition for: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, and Acro.

Winners are as follows:

<b>1st Overall Winner</b>	<b>Hanna Wentz</b> student of Chasta Calhoun
<b>2nd Overall Winner</b>	<b>Sarah Kleinke</b> student of Ann Freeman/Jackie Olson
<b>3rd Overall Winner</b>	<b>Meredith Kuznar</b> student of Tori Melby
<b>4th Overall Winner</b>	<b>Nicole Lawson</b> student of Corky Cotter
<b>5th Overall Winner</b>	<b>Erica Bolick</b> student of Ann Freeman/Jackie Olson
<b>Ballet, Modern &amp; Tap Award-</b>	<b>Sloane Barnhardt</b> student of Ann Freeman/Jackie Olson
<b>Acrobatic &amp; Jazz Award-</b>	Blair Faust, student of Tori Melby

Thank you to all who auditioned and Congratulations to all the winners!!

## 2011 CDM Performing Arts Competition

PAC will be held **March 18-20, 2011** at the **Johnston Community College** in Smithfield, NC. We are expecting a great showcase of talent, not only from the students, but from the teachers and choreographers- this is going to be a long, and very rewarding weekend!

Your studio username and password can be obtained from Jenny Griffes, PAC Co-Director. Deadline to register was February 15, with fees due on February 25th. Rules & Forms are still available on the CDM website... [carolinadancemasters.org](http://carolinadancemasters.org)  
Registration is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to be completed online @ [dance.tugsoft.com](http://dance.tugsoft.com)

If you still have questions, please contact Jenny Griffes at [Dancinmom24@carolina.rr.com](mailto:Dancinmom24@carolina.rr.com)

## Winter Workshop

Our annual day of dance was held **February 5th** at the **Center for Performing Arts** in Graham, NC. Thank you to **Millicent Linens** for graciously hosting the annual event.

Guest teacher **Tracy Davenport** taught Ballet and Tap, and held a critic session with the title holders on Friday and Saturday. Additional faculty included CDM members

**Temperance Robancho** for Jazz/Lyrical and Contemporary and **Tori Melby** for acrobatics. New this year (and a HUGE success at the Fall Convention) was Zumba taught by **Jackie Olson, Angel Hilemon and Melissa Parks**.

Contact **Michelle Rogers**, Winter Workshop Chairperson for more info... [missmichelle@millerstreetdanceacademy.com](mailto:missmichelle@millerstreetdanceacademy.com)

## Solo Title Scholarships 2011

During the November convention, the CDM Solo Title Winners were crowned after a grueling schedule from Thursday through Saturday evening. The talent we have in this organization is incredible!. These kids did a great job and we are so proud of them all. We wish them all the best at the National Convention in Orlando, Florida next summer. **Congratulations title holders-CDM is EXTREMELY proud of you!**

To view more details and teachers represented go to... [carolinadancemasters.org](http://carolinadancemasters.org) and click on the Solo Title link.

**Petite Miss...Melinda Harrison student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro**

1st Runner-up...Brooklyn Morton student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

2nd Runner-up...Peyton Reed student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

3rd Runner-up...Mackenna Munavilli student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Most Talented Non-Finalist...Kavender Grace Nelson student of Angie Hensley

Congeniality...Peyton Reed student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Petite Special Awards...

Interview & Ballet- Melinda Harrison student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Jazz- Peyton Reed student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Tap- Brooklyn Morton student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Acro- Kelsey Haynes student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

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**Master Dance...Adrian Jones student of Lynn Raley**

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**Junior Miss...Brianna Goebel student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro**

1st Runner-up...Isabelle Sumichrast student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

2nd Runner-up... Lauren Parr student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

3rd Runner-up...Sarah Ashley student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Most Talented Non-Finalist...Michaela Curry student of Angie Henley & Sommer Smith student of Tori Melby

Congeniality...Sommer Smith student of Tori Melby

Junior Special Awards...

Interview- Lauren Parr student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Ballet- Brianna Goebel student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Tap- Isabelle Sumichrast student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Acro- Sommer Smith student of Tori Melby

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**Jr. Mister Dance... Brendan Moran student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro**

1st Runner-up...Jamin Kodack student of Chasta Calhoun

Master Special Awards...

Jazz & Acro...Brendan Moran student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

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**Teen Miss...Mariah Rieves student of Tori Melby**

1st Runner-up...Brooke Church student of Natalie Denny & Stephanie Mayberry

2nd Runner-up...Meredith Kuznar student of Tori Melby

3rd Runner-up... Jane Axhoj student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Most Talented Non-Finalist...Mary Katherine Cestran student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Congeniality...McKenna Haywood student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Teen Special Awards...

Interview, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Acro      Mariah Rieves student of Tori Melby

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**Teen Mr. Dance...Joey Calbreath student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro**

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**Miss Dance...Amy Leonall student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro**

1st Runner-up... Farrah Thompson student of Ann Freeman

2nd Runner-up...Kara Hodges student of Ann Freeman

3rd Runner-up...Sarah Kleinke student of Ann Freeman

Most Talented Non-Finalist...Barbie DeBrocq student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Congeniality...Amy Leonall student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro & Kara Hodges student of Ann Freeman

Miss Special Awards...

Interview- Amy Leonall student of Michelle Rogers, Alyson Badgett, & Amy Santoro

Ballet & Acro- Farrah Thompson student of Ann Freeman

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**Mister Dance...David Ferguson student of Angie Henley**

Mister Special Awards...

Interview, Tap, Jazz- David Ferguson student of Angie Henley

## Members in the News...

Laura Jensen Thornburg is proud to welcome Jensen Lee Thornburg. He was born Friday, January 21st, weighing 4 pounds and 14 ounces. He and mom are doing just wonderful!

Long time member Judith Spivey, has relocated to Maryland to be closer to her family as she faces health issues. Please keep her in your prayers!

## Students in the News...

Teen Miss Dance of North Carolina, Miriah Rieves, was selected to be a finalist on the tv show ***America's Got Talent***.

If you have any news you would like to share in our next newsletter please email Lynn Raley at [stardancer5678@aol.com](mailto:stardancer5678@aol.com). A special thanks to CDM member Kristi Stevens for all her help with the newsletter.

Lynn Raley,  
Carolina Dance Masters, Inc.