

# En l'Air

News from  
MASSACHUSETTS  
ACADEMY of  
BALLET  
Educational Training  
Association

FALL  
2015



MABETA dancers beautifying the sidewalks of Holyoke in a fall photo shoot. Photo: Charles Flachs

## More than Technique

by Rose and Charles Flachs

Our new website was launched this fall with the message that students who study at the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet gain "More Than Technique." Our focus is to build self-confidence and a strong sense of self-worth in each and every student. At our school, students create strong friendships, respect each others' struggle to dance stronger each day, become leaders in the classroom, enjoy the ritual of the daily technique class, and share in the excitement of their own and their fellow students' accomplishments.

Advanced students at the school are invited to join the MAB Educational Training Association. With classes and rehearsals, these students are often at the studio 10-14 hours a week. MABETA's mission is to educate the local community about the art of classical ballet and to give back to

the local community by partnering with other local non-profit organizations to support revitalization in Holyoke.

MAB's and MABETA's 2015-16 year promises exciting events, from our Open Studios in Next Stop Holyoke to our Spring Performance at the Holyoke High School, with the Barnes and Noble Book Fair, Nutcracker & Sweets, a performance at the Heritage Woods assisted living facility, competing at the Connecticut Classic Ballet Competition, and our "Dance to Stop Hunger" events all happening in between.

As owners and artistic directors of MAB and professors of dance at Mount Holyoke College we stay active in the dance world. We attended a CORPS de Ballet International Conference at Towson University and the Washington School

*Continued on page 3*

SAVE THE DATE

Massachusetts Academy of Ballet  
Educational Training Association  
**Barnes & Noble  
Bookfair**  
Sunday, November 1st  
Barnes & Noble Holyoke

Join us for performances  
12:30, 1:30 & 2:30

A portion of your purchases will benefit our organization!  
Please be sure to present your voucher to our cashiers in the café for food and beverage purchases as well.

Stop by our welcome table and enter to win a raffle!

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?  
Visit [bn.com/bookfairs](http://bn.com/bookfairs) to support us online from 11/1/15 to 11/6/15 by entering Bookfair ID 1172992 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school/organization.

## Enjoy wonderful dancing, do some holiday shopping, and help MAB!

Once again this year, we're participating in a Barnes & Noble Book Fair. This year it's on Sunday, November 1 at the Holyoke Barnes & Noble. The program—presented at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30—will feature pieces by MAB's Pre-Ballet, Level I and Level II classes, as well as excerpts from Nutcracker & Sweets.

If you shop on Book Fair day, a percentage of all of your purchases, including those from the café, will be awarded to the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet Educational and Training Association (MABETA). Can't make it to the Book Fair? Use the code in the flyer (above and at the studio) through November 5 for all online purchases!

The Massachusetts Academy of Ballet

4 Open Square Way, Studio 403•Holyoke, MA 01040•413.536.6200•[massacademyofballet.com](http://massacademyofballet.com)

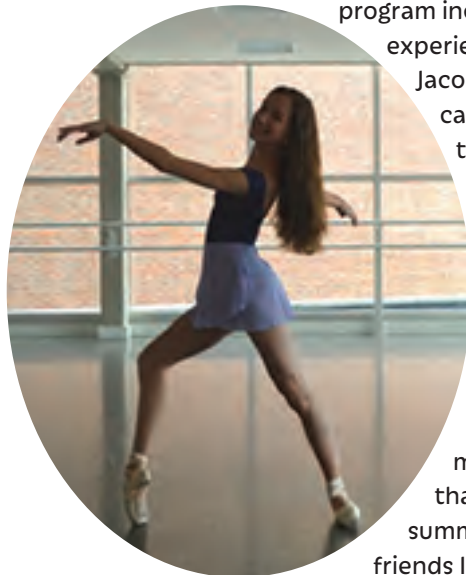


## Dancing Through Their Summers

Our Level 4 and 5 students had a variety of adventures with dance and beyond this summer: some trained hard through the four weeks of MAB's Summer Intensive Program, and some traveled to participate in other summer intensives. A few of them have shared their stories here.

### Emma Jane Konkoly

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts in Torrington, CT this summer. Some highlights of the program included learning from experienced teachers, visiting Jacob's Pillow, and playing capture the flag around the building at night. I worked with an amazing faculty that had a variety of different personalities and views on ballet. Many great classes were offered such as partnering, variations, technique, and modern. All in all, I believe that I have learned a lot this summer and have made many friends I will never forget.



### Athina Alimonos

I had a great time at MAB's intensive this summer! One of my favorite parts about the intensive was being able to perform at the end. I loved getting to learn variations from Giselle, La Esmeralda, and Raymonda. However, my favorite variation I learned was Myrtha's variation from Giselle because of how challenging it was. I also liked that the classes weren't huge, so I got individual attention which I benefited from. Overall it was a wonderful experience, and I can't wait to continue improving and learning this year.



### Sarah Soares

"я хочу ручка" ("I want a pen") is the first sentence I learned in Russian (and the only one of the few I still remember). Studying Russian was one of the highlights of my six weeks at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive in Connecticut.



A typical day included 30 minutes of stretch class, an hour and a half of technique, two hours of pointe, and an hour of character, topped off by an hour of Russian language. I felt I had really accomplished something by the end of each day. One of my favorite classes was learning a variation from Act 2 of Giselle

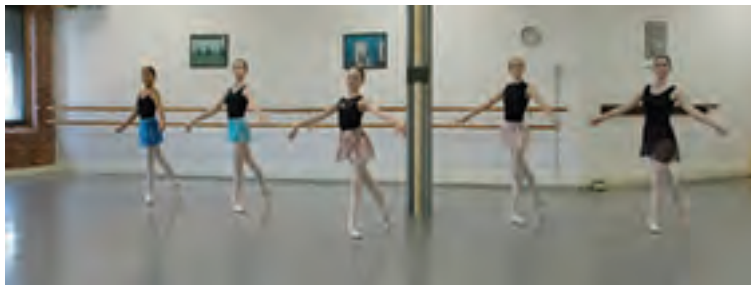
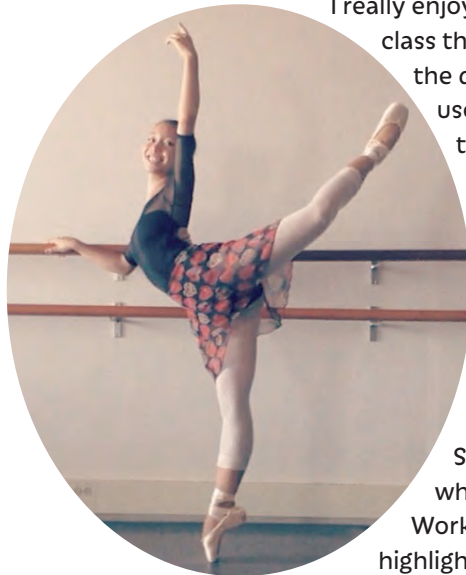
in place of the usual adagio combinations. Occasionally being yelled at in Russian was also part of the experience I will definitely remember.

### May Saito

This summer, I attended the Ballet Intensive at Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet, in Narberth, PA for the second year in a row.

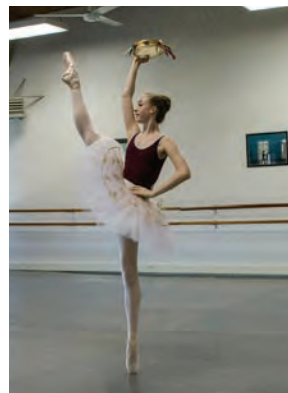
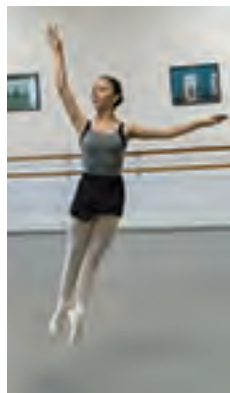
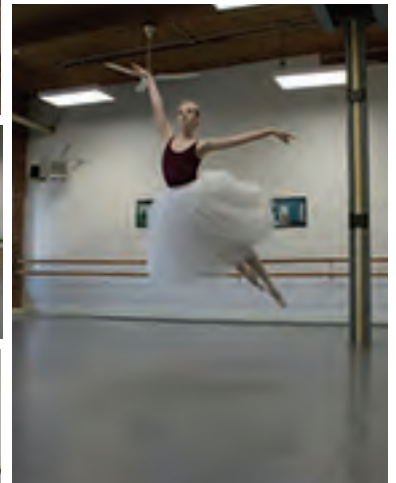
I really enjoyed the Martha Graham class that was offered, as well as the dance forms I was more used to from MAB. I spent two weeks there, then moved on to a music camp in New Hampshire where I spent two weeks taking violin lessons and practicing chamber music. When I got back, I immediately started the MAB Summer Intensive, of which I did all four weeks. Working on Giselle was a highlight of my summer, and I felt like I improved a lot at the MAB

Intensive. I loved every minute of it and couldn't wait to get there every morning!



**Aiden Moriarty**

This summer I spent four weeks right here at MAB. I have always done a couple weeks here in the summer but this year I felt ready for the challenge of doing the full four week program. I'm glad I did! The days consist of taking classes in ballet, classical variations, jazz and modern and then there is a show on the last day. It's a lot of dancing and hard work, but we all had a fun time, too. I definitely think practicing every day made me stronger and I am a better dancer now because of it. The other dancers here are great to hang out with and it was cool meeting kids who go to other studios during the year. I'm happy to see a lot of them decided to come here now for classes, too.



*More than technique, continued from page 1*

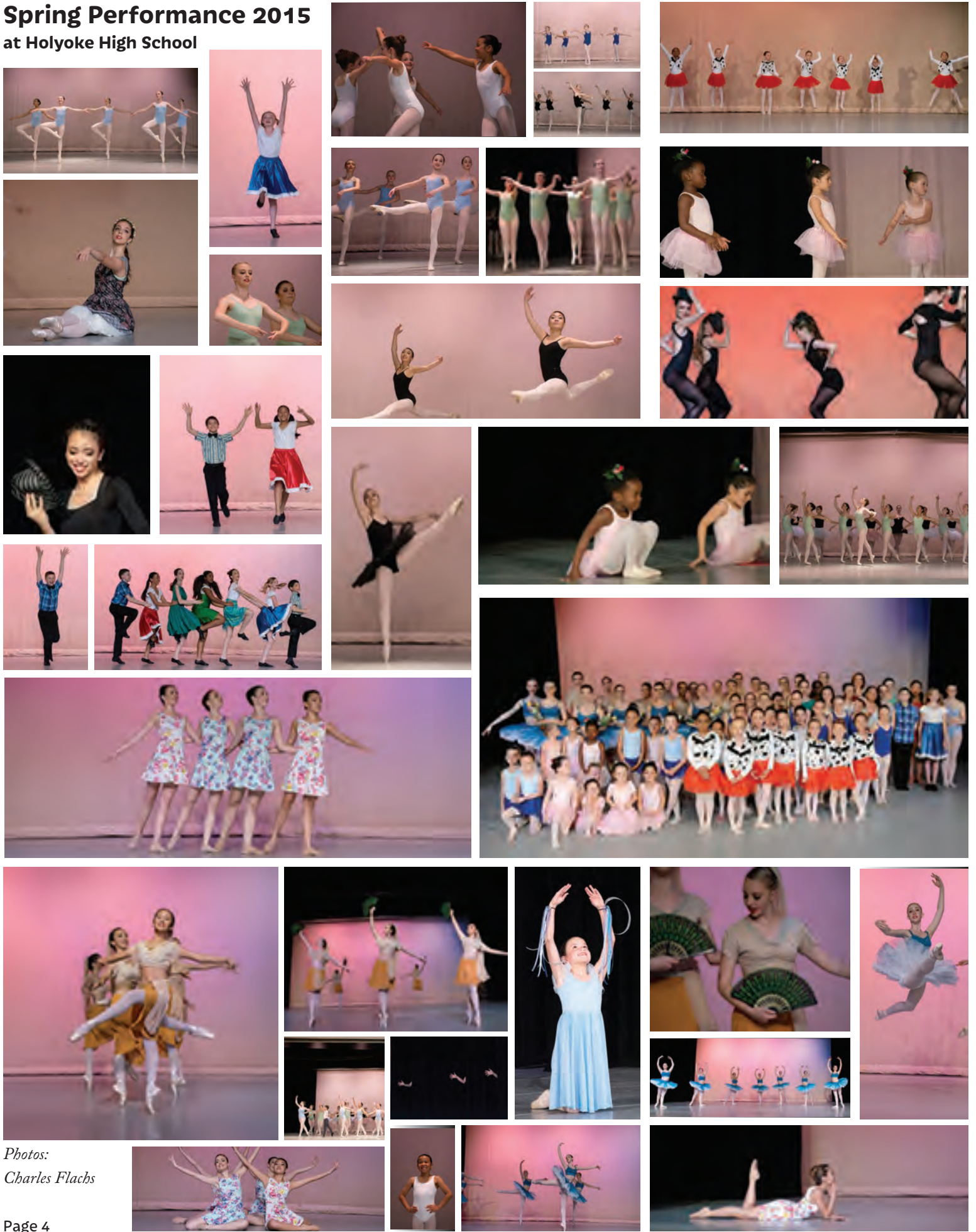
of Ballet, where Rose was honored with her third Outstanding Service Award. We also were guest faculty at the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet and at the Connecticut Concert Ballet summer programs. And, of course, we proudly directed and taught MAB's summer intensive. Charles oversaw the Pilobolus residency and is the rehearsal director for Megawatt by Pilobolus for the Five College Dance Department.

In this newsletter you will find many photos from our spring performance, photos from our summer intensive where students had the opportunity to model Jay Savage designs, and more!



**SUMMER!**  
*Photos by Charles Flachs*

# Spring Performance 2015 at Holyoke High School



*Photos:*  
*Charles Flachs*

# Urban Fall Photo Shoot 2015

with MABETA Members

Photos: Charles Flachs



## *Nutcracker & Sweets* **2015**

*A beloved Holyoke holiday tradition*

**December 11-13**

Wistariahurst Museum  
Tickets: [wistariahurst.org](http://wistariahurst.org)  
or (413) 322-5660

### MAB Alum at School at Jacob's Pillow



MAB Alum Liam Saito was invited to participate in the 2015 School at Jacob's

Pillow Ballet Program. The highly competitive two-week intensive attracts students and young professionals as well as guest teachers and choreographers from around the world.

Participants trained from 9-5 six days a week, working on classical repertoire and a contemporary ballet piece choreographed by Matthew Neenan.

Liam, who graduated from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School in 2015 and is now enrolled in the RWB Aspirant Program, remarked that it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. "The Pillow is an amazing place," he said. "For two weeks we set aside everything else and focused completely on the joy and beauty of dance."





# The Massachusetts Academy of Ballet

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Massachusetts Cultural Council

