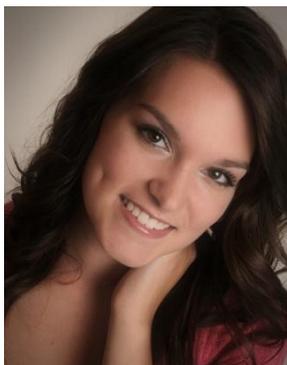


The VMC Outreach Scholars Program

The Vernacular Music Center sponsors the “VMC Outreach Scholars”, a program designed to assist young musicians and dancers gain professional and pedagogical tools that will help them bring arts to audiences in all walks of life. VMC Outreach Scholars attend and present workshops, teach in schools and senior centers, and help to catalyze and energize participatory arts in their respective communities.

In Summer 2009, four Outreach Scholars (Corey Green, Katrina Kratzer, Becca Rhoades, and Jayme Smith) participated in a pilot program which facilitated their attendance at the legendary Pinewood Traditional Arts Camp (Cape Cod), where they studied English country dancing, musicianship, Lancashire clogging, and Early Music performance practice. Corey, Katrina, Becca, and Jayme made such a positive impression upon camp organizers that they were invited to return in future years at a nominal fee, and the VMC was encouraged to extend the OS sponsorship opportunity to others.

In Summer 2010, the program expands, to include both Returning and New Outreach Scholars—meet them below!



Emily Furillo, a sophomore Communication Design major, has been discovering more of her cultural heritage by Irish dancing for a cumulative ten years. With the Texas Tech community, Emily has enjoyed co-teaching traditional set-dancing with the Texas Tech Irish Set-Dancers and participating in the VMC's Night with Mr. Darcy held in April 2010. She has also participated in Celtic Ensemble concerts for the past six months and is the current dance captain for the Celtic Ensemble. Emily plans on sharing different cultures with others through future VMC performances and would like the opportunity to expand her knowledge on all forms of folk song and dance with experts through workshops around the world.



Along with a degree in Irish traditional music, **Corey Green** has studied various forms of folk and early music around Europe and the Americas. She continues this interest in performance while working on a master's degree in Musicology with an emphasis in medieval music. Her performance outlets for various bowed instruments, ancient and modern, include being a member of the university's Celtic Ensemble and Early Music Ensemble as well as gigging freelance and volunteering in the community.



Katrina Kratzer says, “Studying the violin for 18 years in the classical tradition was not the only thing I understood growing up. I also played in a bluegrass band that opened my eyes to a different side of music. I was part of the TTU Celtic Ensemble for two years and I loved learning to play and dance in a way that is outside the normal boundaries for a classical musician. This past summer, I was honored to attend camp as a scholarship recipient from The Country Song and Dance Society. Going to Pinewoods changed my life. Their English Country Dance Week was full of the most wonderful people who just wanted to dance and share what music can do if you are willing to learn! CDSS is a fantastic organization with amazing people who have devoted their lives to the beauty of dance and passing it on to a new generation. I am proud to be part of that tradition and I look forward to continuing it!”

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Abi Rhoades, currently pursuing a PhD in Arts Administration at Texas Tech, is in her second year as the administrative coordinator for the Vernacular Music Center (VMC), and also serves President of the Tech Set Dancers. A Lubbock native, Abi has experience ranging from more traditional ballet and modern dance to salsa, Irish sets, and English country dance. An alumna of Dr. Christopher Smith's "Irish Music & Folklore" class and field trip, Abi was also the creator of the first VMC dance-oriented event, spearheading the "Dancing with Mr. Darcy" fundraiser to provide support for the annual VMC concert series. A fervent advocate of community participation, she offers adult instruction in English country dance and in Spring 2011 will be adding children's dance classes at the Maxey Community Center. Interested in all types of music and dance, Abi hopes to expand her dance and administrative skills by working with the experts at the Pinewoods camp (Cape Cod), to better facilitate community understanding and involvement in future VMC events and the arts.



Becca Rhoades is currently a Masters student in Violin Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music; she earned her bachelor's at Texas Tech. As well as participating in classical-genre ensembles, Becca also participated in the Texas Tech Celtic Ensemble (fiddle/vocals), and as Dance Captain. She was a member the TTU Set Dancers, traveling with VMC support to Ireland in May 2010 to participate in the Fleadh Nua (a set dancing festival in Ennis, Ireland); co-instructed the dancers for the VMC ball "Dancing with Mr. Darcy"; and received full scholarship funding to attend Pinewoods in July 2010. She wishes to return to Pinewoods in 2011 to: gain more experience in performance practice, historical dance reconstruction, band-dancer collaboration, and unfamiliar dance traditions, and to build her own college-level English Country Dance group in the Cleveland, OH area, so as to facilitate the growth of the Pinewoods New Generation Initiative.



Jayme Smith is an Abilene native and has been dancing since the age of seven: tap-dance, two-stepping, Irish set-dance, and English Country Dance. A trumpet player, fifth-year senior, and music education major, she will student-teach in Spring 2011 before commencing a new job in Texas as a band director. She is an alumna of Dr Christopher Smith's "Irish Music & Folklore" class and field trip, and first encountered the Irish sets at Fleadh Nua ("The New Festival of dance") at Ennis, County Clare, to which she has returned in subsequent years. One of our returning VMC Outreach Scholars, Jayme was part of the Summer 2010 VMC pilot program which sent four TTU students to the legendary Pinewoods Camp (Cape Cod) sponsored by the Country Dance and Song Society.

For more information about the VMC Outreach Scholars Program, visit our website at <http://ttuvmc.org> or contact VMC director Dr Christopher Smith at christopher.smith@ttu.edu