

By Deborah Afolabi

# Albright College Dance Team

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The Albright College Dance Team is a performing group of dancers that have studied a variety of dance backgrounds including ballet, jazz, tap, pointe, lyrical, hip-hop, contemporary, modern, and more. They perform on-campus at events such as football games, basketball games, and at their annual showcase. Annually they attend a competition to compete against other college dance teams. They are also holding fundraising events, as well as participate in other events within both the on-campus community and Reading area.

The president of the dance team, Allison Ulaky, knew during her freshman year on the team that she wanted to lead the organization. She became a Member-At-Large her sophomore year, and then junior year became vice president. She explained that she “wanted to be President because [she] wanted to be a leader for the dance team, further improve [their] technique unity as a team and get more involved in the community.”

The team practices Monday through Thursday every week. Once practice starts, they usually take time to stretch and go over past choreography, explained Ulaky. Then, they either learn new choreography or continue rehearsing what they’ve already learned. They do this at every practice to prepare for upcoming performances. Choreographers work outside of practice to create their routines to then teach to the rest of the team. Frequently, they collaborate and work as a team to perfect their performances.

**Maya Fares: “I like being able to learn new styles of dance and experience the different backgrounds other team members have come from.”**

Ulaky believes the dance team is important for the arts because dance is an important expression of oneself. Whether one is a professionally trained dancer, or simply loves going to parties with their friends, dancing is a way for people to relax and feel free. The dance team provides an outlet for students to take a mental break from their studies to work together as a team to create art.

The Dance Team uses a collaborative process in choosing music, creating choreographing, and selecting costuming for our performances. The team adapts to use differences spaces in creating their art and incorporates unique styles of dance and technique, while also having the opportunity to learn from other members on the team.

The organization gives students a creative outlet and an opportunity to express themselves. Being on the dance team gives students the ability to work with others towards an end goal, which would be having a successful performance. Because the dance team is a student run organization, every member can have the chance to choreograph and create art that the rest to participate in.

The Albright College Dance Team performs at athletic events, hosts their own showcase, and performs at other on-campus events such as ASTEP’s First Friday, Relay for Life, Airbands, and more. They work hard to actively perform for the Albright community and do more besides just dancing at athletic events. Ulaky personally thinks that it is important to involve themselves on campus to promote art and to promote dancing, as well as to entertain the community and provide joy to other students.





Currently, the team is working on their upcoming basketball season, which involves choreographing multiple routines to perform at each home basketball game for the men's team. Once they are back for the spring semester, they will begin choreographing for their annual competition at Washington & Jefferson College, and then they use those routines and more for their showcase.

Ulaky sees the organization expanding not only in numbers, but in genres as well. In the four years she's been on the team, she explains that she has been exposed to new styles of dance that she'd never tried before because of the diversity of culture on the team. She hopes that in the future the organization will only grow and that members can all learn from each other, not only through dance but through acceptance as well.

Ulaky explains that the main way for the college to assist the team in promoting the arts is for the college itself to promote the arts more. There is an emphasis at Albright College on expanding one's interests and experiencing events that they normally would not, and Ulaky thinks that performances put on both by all the dance teams at Albright

— including the Albright College Dance Team, the Xion Step Team, SOCAA, and Praise Dance Team — are great examples of that. Dance is an interpretive and entertaining art, and by having the school promote it more and give them more opportunities to perform, Ulaky thinks that it would help promote the arts in general. Dance combines music, athleticism, costuming, lights and creativity, making it a huge contributor to the arts. Ulaky believes that by having more promotion from the school and more attendance from administrators at the school would show the importance of art in the community and to help keep art alive on this campus.

The Albright College Dance Team's only remaining performance this semester was at halftime at the men's basketball game on November 22nd. They hope you all continue to come out and support them!

**Kelcie Coppa-Fritz: "I like how diverse the team is and how we are able to work together as one unit."**