

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TCU CHI TAU EPSILON HONOR SOCIETY TO HOST AIDS OUTREACH CENTER
BENEFIT DANCE CONCERT
30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

(FORT WORTH, TEXAS) – Chi Tau Epsilon Honor Society (XTE) announced today that it will host the *AIDS Outreach Center (AOC) Benefit Concert* on Saturday, February 25th at 7:30 pm in Texas Christian University's (TCU) Erma Lowe Hall, Studio Theatre. This is the 30th year that the benefit concert has been presented, raising funds and awareness in support of the AOC of Tarrant County.

Named "a top ten dance event of the year in the DFW Metroplex" in 2014 by dance writer, Margaret Putnam, this year's concert will once again offer an exciting program provided by dance companies and schools across the DFW community. The featured companies and schools include Bruce Wood Dance, *DanceTCU*, Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts, Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy, Pegasus Contemporary Ballet, Texas Ballet Theater's Studio Training Company, and Zion Dance Project. Ticket information can be found at www.dance.tcu.edu to reserve a seat in the limited space.

Andrew Grayman-Parkhurst, who founded this concert in 1993 as XTE President, will return to recognize this milestone year with current XTE leadership. In 1993, Grayman-Parkhurst organized TCU College of Fine Arts students to honor accompanist Lee Fincher, who had recently lost his battle to HIV/AIDS, with a benefit concert. As the new tradition continued over the next 12 years, the concert made an effective difference in the larger community. In 2005, Vanessa Watters Opalo and Suzanne Garrison Ehinger, TCU School for Classical & Contemporary Dance (SCCDance) dance majors and XTE officers, re-established the priority for philanthropy as an ongoing commitment of XTE and revitalized the concert in the SCCDance community.

For the next five years, the concert showcased works by students, faculty, and guest artists at TCU. In 2011, XTE and Fort Worth high school dance programs formed an alliance to expand awareness. And in 2012, XTE leaders chose to perform *DanceTCU* works and share the landscape with professional dance companies in the region.

Texas Ballet Theater's Studio Training Company will premiere an ensemble work, *Figures*, choreographed by TBT principal dancer, Alexandra F. Light. Pegasus Contemporary Ballet will showcase a female duet, *Parallel*, that was originally created for the production *Represented in Movement* by Gregory Dolbashian. Bruce Wood Dance brings *Our Last Lost Chance*, choreographed by the founding artistic director, Bruce Wood, a deeply stirring dance portrayed through beautiful partnering and intimacy. Zion Dance Project will perform excerpts from Vincent Hardy's *Spirituals*, an ensemble dance that explores three pieces of work that unveil the passion and depth of the human soul.

In addition, Fort Worth Academy of the Fine Arts (FWAFA) and Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy (GPFAA), will both present ensemble works. FWAFA students will perform, *Exit to Cypress*, choreographed by Kasi Kirkpatrick, and GPFAA students will perform *Wildflowers*, choreographed by Jaiquan Laurencin.

Also on the program are three works presented by *DanceTCU*, each choreographed by BFA graduating seniors: Beth Kendrick's *Looking In*, Kira Daniels' *Line-Point-Line*, and Mikayla Rudolf's *Triptych*. These three works have also been selected by SCCDance faculty to perform at the upcoming American College Dance Association Conference.

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About Chi Tau Epsilon

Chi Tau Epsilon recognizes the superior ability of performing artists of the dance, and promotes the combined and individual interests in the achievements of the performing arts. Chi Tau Epsilon is committed to provide leadership and service to the TCU School for Classical & Contemporary Dance, the TCU community, the Fort Worth/Dallas metroplex community, and the field of dance.

About the TCU School for Classical & Contemporary Dance

The School for Classical & Contemporary Dance began as the Ballet Division, founded in 1949 by David Preston. After years of growth under the leadership of Fernando Schaffenburg, Jerry Bywaters Cochran was invited to establish the Modern Dance program in 1975. Now, as the school nears its 75th year, the SCCDance celebrates a reputation for excellence in training and education, and an extensive network of successful alumni who have entered the field as performers, choreographers, teachers, artistic directors, arts administrators, dance photographers, filmmakers, studio owners, program directors, as well as in fields informed by their rigorous BFA education such as health care, wellness and fitness, business, marketing, and journalism. The

SCCDance draws talented and passionate students from across the USA who engage in a BFA program committed to depth of training, preparation, and education in a community of scholars and artists dedicated to mentorship and support. TCU is accredited by the National Association of School of Dance (NASD). Please learn more about the SCCDance at dance.tcu.edu and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

About the Aids Outreach Center of Tarrant County

AOC is the only 501 © (3) non-profit organization in Fort Worth that offers comprehensive and vital direct HIV client services to men, women, children, and their families, while also providing essential prevention, education, and outreach programs. Serving Tarrant County and seven rural counties, AOC advocates for strong and sound HIV policy.

AOC, a community-based organization, was founded in 1986 as the Fort Worth Counseling Center. Members of the Tarrant County gay and lesbian community founded the agency to help provide mental health and legal support for those suffering from HIV/AIDS. HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus – is treatable, but when left untreated, it can develop into AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Please learn more about the AOC of Tarrant County at <https://www.aoc.org>