

Kinesis fundraises for family of beloved dance teacher

Ronn Stewart, a teacher at Foster Dance Studio, passed away in September

by Eleanor Kaplan

On Oct. 22, Kinesis Dance Company held a charity car wash as a memorial for Foster Dance artistic director and co-founder Ronn Stewart.

"Stewart's passing was a blow to our dance community," said Kinesis director Johannah Wininsky. Many Kinesis students also dance at Foster Dance Studio in Evanston.

The annual car wash, dubbed the Kinesis Kar Wash, raised \$1,200. Each year, Kinesis students choose which cause they will donate to.

Because of the personal connection many students had with Stewart, they felt this cause was a natural decision. To promote the event, the company designed and wore colorful t-shirts the Friday before and collecting towels and buckets.

The car wash took place in the parking lot behind the school and about fifty cars came on that Saturday, according to Kinesis director Christopher Rutt.

Music played at every washing station and "everyone was having a good time," said senior Louisa Perrin.

The positive atmosphere "kept our energy up throughout the three hours," said senior Katie Lorenz. As cars flowed in and out, students had time to reflect on the influence that

Stewart had on their lives.

"I only spoke with him a couple times, but even a small interaction with him left a huge mark on my heart," said Perrin.

Stewart also had a significant impact on the dance community. He created a new dance technique that he called More People Dancing, or MoPeD, which became a popular class at his studio.

In the class, "You don't stop moving the entire time, and you just allow yourself and everyone else to improv without judgement," said Perrin.

The rules of this innovative style are to "keep going, suspend judgment, listen, remember why you are here, and do it with love," according to the Foster Dance Studio website.

A Go-Fund-Me account has been created by a friend of Stewart's wife. The fundraiser has received over \$34,000 that will go to supporting Stewart's wife and co-founder of Foster Dance Studio, Sarah Goldstone, and her child due in February.

Junior Sarah Meyers, who dances at Foster, said, "fundraising for this cause is important because it is so close to the studio's heart."

In addition to fundraising, Kinesis is preparing for their winter performance on Feb. 8, 9, and 10. It is the company's 30th anniversary, and Wininsky is excited to show off the "sophisticated, innovative, and high-quality artwork" that the student-choreographed company produces.

Typically, the annual car wash brings in between \$1,000-\$1,500. The car wash has no prices and instead operates on the belief that people will donate what they can to



The Kinesis dancers donated their time in raising money as a memorial for Dance Instructor Ronn Stewart | Wininsky

the cause.

Half of the money raised goes to the foundation of the student's choosing, while the other half is used for the costume budget for the various Kinesis performances throughout the year.

Last year, Kinesis donated their car wash fundraising money to the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation in honor of the late Tim Estberg.

Four years prior, said Wininsky, "the company had their most involved

fundraiser ever." The cause was Supplies for Dreams, a foundation started by Kinesis alumna Aria Fiat. The organization delivers school supplies in backpacks to students at Chicago Public Schools.

That year, Kinesis donated their time as well as money to the organization, participating in multiple field trips to Chicago to package and distribute the backpacks. The organization that the company raises funds for is typically close to

their hearts.

Stewart's passing affected many Kinesis members personally, as they have attended the studio since they were children, explained Lorenz.

Although she only attended a few of his classes, Lorenz said of Stewart: "He was one of few people in this world who I can honestly say impacted so many people for the better, and he will be truly missed by everyone who knew him."

Art Gallery gets an upgrade in new building

The Ann Brierly gallery opened in its new space this week

by Eli Lieberman

The new Ann Brierly gallery, located just inside the second floor of the west wing, was opened Oct. 13 with a dedication to the Brierly family in addition to a show of a New Trier alumna's work.

For years, the Ann Brierly gallery was located next to the Gaffney Theatre. It was torn down as part of the renovation.

The gallery is now located on the 3rd floor above the cafeteria and library. Most students pass the gallery regularly.

"It has a lot of frontage so people can see the art from the hallway, and a very accessible area that gets a lot of traffic," said Art Department Chair Alicia Landes.

This move enables student and professional work alike to become a part of every student's daily life.

Junior Alessia Liebovich shares Landes' positivity about the Gallery's new location.

"I would love if my work was seen by more people. It could help advertise and promote my work," she said.

Liebovich does not think this added visibility will affect her artwork. "I put the same dedication into all of my work," said Liebovich.

However, other students seem to feel more nervous by the exposure. Junior Glass Art student Charlie



Students browse the newly opened Ann Brierly art gallery located on the second floor of the west wing | Pearlman

Cohen thinks it could change what he creates, now that more people will see it. "I might change my work to be more appealing to the public."

The rebuilding of the gallery offered the art department a space that creates more opportunities than before. The new gallery will have more square footage than the previous one, and will contain more pieces and spectators.

Not only has the size increased, but the slanted floors that inhibited shows before are a thing of the past. Landes recalled that the old space's crooked structure had posed many issues.

"It was always hard to hang stuff straight. It was hard to have pedestals on the floor to hold 3D pieces," she said.

Having straight floors seems like a simple fix, but part of what makes the new gallery so exciting is its simplicity.

The art department's goal was to emphasize the work displayed within the space. Mark Bowers, a veteran art teacher, is optimistic about the new gallery. "It will allow the art not just to be seen, in a classroom or on a pin-up board, but displayed in a setting where it can be appreciated as fine art," said Bowers.

This new space aims to give respect to the art, and every detail has been thought out.

Landes said the Art Department worked with the architects on the layout of the room.

"We picked wall materials and how we wanted the layout of the room. We now have moveable walls that allow us a lot more wall space and flexibility with the space."

This level of detail required inspiration from other schools with similar goals as New Trier. "We did research on galleries in other colleges and universities," said Landes.

West Wing Continued

by Stephanie Kim

"...greatly decrease stress," said Ulrich. "Even just having natural scenery, like a picture of nature in your room or natural background noises, can really help you focus on your work."

Ulrich's research suggests that being in certain areas of the new building, like the green roofs or in the concourse, can have a positive influence on students' productivity.

"I often study outside. Being in nature helps calm me," explained Ulrich.

With an eco-friendly design, however, comes a hefty price tag that requires investment. The initial costs of making a building environmentally friendly can be higher than a building that's not energy-efficient. It can even cost money to get a LEED certification, according to the USGBC.

With patience, however, green construction can bring more benefits than drawbacks.

"When you're looking for energy efficiency, you have to plan for it. Usually, the upfront costs are greater, but the long-term payback is more beneficial," said Boumstein.

Despite the costs, it seems that students are enjoying the new building and all of the features that is has to offer.

"I've been up to the green roofs, and it's a great place to eat