

From the Desk of the Director of Examinations~1.18.16

Dear Friends,

At our recent Annual Examiners' Retreat held every January in Connecticut, my fellow colleagues and I reviewed our year of examining across the country and, as always, discussed how best we can serve our member teachers, as well as their students.

Already there are many requests for exams for our Spring Session. Our newest examiner, **Louanne Davies**, will start the exam season by going out to Niagara Falls, NY, in March. On that same weekend, **Judith Hawkesworth** will go to Roseville, CA. After that, **Sylvia Palmer** will go to Huntington Beach (to be joined later by **Denise Rinaldi**), **Deborah Vinton** will travel to Santa Barbara, and **Marnell Himes** will initiate CUSA exams in Burnaby, B.C., all on the same weekend! This is our "March Madness" as we "kick off" for an even better 2016!

In April, **Sylvia Palmer** will make her very first appearance in Plattsburgh, NY, and **Judith Hawkesworth** returns to Cheshire, CT. **Louanne Davies** will go to South Carolina, and **Betty Seibert** will return to San Diego, in May. **Beverley Feder** will round out the tour by going to Denver in June.

If you have not yet booked your exam session, please use the 2016 Examination Spreadsheet attached to this email to make your request and send it back to me as soon as possible. All of our examiners are willing to go out, but not always able due to their own studio responsibilities. The more notice you give me, the better chance I have of fulfilling your request.

Attached to this email is an electronic copy of the **2016 Examinations Spreadsheet**, **2016 Examinations Procedures Handbook**, as well as the **2016 Syllabi for Teaching Examinations**, with all revisions or additions clearly marked in **bold red**. Previous directives that were in bold red will now be **unbolded red**, then changed to **bold black**, and finally unbolded black.

For the upcoming sessions, allow me to draw your attention to a few of the recent additions or changes you should be on the lookout for in the Handbooks:

- **Please notice the specification of ages, and wearing of pointe shoes, for B Candidates**
- **The clarification between Traditional vs. Additional Pliés in Grade 8**
- **Improvisation music brought by the examiner will be an eclectic variety of styles. Please encourage your students to respond and react**

organically to the music. This is not for choreographic purposes, but rather to allow their “inner dancer” to come out!

As always, it is imperative that you throw out any previous hard copies, and/or delete any previous electronic copies, so that there is no chance of you not using the most current and up-to-date information!

Be sure to check that the syllabi material you are using is current as you prepare for your next exam sessions, especially involving Grades 6-10! These syllabi materials are available for purchase from the CUSA Bookstore – www.cecchettiusa.org

Please remember that your 2016 CUSA Membership Dues must be received by the Membership Chair, Alison Durham, in order to request exams. If you do not get them in on time, you may still be allowed to host exams, but the reports and certificates will be held back until notice has been received that you are current and up-to-date. This includes any late fees that may have been incurred! Contact Alison at cusamembership@yahoo.com

We encourage you to always include the Ballet Scholar Membership Form (available on our website under “Join CUSA”) when you deliver your reports and certificates to all of your successful candidates! Your invitation for your students to become Ballet Scholars will help the organization to grow and, in turn, they will have more opportunities to be awarded summer course and regional scholarships!

We trust that by this time you will have received our brochures for the Residential Summer Course to be held July 31 – August 6 in Santa Barbara. We will once again be offering examinations prior to and throughout the week. First priority is given to Qualifying and Final Diploma requests, and then Majors and Certifying Exams. Requests for anything below Grade 8 will be on a “wait and see” basis, assigned in the order in which they are received.

Exam fees must cover the cost of administering the exams, and last year we made increases only to the Qualifying Exams. Unfortunately, due to the rising costs of air travel, **the Board of Directors will be considering a small increase in exam fees for the Standards and Grades. However, these would not go into effect until July 1, 2016. Until then, the fees remain the same as 2015.** You will find the exam fees posted on the electronic Excel spreadsheet under the tab entitled “Summary of Entries”. There you will see the charges for each exam level.

Again, we remind everyone that the **“Essential Anatomy: A Multimedia Anatomy Course”** is the required anatomy component for anyone wishing to attain their Licentiate status. Please contact the Director of Examinations if you

are interested in purchasing the CD of Deborah Vogel's "Essential Anatomy" which, in fact, is the cost for the exam (whether or not you decide to take it)!

To inquire about hosting an exam session, or for any questions regarding the syllabi or exams, or that arise from reading the Handbooks, please contact me at bseibert@cheshiredancecentre.com, or cell phone 203.710.8372.

You may also consider requesting student workshops, or private coaching, with members of our Examining Board.

We are looking forward to the 5th Cecchetti International – Classical Ballet Competition to be held in Florence, Italy, in the summer of 2017! CUSA will be disseminating information soon regarding the audition process in order to become a member of Team CUSA!

Here's to a Sparkling new year!
Cheers!

Betty B. Seibert

Betty Seibert, Fellow CUSA/ISTD;
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