

# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

*Connecting dancers past, present, and future*

## News and Features

### Regional Winners

Champions from across the country will come together this July to compete at the ScotDance USA National Championship in Santa Clara, California.

### Over 30: Why Are We Still Dancing

For dancers over 30, Highland dance is more than just a pastime, it's a passion. Whether it's the music, the community, or the thrill of performance, these dancers reveal what inspires them .

### Tartan Day 2025

Tartan Day was marked with vibrant celebrations honoring Scottish heritage, music, and dance.

### Spotlight & Seeds

Don't forget to check out our latest dance school spotlight and the news on the ever growing Seeds of Scottish Dance Project.

## Welcome

Welcome back to the latest edition of our alumni newsletter. Here you will find exciting updates and events, but also stories, memories, and achievements of alumni like you.

We would love to hear from you if you have stories, photos, or ideas to share. Let's keep the spirit of Scottish dance alive together.

## Contact Info

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**2025 Regional Winners**



**East Region**



**Midwest Region**



**Northwest Region**



**Southeast Region**



**Southwest Region**



**West Region**

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## The 30 and Overs: Why We Are Still Dancing

In part two of our series highlighting Highland dancers over 30, we asked: What has kept you involved in dance? The responses revealed a powerful blend of passion, perseverance, and community. Many dancers shared that simply having enough adults to form their own group made a world of difference, especially when classes were tailored to their needs and abilities as an older dancer. Being surrounded by peers of similar age made competition feel welcoming rather than intimidating. For some, it was the first time in years they felt truly seen in a dance space.

It's clear that the deeper pull of Highland dance lies in the connections it builds. Dancers spoke of friendships, travel, and the joy of learning new skills. These athletes described the satisfaction of pushing themselves with exams and performances, even into their 40s and beyond. For many, it's the one thing they do just for themselves. As one dancer put it, "I love the music. I love the challenge. I love the way it makes me feel."

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## Tartan Day 2025

As part of Tartan Week, the 23rd Annual Celebration of Tartan Day took place on Ellis Island from April 4th to 6th. This annual event honors Scottish heritage, culture, and the contributions of Scots to America, bringing together Scottish and Scottish-American communities from across the country. Performers included The Force, a champion drum major team; the St. Columcille United Gaelic Pipe Band; and Highland dancers from Shot of Scotch NYC, the Fling Together Collective, and the McAngus School of Highland Dance.



Tartan Day was also celebrated during that week at the New York City Parade. Sixty Highland dancers from Canada, Scotland, Australia, and the United States danced their way down the parade in New York City along with performances in Bryant Park. The culminating event of Tartan Week was the first ever, NY Tartan Week Highland Dance Competition held in Battery Park in Lower Manhattan.

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## Upcoming Competitions

### East Region

- September 6-** Edinboro Highland Games- Edinboro, PA
- September 19- 21** - New Hampshire Highland Games- Lincoln, NH
- October 12** - Scotland Highland Festival - Brooklyn, CT
- November 15** - Vermont Indoor Competition - Williston, VT

### Midwest Region

- September 13-** Columbus Scottish Festival- Columbus, IN
- October 4** - Capital City Fall - Madison, WI
- November 8** - Alma Indoor Competition - Alma, MI
- November 22** - MI Celtic Classic Fall - Ray, MI

### Northwest Region

- October 4 & 5** - McMinnville Scottish Festival - McMinnville, OR
- October 18** - Moab Celtic Festival Scots on The Rocks - Moab, UT
- November 8** - Mountain West Highland Dance Fall Competition - Riverton, UT

### Southeast Region

- September 6** - Middle Tennessee Highland Games- Hendersonville, TN
- October 4** - Scotland County Highland Games - Laurinburg, NC
- October 18 & 19** - Stone Mountain Highland Games - Stone Mountain, GA
- November 1** - Charleston Scottish Games - North Charleston, SC

### Southwest Region

- September 20-** Colorado Highland Games- Sedalia, CO
- September 20-** Scotfest Oklahoma- Broken Arrow, OK
- September 27-28-** Prescott Highland Games- Prescott, AZ
- October 4 & 5** - Aztec Highland Games and Celtic Festival - Aztec, NM

### West Region

- October 11** - Seaside Highland Games - Ventura, CA
- October 25 & 26** - Tucson Celtic Festival & Workshop - Tucson, AZ

**Check ScotDanceUSA for additional details.**

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### Dance School Spotlight

## The Davidson School of Highland Dance

In this edition, we shine the spotlight on the Davidson School of Highland Dance. Founded in 1968 by Catherine Davidson Fisher, this institution has grown into a proud multi-generational school, where a mother, daughter, and granddaughter now teach side by side, continuing a legacy of excellence and tradition.



### Davidson School of Highland Dance

**Region:** Southeast, Florida

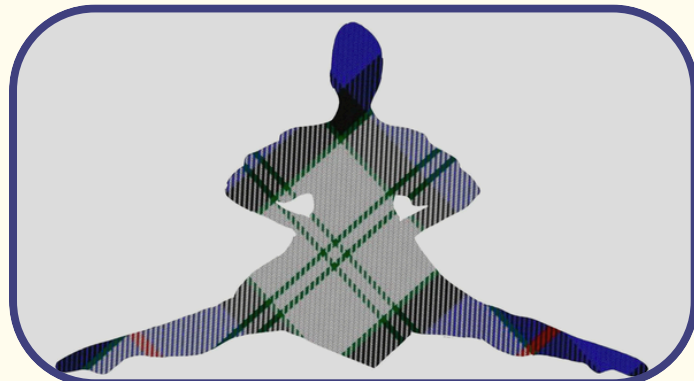
**Dance Instructors:** Catherine Fisher, Cheryl Kirby, Alayna Rubach

**Established:** 1968

**Notable Performances:** They have performed at the Kennedy Center Awards

**Fun Fact:** Davidson is Catherine Fisher's maiden name

**Dance Legacy:** This dance school stretches three generations



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### Get Featured in our Newsletter

#### We Want To Spotlight YOU!

The United States has so many amazing Scottish Highland Dance Schools across the country. We'd love to hear from you! Please send information about your dance school so we can feature you in our next newsletter. Share your school's story, achievements, and anything that makes your community special—let's celebrate the rich diversity of Scottish Highland Dance across the country together!

[Click here to add your awesome school!](#)



Send us pictures!

Everyone has a collection of memorable photos from competitions, Burns dinners, festivals, dance classes, and more. Send us your photos—old and new—so we can create a historical archive that showcases our incredible Highland dance legacy!

Email: [alumni@scotdanceusa.com](mailto:alumni@scotdanceusa.com)  
or send on Instagram or Facebook

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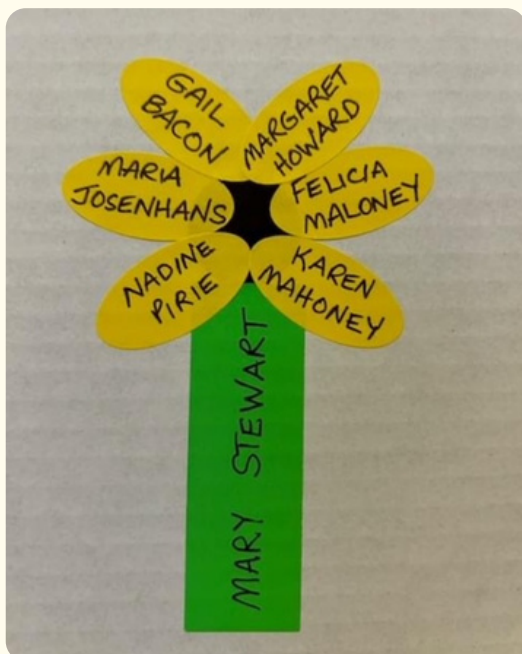
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### Seeds of US Scottish Dance



The Seeds of Scottish Dance Project launched itself one year ago at the 2024 USIR in Boston, Massachusetts. The purpose is to trace past and current professionals who became dance teachers, honoring those men and women who brought Scottish Dance to the United States. We need the names of your teacher and your teacher's teacher to help complete this ongoing project.

Over 500 names across the six regions have been added to our lists thus far.  
Let's keep it growing!



### How can you help the project grow?

Send us any information you have about teachers past and present.

- Who inspired *you* to teach?
- Who did *you* inspire to teach?
- Do you know who taught your dance teacher?
- Any other information you can send!

[Click here to send us information](#)