

# AMY SHILAKES



## FUN FACTS

- Placed 3rd in Michigan Artistic Figure Roller Skating Competition at Age 13
- Birthday is Valentine's Day!
- Started dance at 3 years old!

## ABOUT MRS. AMY

Amy grew up dancing in Taylor, Michigan at the age of 3. She attended Taylor Dance Program and Ballet Americana where she studied Classical Ballet, Pointe, Jazz/Lyrical, Hip-Hop, Tap, Tahitian, and Poms. While performing with Ballet Americana, she had the wonderful experience of dancing in various balletic roles. The Nutcracker Ballet of course being her absolute favorite!

After graduating high school she attended Western Michigan University where she studied Dance for a Bachelor of Arts degree. At WMU, Amy studied Modern, Ballet, Jazz, and Tap. While in college she had the pleasure of working with the Twyla Tharp Dance Company and George Faison from The Wiz.

Amy is married and has 2 school-aged boys who always keep her busy. She is also an active member of the community and is so excited to be a part of the dance program!

# ANNA OSBORN DOLAN



## FUN FACTS

- Loves to Play Whirly Word
- Ran a Half-Marathon in 2015
- Went Bungee Jumping Once!

## ABOUT MS. ANNA

Anna Osborn Dolan loves working with children and helping them have fun and discover the challenges and rewards of the sport of baton twirling. For more than 40 years, she has coached both recreational and competitive twirlers, including many who have won state, regional or national titles. Along the way, Ms. Anna helps her twirlers develop self-confidence, positive self-esteem and valuable life skills, including perseverance, time management, good sportsmanship and teamwork.

Ms. Anna knows how much fun twirling is because she has twirled all her life. She was a feature twirler for Westminster High School and the University of Northern Colorado “Pride of the Rockies” Marching Band. She was also the feature twirler for the Denver Broncos for ten years, performing for 76,000 fans during home games at Mile High Stadium. That’s why she loves to find opportunities for her students to perform in local parades and community events.

# HALEY LENA

## FUN FACTS

- Draws human portraits
- Loves all animals
- Still has her very first baton from 2 years old!
- In college she majored in Journalism with a minor in Criminal Justice



## ABOUT MS. HALEY

Haley is the assistant instructor for the beginner, intermediate, and advanced baton twirling classes. She has been twirling for 20 years and has competed at state, regional, and national competitions in individual and team events. She has placed in the Top 10 for her age and level multiple times individually and won first place with her pairs partner. Haley was the feature twirler at Rock Canyon High School in Highlands Ranch, Colorado where she performed in the marching band, parades, basketball games and twirled fire baton at school bonfires. Haley has also performed at Metropolitan State University and Colorado University basketball games. She graduated from Metropolitan State University where she studied Journalism and Criminal Justice. She loves teaching kids the sport of baton twirling and is excited to continue!

# JESSICA BISHOP



## FUN FACTS

- Has a cat who plays fetch
- Loves to travel
- Loves to read

## ABOUT MS. JESSICA

Jessica has lived in Colorado her whole life. Jessica grew up doing anything and everything to stay active including dance. Jessica went to Metropolitan State University of Denver and graduated with a degree in Psychology and Dance. Jessica Has taken poms, western line, east coast swing, west coast swing, modern, jazz, ballet, and tap classes. Tap becomes Jessica's favorite style of dance in college. Jessica believes that dance should be all inclusive, everyone should get the chance to dance! Jessica hopes to some day get her Masters in dance therapy but is currently enjoying teaching.

# KIRA FIKES

## FUN FACTS

- She speaks French
- Kira rescued a chihuahua mix in 2020
- Kira believes that dance should be an inclusive and supportive environment
- Her favorite author is James Patterson!



## ABOUT MS. KIRA

Kira Fikes (she/ her/ hers) moved to Colorado in 2020 from New York. Kira has experience dancing non-competitively since elementary school. After taking a 6 year break from dancing, Kira rediscovered her love for dance while in recovery from an eating disorder. Kira began to take classes at Westminster City Park in late 2020 and has grown tremendously since.

Kira is a senior at Hidden Lake High School and has been recognized for her academic achievements throughout middle and high school. Kira plans on attending MSU or CU Denver for Biology in the fall of 2022 to begin her journey to medical school. Kira has recognized the immense differences that dancing has made in her life in such a short time. She hopes that the future of the dance community can find comfort and support in dancing that Kira has found herself.

# LITA MUSGRAVE

## FUN FACTS

- Lita has two cats, Bagel and Toast!
- Lita has a Master's Degree in Applied Mathematics, even though math was her least favorite subject
- Lita's first performance was as a flower in the ballet Cinderella!



## ABOUT LITA

Lita Musgrave began dancing at age three and joined a professional ballet company by age 12, performing in shows like \*Swan Lake\*, \*Firebird\*, and \*The Nutcracker\*. By 15, she was already teaching dance. Lita studied dance at the University of Kansas, where she developed a passion for teaching non-traditional beginners. Her focus is on creating inclusive, accessible curriculums that help every dancer feel confident, no matter when they start their journey.

Having experienced the harmful body image pressures in the dance world, Lita is committed to fostering a positive, technique-focused environment in her classes. She continually researches ways to combat body shaming, ensuring all dancers feel safe and supported.

Outside of dance, Lita is a musician, writer, and avid board game enthusiast. She also has two beloved cats, Bagel and Toast, and holds a Master's Degree in Applied Mathematics, despite it being her least favorite subject in school.

# TIA HILDEBRANDT



## FUN FACTS

- Has a dog named Louie
- Used to work as a zookeeper with gorillas and orangutans
- Loves breakfast foods!

## ABOUT MS. TIA

Tia has been dancing since she was 3 years old. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Tia first started as a teacher assistant at Pittsburgh Heat, helping out with 5 year old hip hop classes. She then became the hip hop teacher at Premier Dance Academy where she taught both recreational and competition level classes to students aged 3 through 16. After graduating high school, she moved to St. Petersburg, Florida to attend Eckerd College where she graduated with a BS in Psychology and a BA in Anthropology. While at Eckerd College, Tia worked at the fitness center as a fitness instructor and taught weekly hip hop classes to her fellow college peers. Upon moving to Denver, Tia began teaching a wider variety of classes including creative movement, preballet, ballet, combo classes, and jazz along with hip hop. She has fallen in love with teaching the younger students and is excited to be part of the Westminster dance program! Tia's family has always encouraged her to reach for the stars, and she encourages her students to do the same! Anything is possible!