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Friends of IMPROVment®,

We hope your summer has been a time to recharge and move. We've been busy with new research and want to share some exciting work below!

National Black Theatre Festival

A collage of four photographs from the National Black Theatre Festival. The top photo shows a woman smiling, identified as Christina Soriano. The other three photos show individuals in dance or movement poses, identified as Jerome Johnson and Monica Johnson. The collage includes text such as "THE NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL WORKSHOP IMPROVMENT CONFERENCE 2" and "Monica & Jerome International Dance 'Experience'". Each photo has "MJIDE.com" written at the bottom.

THE NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL
WORKSHOP IMPROVMENT
CONFERENCE 2

Monica & Jerome International Dance
"Experience"

Jerome Johnson

CHRISTINA SORIANO

Jerome Johnson

Monica Johnson

Monica Johnson

We enjoyed being part of the National Black Theatre Festival during the first week of August. Our class was an invitation for people to move in a way that feels good to them. Presenters: Christina Soriano, Monica Johnson and Jerome Johnson

URECA Research Projects



Sofia Campbell (left), Nicole Morales (right)

Sofia Campbell is a WFU sophomore from Charlotte, NC majoring in Biology and minoring in Dance and Neuroscience. She is pursuing a Pre-Medical undergraduate degree at Wake Forest as a First Generation student. Sofia loves to continue her passion at Wake Forest where she is a Presidential Scholar for dance, member of the dance company, and member of the Wake Forest Dance Team. With mentorship from Christina Soriano and Dr. Christina Hugendschmidt, Sofia is researching how dance can improve the quality of life of someone living with Dementia. Sofia joined the IMPROVment® team in 2020 and is now prospering as a member of the research and dance intervention team.

For her Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities funded summer fellowship (URECA), Sofia created 16 new virtual classes for the mobile IMPROVment® application: Home IMPROVment®. This work is part of a grant funded by the Retirement Research Foundation. Inspired by previous virtual classes, Sofia incorporated various genres of music like classical, jazz, country, disco, classic rock, and rock music to the new classes. During this time she also studied and analyzed the data that was collected from the IMOVE study under the Unusual Uses Tasks assessment. This involved her going through the scoring and responses of the participants that responded to an object with separate uses and identifying if each use was a correct use or a redundant use.

Nicole Morales is an undergraduate Biology student at the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey. Nicole joined the IMPROVment® team in summer 2022 as a Wake Forest Hospital intern. Her focus is to investigate the effect of a randomized trial in creative change in people with dementia and their care givers by analyzing self-reported questionnaires and creative potential tasks. Nicole says, "Dance and science have always been between my passions which is an awesome way to combine both and make an impact on many people lives and research."

Ongoing Classes



Rachelle Smith-Stallman is teaching DANCE BEYOND PARKINSON'S classes on Zoom every Thursday at 1:30 EST. She is also teaching LET'S DANCE at 4pm on Fridays. This class is for all ages—fun, funk and sweat! See info below:

DANCE BEYOND PARKINSON'S

Thursdays 1:30-2:30 PM EST

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Passcode: DANCE

LET'S DANCE

Fridays 4pm-5pm EST

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 656 357 4914

Passcode: DANCE

Contact Rachelle at rss@nycap.rr.com with any questions. Donations welcome!

Training Workshop

*Save the date! Our IMPROVment® Training will be this November 4-5.
More details to come.*

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chr Soriano".

Christina Soriano
Founder/Executive Director
IMPROVment® Initiative
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