

International Career Opportunities

On September 19, 2023, Lauri Fitz-Pagado, author, public servant and community leader, shared her life journey with UMES students and faculty. She discussed the importance of travel, learning about different cultures and languages and how her encounters around the world helped shape her worldview.

Dancing in the Dash: My Story of Empowerment, Diplomacy, and Resilience published by Bold Story Press in 2021 shares Lauri Fitz-Pagado's compelling journey around the world embracing activism and advocacy. She has had a remarkable life in the world of policy, politics and diplomacy and explores how her training in ballet provided ballast and grace throughout the rigors of her life and career.

Cultural and commercial diplomacy are the hallmarks of Lauri's career working at the Voice of America, the U.S. Information Agency, and serving as a Foreign Service Officer in Mexico and the Dominican Republic. A former Assistant Secretary and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, she managed 130 overseas and 90 domestic offices engaged in promoting US exports. Lauri was a senior executive at Hill and Knowlton and Gray and Company, and a partner at The Livingston Group. She also was a senior executive at Iridium, LLC, a mobile satellite company established by Motorola.

She now applies her communications, public relations business and leadership experience to mentoring, teaching ballet, advising dance institutions, promoting artists, writing, and board service. Her focus is promoting equity, inclusion and support for marginalized communities engaged in the arts. She is co-founder of Beyond the Ballet Barre (BTBB), dedicated to support ballet teachers and students of color in the DMV.

A Jones-Haywood School of Dance alumna, Lauri performed with the Capitol Ballet, Vassar Dance Theater, and Ballet Santo Domingo. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and has a B.A. cum laude from Vassar College, M.A. from the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and speaks Spanish and Portuguese.

Lauri has been a member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church for eighteen years and has served on the vestry, Global Mission committee, WSA, and was a founding lay member of the Spanish language service. She was a member of St. Alban's first Sacred Ground group, designed by the Episcopal Diocese to explore issues of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

She serves on the board of directors of The Washington Ballet, the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, and Mother Jones. She is on the Advisory Board of the Ron Brown Scholars, is a Senior Advisor for the International Career Advancement Program (ICAP), and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and the International Women's Forum.¹



¹ <https://www.inthedash.live/about-lauri/>