

The Hobby that Became a Dream



Imagine you're a little kid again. You may be standing on the sideline of your local high school football team watching the big boys play and saying "Dad that's going to be me some day." Or you may be a little girl, watching the Nutcracker and saying I want to be a ballerina when I grow up. For Jenny Jones, the passion to dance didn't come to her as a little girl. Jones didn't begin dancing until her freshman year of high school.

"I wanted to pick up an extra hobby, so I had a reason to stay away from home longer," Jones said. "I ended up dancing and I really liked it."

By her sophomore year of high school she had taken up every style of dance and was in the studio four nights a week. She danced all through high school and she eventually landed a spot on the Central College dance squad her freshman year of college. Central however, wasn't making the cut when it came to a well-rounded experience for Jones. Luckily for her, Grand View University Dance Coach Stacie Horton had an interest and wasn't going to let Jones slip through her fingers.

"Stacie contacted me, because I was teaching at a local studio," Jones said. "She did a background check on me, kind of, and offered me a scholarship to dance at Grand View. I did a visit and fell in love with the Communications department and danced there the last three years of college."

Jones not only danced on the team, but became a captain as well. She learned a lot about what a team is and how to be leader while at Grand View. Little did Jones know that all of her connections that she made at Central and the lessons she learned while at Grand View, would prepare her for a big step in her journey after graduation and with her dancing career.

After graduation Jones hated the fact that she no longer was able to dance or get the feeling of competing with a team. Jones said there was no more big hair, red lipstick, and the exciting feeling of stepping on the floor with big smiles and completing the routine you had been working on for months.

One afternoon Jones was having lunch with a former teammate from Central and she suggested that Jones try out for the Storm Chasers' dance team here in Des Moines. Jones decided to try out and was one of eleven girls out of thirty to make it. Her hobby became a dream and it isn't stopping there. Jones hopes to make her way out to Seattle someday and maybe even dance for the Seattle Seahawks football team.

If you're a dancer, you're born a dancer.