Kares

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a laugh. "It’s not as easy to jump anymore." Kares was born in Johanneburg, South Africa, and found her love of dance there.

Her parents had moved to South Africa from Prague after World War II. Her father, Frank Kares, was a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp and her mother, Emma, was a Catholic who was part of the Resistance.

The two met and found an organization that helped Jews get out of Europe — to South Africa, Australia, Israel or Argentina. They chose South Africa.

Kares started ballet classes when she was about 5.

"I loved the physicality of it," she said. "It felt good to do and to get lost in. It was something I could work on and achieve." When she was 8, a teacher who suffered from migraines asked her to take over a class of youngsters.

"I had such a ball teaching it and that's when I knew I wanted to be a teacher," she said.

Disgusted by apartheid in South Africa, Kares' father eventually decided to move the family to San Francisco.

Sixteen at the time, Kares remembers thinking that the cold, foggy climate was not ideal for a dancer. She left San Francisco to attend UCLA, where she got a bachelor's and a master's degree in dance. In 1973 she joined the Gloria Newman Dance Theater as a major performing artist, later becoming the group's assistant director.

Here, as a ballet teacher at Cal State Fullerton, it wasn't long before she was also teaching modern dance, jazz dance and choreography. She hired a friend, Barbara Arms, who was in the corps of the Ballet Russe, to teach ballet, and the two of them collaborated to build the department.

In 1982, CSUF got national accreditation for a dance major. "It was a victory," Kares said, adding that the department chair and dean had been supportive of the effort.

Dreamers

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Arrivals) was rescinded ... but having a space like the TDRC definitely allowed me to thrive and survive.

The festivities continued at the Becker Amphitheater, featuring booth activities; thoughts about the undocumented experience from graduate student Jose Flores and special guest Yoolmar Reyes — a queer undocumented immigrant, poet and activist and recognition of the center's vision committee.

Also at the event was the launch of the new Undocumented and Ally Faculty & Staff Association founded by Tonantzin Oseguera, associate vice president for student affairs; Raymund Aguirre, chief of university police; and Xiaopan Xue, coordinator in student life and leadership.

CSUF's association — for faculty and staff who are currently or formerly undocumented — is the first such association in the state.

"The association's main goal is to create a sense of community and support for faculty and staff who identify this way," Xue said. "As undocumented individuals leave the realm of higher education, there is often much less support in society.

"This group will give individuals a continued safe space and village of support to share highs, lows, and the unique experience that comes with being undocumented."

The founders decided to come together and be open about their experiences, said Oseguera, who came to the U.S. from Mexico City when she was 13. She was undocumented as she went through most of high school and college, she said, and received her citizenship in 2005.

"We decided we had to have a community not just to be each other but to be a role model," she said. "Our students have come out of the shadows — undocumented and unafraid.

"They are putting themselves out there and we want them to know that there are faculty members who have had the same experiences — and some of us have come out the other side. There is hope." For information, visit www.fullerton.edu/tcra

Graduate student Jose Flores shares his experiences at CSUF before and after the TDRC's opening.