

## Ale Mier



Ale's love for Swing dancing sparked one night in 2017 when she was captivated by a couple on the floor doing the Lindy Hop. She danced with no one that night, but afterwards paid for as many classes as she could afford and, three years (and one-thousand rock-steps) later, she began teaching. Passionate about dance instruction and dedicated to practicing, Ale hopes to get people excited about moving to jazz— even competing! After four years, she still thinks there's nothing better in the world than to dance with strangers into the wee hours of the night, even after one's feet ache and beautiful vintage clothes have been drenched in sweat.

It don't mean a thing...

## Daniel Young



Daniel Young has been dancing since early 2017 and began volunteering as a Syndicate Shift Lead a few months later. Currently a senior at The University of Texas at Austin, Daniel is well-involved in the Swing dancing community by taking part as a teaching assistant for the Texas Swing Dance Society on campus, captain of the club's performance team in previous years, and coordinating the Austin Lindy Exchange since 2018. He enjoys Lindy-Hop most for its eccentricity and expressive nature and works constantly to improve his own dancing. Daniel has served on the Austin Swing Syndicate Board of Directors for three consecutive years.

Other than dance, Daniel is an avid student of music, physics, chemistry, philosophy, and medicine. Enthusiastic to learn about the universe and everything within it, he triple-steps slowly, yet boldly, to the future.

## Jim Shepherd



Hi everyone, I'm Jim Shepherd and I love our swing dancing community at the Fed where I've danced for several years. Now I want to help the community grow, especially after the Coronavirus.

I work full time at one of the "Big 5" software companies as a Senior Software engineer. I lead projects and teams that have a daily impact on people across the world. I've built my career on rescuing projects and leading them to success.

I have a long history of volunteering and am currently an acting board member at the Austin Acro Associates, one of the largest Acro Yoga communities in the United States. I'm hoping to bring overlap for these two communities as we start to safely reopen and resume what we all love to do. I've also volunteered as a moderator at [stackoverflow.com](https://stackoverflow.com) for 3d printing for 3 years and I've run one of the top 3d printing facebook groups for the last 7 years. My passion is helping people, teaching people and bringing people together.

I feel my professional experience, my volunteer experience, and my passion for the community will help me serve the Swing Dance community and I look forward to the day when we can all dance again.

## Nick Williams



Nick Williams has been involved in the Austin swing dance community for nearly seven years, the last four as a member of the Austin Swing Syndicate Board of Directors. In addition to supporting, along with fellow board and community members, the organization's weekly operations and long-term strategy during his prior terms, Nick coordinated sound equipment, organized internal communication systems and served as emcee for many weekly Thursday-night dances.

During this period of closure for the Syndicate, he has worked alongside his colleagues to navigate implications for the organization's stability and form plans for future sustainability and eventual reopening. In absence of weekly dances, he also worked with a small team, partnering with sister organization Four on the Floor, on a project to document fundamental swing dance instruction to be collected in a video series for a Syndicate online multimedia reference library.

Nick has a background in media and communication. A strong proponent of swing dancing, jazz music and the surrounding community, he sees an important part of his role as a board member as being an ambassador for the organization and the dance. In the future, he looks forward to continuing to help foster and bring new people into the swing dance and jazz community Austin is so fortunate to have.

## Nikolas Odom



Nikolas has been part of the Austin swing dancing community for four years. The first time he came to the Thursday night dance was the Valentines dance in 2017. He immediately fell in love and has rarely missed a night of dancing since. He led his Boy Scouting troop throughout high school and has attended many leadership camps, seminars, and conferences. He graduated from ACC in May of 2020 and currently works at Texas Skydiving as a Skydiving Instructor and parachute packer.

A couple years into dancing he decided to look for ways to give back to the community he loves so much. He started volunteering to help at the desk and quickly started helping almost every week. He loves the dancing, the music, and most of all the community of people. He wants to be able to give back and help the community comes back together through this pandemic.