A Living Document/Manifesto 
by the 2015-2016 MSU Danceaturgs

What is a Danceaturg...
and what do we do, 
in and around our Writing Workshop Seminars?

We are a group of select individuals that meets weekly in the Spring semester at 8:30 am every Friday – in the Dean’s Conference Room – We convene over fruits and healthy snacks for lively conversation to conceptualize what we physicalize - and respond to provocative writing prompts on the process of dance. A danceaturg is a reflection of the community in which he or she trains – We think from the perspective of the bird’s eye, the worm’s mouth, and roundabout oversight – not only of the MSU dance community – but of the ways in which we grow our cognitive functions from an artistic perspective while dancing, rehearsing, or experiencing dance as an audience member -- We conduct historical research on the Repertory for the season – We attend rehearsals of our peer choreographers and ask them questions about their work – We analyze all kinds of dance works - from the level of world-renowned choreographers to the creations of our peers – We advocate for more awareness of our craft – and re-experience our own dancing from different points of view, across the table and within ourselves – We exercise multiple intelligences within ourselves and help others to expand theirs – We seek objectivity and clarity in the process of presenting critique in an atmosphere of intellectual give and take – We are driven, motivated, disciplined, enthusiastic, and “all in,” testing the boundaries of dance - constantly pushing ourselves and others to do the same – Danceaturgs probe the choreographic mind, history and process, but not from an abrasive standpoint; rather, we are trying to understand what it is to be.