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## **Ballet Dancer with Multiple Sclerosis to Bike Across the USA**

Birmingham, Alabama – Two years ago, professional ballet dancer David Bauser was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This summer, he will bicycle 3,785 miles coast-to-coast to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for this disease. Bauser, 25, is the first person with relapsing-remitting MS to participate in the cross-country charity ride. Bauser has currently raised over \$4,000 and has set a personal goal of \$6,000 in contributions to secure for the MS Society. Contributions may be made on-line until July 31, 2011 at <http://bauserbikesms.com>.

Currently, there are approximately 250,000 to 350,000 Americans with some type of MS, with an additional 200 new cases diagnosed each week (source: National Institutes of Health). "Thanks to daily medications, I've danced in virtually every Alabama Ballet program since my diagnosis," said Bauser. "This *Bike the US for MS* tour will be one of the hardest things I have ever done. Training for it is not unlike the disciplined practice I do for every ballet performance. But I am not doing this for pride, proof, or acceptance... it is simply something I need to do," he continued.

A resident of Birmingham, Bauser joined the Alabama Ballet Company as a company dancer in 2004, immediately after high school. "Everyone at the Alabama Ballet could not be more proud of David and his efforts to raise money for MS research. He is living proof that medications work, we just have to discover them. We are honored to support him," said Katy Olsen, Marketing Director, The Alabama Ballet. In addition to his professional career with the Alabama Ballet, he also dances with Southern Dance Works.

The 2011 *Bike the US for MS* Trans-America tour departs Yorktown, Virginia on June 1 and completes the 3,785-mile journey on July 31 in San Francisco, California. "There is nothing more amazing than watching someone respond to a challenge with grace, determination and commitment. Multiple sclerosis is a life-altering disease that affects each person in a unique and different way," said Sarah Ann Klein of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She continued, "The National MS Society appreciates Mr. Bauser's dedication to raising awareness and funds to bring us closer to a world free of MS by cycling across the U.S."

### Editor's Note:

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