

PROPOSAL
Undergraduate Summer Research Grant
Student: Colleen Lauless Faculty: Doug Risner, Ph.D.
Maggie Allesee Department of Dance

Project Title: Community Outreach in Performing Arts: A Case Study of the *Dance Africa Detroit* Touring Program

Project Goal: Through this creative research grant, Community Outreach in Performing Arts: A Case Study of the *Dance Africa Detroit* Touring Program, I would compare Wayne State University's educational touring program to others in the United States. Community outreach strives for a purpose of making students interested in topics that may not be learned in any other ways. For the university students, community outreach teaches them how to adapt the information they have learned into a unique and creative way that will make the children learn and enjoy learning at the same time. Along with this case study, I would also make a documentary of *Dance Africa Detroit* by putting together a great amount of interviews from people involved in the production and performance.

Project Description: This creative research study looks at the purpose, intent, development, and production of the Wayne State University's Maggie Allesee Department of Dance touring program. The production of *Dance Africa Detroit* was originally produced in 2005 and presented the program to 19 schools in the Detroit, the metro area and Canada from 2006-2008. This program reached nearly 15,000 K-12 students. The study will document the program's development and dissect the main components of successful performing arts outreach programs.

Research Methods: A variety of different research methods will be used in this case study, including a literature of performing arts educational touring programs; a comparison and analysis of dance touring companies in the United States; interviews with participants of the productions and touring (faculty directors, student dancers, school administrators and teachers); along with an analysis of the content in *Dance Africa Detroit*.

Research Findings: The results of the interviews and research will be presented in a documentary DVD format along with a formal paper. The research findings will also be submitted for consideration to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) and the National Dance Educational Organization (NDEO).

Student Responsibilities:

Student Collaborator: Colleen Lauless, WSU '09
BS Dance Major, BA Public Relations

As a double major (BS in Dance and BA in Public Relations), I plan to combine my knowledge of both fields in order to research and present the information researched. By having classes on Digital Dance Literacy, I have the knowledge of how to create, edit, and finalize footage that would be necessary to produce a documentary DVD. I have shown dedication to projects and creativity in a number of ways. I have received the Harriet Berg Endowed Choreography Award for a dance piece that I worked on last semester, I have maintained a 3.5/4.0 GPA, I am Vice President of my sorority, a participant in Big Brothers Big/Big Sisters, a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America, and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

The primary creative priorities for this project that the student participant will collaborate with the faculty mentor are:

- Review of literature on community outreach touring programs in arts in higher education.
- Comparative analyses of university/college dance programs with touring companies.
- interviewing techniques and protocol. During the fall, content and delivery analysis mentoring will be scheduled on a bi-weekly basis.

Faculty Participation:

Faculty Collaborator: Doug Risner, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Chair, Maggie Allesee Department of Dance

Dr. Risner is widely published nationally and internationally. He regularly contributes to *Research in Dance Education*, *Dance Research Journal*, *Journal of Dance Education*, *Arts Education Policy Review*, and *Selected Research in Dance*. As a leading dance education scholar in social and cultural issues, his current focus centers on gender, masculinity, and equity in dance education. As a qualitative researcher, he has conducted numerous interpretive studies in dance education using convenience sampling and interpretive tools such as surveys, interviews, and focus groups. He frequently lectures on qualitative research methodology and has published numerous articles and book chapters on social issues and arts education in leading journals and international volumes. As the faculty mentor, Dr. Risner has extensive experience mentoring undergraduate students at Wayne State. Many of these projects have culminated in important conference presentations, papers, performances, and journal articles including the McNair Scholars Program: *Journal of Dance Education* (2005); Undergraduate Research Award: (1) *National Conferences on Undergraduate Research* (2006), (2) *National Dance Education Organization Conference Proceedings of the 8th Annual Meeting* (2006).

Duration of Project

Project Start Date: May 30, 2008

Project End date: December 18, 2008

The student and faculty mentor will submit a final report on the research project to Undergraduate Research by December 18, 2008. The report will outline the project's findings and the respective roles of the student and faculty investigator.

Select Grant:

Student \$2300
Summer stipend

Faculty Mentor \$ 750
Mentoring and supervision
Equipment

Budget Total: \$3050

Budget Justification:

Student Stipend: \$2025
225 hours/\$9 hour

Student Travel: \$150
Mileage for conducting interviews: 300 miles at \$.50/mile

Supplies: \$125
Duplicating, computer supplies, interview tapes

Total: \$2300

Faculty Letter of Support:

See attached