

## **2009 Awardees – Benenson Awards in the Arts**

The Edward H. Benenson Awards in the Arts are given annually to undergraduate students to broaden their educational and professional objectives in the Arts. The awards are made on a competitive basis for the most outstanding project proposals and are determined by a committee of distinguished faculty representing all areas of the visual and performing arts. There are twenty award winners this year.

Brett Aresco, a graduating senior and Benenson Award recipient, will be a member of the Eugene O'Neill National Theater Institute, a 14 week intensive theater program this fall in Connecticut.

A Benenson Award has been made to Jessica Edison, a graduate who will enroll in the Drama Therapy Program in Romania, a certification program that includes an experiential component with youth in children's homes.

Supported by a Benenson Award, Junior Gwen Gettliffe plans to launch and maintain a webcomic based on the lives of engineering students at schools like Duke.

Matthew Giegerich is a graduating senior who aspires to a career as a TV writer; Matt will use his Benenson Award this summer in Los Angeles.

Sarah Goetz is a junior who will use a Benenson Award to support her study in a five week project exploring multimedia filmmaking in Arezzo, Italy. She will develop this work as her senior honors project next year.

Senior Caroline Griswold's goal is to dance with a professional ballet company; a Benenson Award will support her enrollment in an intensive dance summer project this summer.

Cameron Harms, a graduating senior and recipient of a Benenson Award, will be pursuing theatrical work and acting through an intensive summer acting program with Berkshire Theater.

This summer, with Benenson support, Nathan Jones will spend five weeks in "Mozart in the City," a program in Saltzberg which includes voice training, masterclasses and performance in opera.

Michal Koszycki, a graduating senior, will be in Cambridge, Massachusetts this summer; with support from a Benenson award, Michal will be engaged in a six week architectural immersion career discovery program at Harvard School of Design.

Supported by a Benenson Award, graduating senior Julia Kraus will spend six weeks shadowing the artistic director of Players by the Sea, a nonprofit community theater in Jacksonville, FL which will be producing two plays and a musical this summer.

Aileen Liu is a graduating senior; with Benenson support Aileen will produce a documentary video about the first year training and teaching experience of students in the Atlanta corps of Teach For America.

Connie Liu is a junior Benenson awardee. This summer, she will work with a Thailand based conservation organization and produce a documentary film on domestic Thai elephants and the lives of their trainers.

Following on her senior honors project and additional independent work on Middle Eastern women, Paula Long will use her Benenson Award to produce “35 Women, 35 Views of Beirut,” an interdisciplinary piece with artistic renderings of the women and their city, alongside critical and creative writing.

Angela McCrory is a visual arts major who, with support from a Benenson Award, will spend three months in New York City to pursue an art project she has titled “Time and Space of the Individual,” a translation of photography into large-scale paintings focused on individuals in defined spaces.

Carolyn McDaniel will apply her Benenson Award toward a directing fellowship with the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington D.C. where she will work first hand with professional directors and actors. Carolyn has directed two plays through the Duke Players Lab.

With Benenson support, graduating senior Chelsea Mize will initiate a dramatic writing endeavor focused on Los Angeles and folklore surrounding famous and infamous hauntings and ghosts, a project she has titled, “Beautiful Wickedness.”

With a Benenson Award, Matthew Patrick will take his first step towards a professional career in acting; while at Duke, Matthew has acted in 17 shows and spent a summer with a summer stock theater.

Alyssa Reichardt is a member of Lost in Trees, a local band on a Chapel Hill-based records label. The band is the current subject of Alyssa’s ongoing photography project which she will bring to completion with support from a Benenson Award.

Graduating senior Young-In Song has planned a documentary project with the Women's Business Leadership Development in Ghana which has as one of its emphases the business of textiles with unique designs through the traditional art of batik.

A music major, Michael Wood has studied modern western flute for ten years. With a Benenson Award, Michael will travel to Tokyo, Japan, for a two-week study the Shakuhachi Flute in the Kinko form of playing.

Gretchen Wright will be a Directing Intern at the Actors Theatre of Louisville for the 2009-2010 theater season.

Suxiao Yang, a graduating senior, and was one of only 36 young musicians selected to study this summer in the Quartet Program at SUNY Fredonia, an opportunity made possible for her by a Benenson Award in the Arts.