

## **Benenson Awards in the Arts: 2013 Awardees**

The Edward H. Benenson Awards in the Arts are given annually to undergraduate students to broaden their educational and professional perspectives 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 were 18 award winners in 2013.

### **Ritza Calixte (T'2013, Theater Studies, Sociology) Continued Studies in the Practice of Performance**

Ritza Calixte will develop her acting skills by taking classes at a variety of studios in the Los Angeles area, including Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop, the Beverly Hills Playhouse, the Ivana Chubbuck Studio, and Lesly Kahn & Company. She will follow her initial survey of studios with three months of intensive coursework in the summer of 2013.

### **Lauren DeLucia (T'2014, Music) Opera Training in Italy**

Lauren DeLucia will study classical vocal technique and Italian language at the prestigious Siena Summer Music program in Siena, Italy in August 2013. Her training will include master classes with vocal faculty who have performed in some of the most prestigious venues in the world including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Deutsche Oper Berlin and more. Her studies with skilled professionals in one of the opera capitals of the world will be invaluable in her artistic growth and preparation for her senior year at Duke and beyond.

### **Michaela Dwyer (T'2013, English) To Dance by *Being Oneself*: An Autoethnography through Movement, Space, and Creative Placemaking**

Michaela Dwyer will be a full-time student at the American Dance Festival in Durham, working towards combining dance and documentary in the creation of audio ethnographies, culminating in an evening-length audio and film installation that will be mounted at the university and a local gallery.

### **Molly Forlines (T'2013, Theater Studies, English) Advanced Acting Training with the Michael Howard Summer Conservatory Molly Forlines will be a student in the six-week intensive Michael Howard Studio Summer Conservatory program in New York City. The Summer Conservatory Program is extremely competitive, and intended for students and professionals who are seriously pursuing careers in theater with classes in scene study, movement, voice, camera, Shakespeare, acting techniques, clown, improvisation, and the business of acting.**

### **Conrad Haynes (T'2013, Computer Science & Visual Arts) Gobelins Summer School Character Animation**

Conrad Haynes will attend an intensive animation summer program at Gobelins School in Paris, France. The two week program will feature master class workshops with animation professionals in preparation for graduate work in animation.

### **Holly Hilliard (T'2013, English) Writing for Young Adults Workshop in New York City**

Holly Hilliard will participate in a 6-week *Writing for Young Adults* workshop at The Sackett Street Writers' Workshop in New York City. Holly will develop a novel under the guidance and support of the workshop, the second in a planned trilogy of young adult novels started with her first work and senior Distinction project, *Contributions*.

**Alana Jackson (T'2013, Program II: "Intersections of Public Health and the Performing Arts")  
Arts in Healthcare Educational Enrichment**

Alana Jackson will participate in two courses during the next year: *Arts in Healthcare Clinical Practice Intensive* at the University at Buffalo, a 2-week intensive course in a clinical setting; *Arts for Health, Peace and Community Engagement* in Northern Ireland, a month-long abroad and service learning course in clinical and community health. She will produce *She W[rites] of Passage*, a recording project chronicling her experiences through music and spoken word.

**Kristian King (T'2013, Biology)**

**Sarah Lawrence College and the International Film Institute of New York Summer Film Intensive; New York University Tisch Special Programs: Fundamentals of Sight: Filmmaking (noncredit summer course); New York Film Academy 4-week Filmmaking Workshop**

Kristian King will be attending 3 filmmaking courses to refine and develop her skill as a director in support of her intended career in filmmaking. The Sarah Lawrence Film Intensive will provide hands-on experience with screenwriting, directing and production; The New York University program focuses on visual storytelling and the use of sound; and the New York Film Academy Workshop will teach basic techniques for working on a set. Each course will involve both classroom and practical experience.

**Rebecca Kuzemchak (T'2013, Visual Arts / Psychology)**

**The Meta-Encyclopedic Palace**

Rebecca Kuzemchak will work on the construction of a 'Meta-encyclopedic Palace' as an exploratory compilation chronicling the 2013 Venice Biennale. The 'Palace' will attempt to capture, in subjective art form, a comprehensive representation of the world's knowledge as represented by a world's worth of artists' efforts at the Biennale. The work will consist of 136 panels depicting a distinct nation or collateral exhibition, eventually to be exhibited in Washington, D.C.

**Steven Li (T'2013, Theater Studies)**

**Honing the Actor's Technique through Summer Conservatory Acting Intensive**

Steven Li will be applying to three summer conservatory intensives: the American Conservatory Theater, Michael Howard Studios, and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He will hone his technique as an actor to better utilize theater for social change. Classes engage the student from morning to evening, training the actor in voice, physicality, scene study, text analysis, Shakespeare, and acting technique.

**Rebecca Pham (T'2014, Biology, Dance)**

**Movement Heals: Exploring the Intersection of Dance, Science, and Medicine**

Rebecca Pham will explore the concept of healing through movement to see how the arts can shape public education and public health, including childhood obesity. Using popular dance forms as the basis for workouts, she also will develop an educational component to fight obesity and help students build self-esteem. The summer 2013 research project, which includes shadowing, internship and classes, will be expanded as a senior thesis at Duke.

**Alpha Tessema (T'2013, Theatre Studies)**

**Second City Summer Immersion**

Alpha Tessema participated in a 4-week summer immersion program at the Second City Training Center in Chicago, the largest school of improvisation and sketch comedy in the world. He explored his passion for comedy in a formal training environment to perfect his technique and gain further insight into possible career opportunities in comedy.

**Philip Watson (T'2014, Theater Studies and Classical Civilizations)**

**Summer Studies in Physical Theater**

Philip Watson participated in a summer intensive at SITI company, a New York ensemble-based theater company. He explored two methods of physical theater, Viewpoints and the Suzuki Method, revolving around boundary-pushing movement-based theater. He will incorporate these techniques into his senior distinction project in Spring 2014.

**Kimberly Welch (T'2013, Theater Studies)**

**Art and Activism: Tools to Address Women's Educational Rights in Uganda**

Kimberly Welch returned to Uganda in the summer of 2013 to continue the scholarship explored by "Cooking Oil", a play that questions women's educational rights in Uganda. She worked with the NGO, InMovement, in a two week internship to gain hands-on experience with Ugandan arts-based education programs that target disadvantaged youth in Kampala. She expects that the experience will lay the foundation for her graduate work in Theater Studies.

**Genevieve Werner (T'2013, International Comparative Studies)**

**American Pavilion Assistant at the Venice Biennale**

Genevieve Werner interned at the American pavilion at the 55th Venice Art Biennale in the summer of 2013. As part of internship, she assisted in presenting and managing the exhibition of the featured artist, Sarah Sze. She will document her experience and observations of visitors' interactions and engagement with Sze's work through a photojournalism project to further ties between the Nasher Museum and the Venice Biennale.

**Alyssa Wong (T'2013, English, Theater Studies)**

**Clarion Writers Workshop for Science Fiction & Fantasy**

Alyssa Wong participated in the intensive six-week summer Clarion program, the premier proving and training ground for aspiring writers of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. She worked on six short stories alongside other writers, including published, well-established authors. The workshop helped her gain the skills and insights useful for forging a career in science fiction and fantasy writing.

**Ivy Zhou (T'2013, Public Policy)**

**Oberlin in Italy**

Ivy Zhou participated in Oberlin in Italy, a 5-week training program through Oberlin Conservatory of Music for college-aged musicians. She immersed herself in intensive private lessons, masterclasses, and language training from top instructors and directors around the world, along with real stage experience. An aspiring opera singer, the program will help her bridge the gap between undergraduate studies and graduate work and eventually professional level singing and performance.

**Yuan Zhuang (T'2013, Econ and Art History)**

**Identity**

Yuan Zhuang will participate in the Ne'-Na Contemporary Art Space Residency Program in Northern Thailand. She will engage with the remnants of the local Thai arts and crafts tradition and execute site-specific projects focusing on the concept of self-identity.