“Tish Students Explore ‘Myth of Creation’ as Baryshnikov Fellows

By Richard Pierce

T he Baryshnikov Arts Foundation and the Tisch School of the Arts recently held the second annual Baryshnikov Arts Center Fellowship Program. The 2006 program offered 22 undergraduate and graduate students from the Tisch’s seven conservatory programs—dance, design for stage and film, dramatic writing, film, musical theatre writing, interactive telecommunications, and acting—an unprecedented creative experience to musical theatre writing, interactive story programs—dance, design for students from the Tisch’s seven conservatory programs: dance, design for stage and film, dramatic writing, film, musical theatre writing, interactive telecommunications, and acting—an unprecedented creative experience to

Tunstall Terrill, who begins a master’s program in the Gallatin School of Individualized Study this fall, translated the life of her developmentally disabled brother in Iowa into an award-winning one-man play, determined to improve the quality of care and educational opportunities for people with autism and other disabilities.

Rosa Meyer, who will study at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, was the originator of a Social Action Center that connected fellow students and resources at Miami University in Ohio to a poor, violence-marred community near the campus. The center grew out of his experiences as a volunteer at a homeless shelter as a teenager.

“You can’t be about charity necessarily,” says Meyers, “but educating students about issues of race and poverty right next door, and trying to engage them in work that could make a difference.” Despite their varied backgrounds and interests, Terrill and Meyer share a vision of pattern-breaking work of public importance and to tackle seemingly intractable social problems by innovative means. They are among the first undergraduate and graduate students who have been chosen to study at NYU under the Catherine B. Reynolds Program in Social Entrepreneurship. The cross-university program is the result of a $10 million gift to the University from the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation and is bringing a gamut of social enterprises to the University, giving all students access to, among other things, a speaker series, workshops, new classes, and library resources. The program is based at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and administered at the school in conjunction with the Office of the Provost. Social entrepreneurs often bring the skills of the marketplace to social initiatives. They can be found in government, nonprofit organizations, and profit-making companies that have social goals as part of their aims. One of the best-known examples is the economist Mohammed Yunus, who created a lending institution to grant micro-loans to enable poor women in rural Bangladesh to expand small enterprises, an approach to international economic development and private lending that has been replicated in other third world countries.

Of those chosen for the Reynolds Program in a highly competitive process last spring, 17 are graduate students selected from 600 initial applicants. These Reynolds Fellows will receive $25,000 for each of two years of full-time study and will participate in a host of educational activities, networking opportunities, and other programming in social entrepreneurship. They represent a true range of graduate school disciplines, in addition to Wagner and Gallatin, the Steinhardt School, the School of Medicine, the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, the School of Law, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and the College of Dentistry.

Nine undergraduate Reynolds Scholars, all of whom are headed into junior year, were selected from 115 initial applicants and will receive $20,000 for each of two years of study, with dedicated faculty mentors, internships, and additional programming.

Zachary Lane, a Reynolds scholar, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in politics at NYU. Lane founded an American Civil Liberties Union chapter when he was a high school student in Colorado and spurred a lawsuit that blocked—on the grounds of free speech—a state law requiring public school students across the state to recite the pledge of allegiance. He also has a strong interest in prisoners’ rights and capital punishment, two of the areas he hopes to explore more deeply through the program.

Reynolds Fellows: Aura Caldera, who attends the College of Dentistry, researched and organized a week-long dental clinic that operated for four days last spring in a rural Nicaragua town that lacked even one local dentist. Six hundred patients received 1,000 badly needed treatments from the staff of students and faculty members. The facility is to reconvene next March in expanded form.

Terrill, whose play on autism was voted “Best Solo Show” at the New York International Fringe Festival in 2004, is resolved to implement new methods to elicit language and engage individuals with disabilities. Through her work in the field, she has developed new approaches to learning and improving the communication abilities of autistic children through high-energy performance, music, and art.

Inaugural Reynolds Awardees Tackle Social Problems

Brett Ulrich, an adjunct instructor in physics who recently received an Outstanding Teaching Award at Baruch College, has developed an initiative to explore more deeply through the Hell’s Kitchen Dance Tour — Rachel Branciforti

One student and three recent graduates of the Department of Dance in the Tisch School of the Arts (TOSA) were selected to dance this summer with Mikhail Baryshnikov and the Hell’s Kitchen Dance 2006 company, which performed in Buffalo, NY, and in Berkeley and Santa Barbara, CA, before heading to Barcelona and Madrid. TOSA graduates Reza Jacobs, Carline Murakami, and Kryzaniwsky, Angrette McCloskey, and produced in the environment of Baruch College. The Hell’s Kitchen School, which performed in Buffalo, NY, and in Berkeley and Santa Barbara, CA, before heading to Barcelona and Madrid. TOSA graduates Reza Jacobs, Carline Murakami, and Kryzaniwsky, Angrette McCloskey, and produced in the environment of Baruch College.

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