

Jessica Smith
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I am honored and excited to be awarded as a College Arts Scholar, and thrilled to be able to make the most of this opportunity. I had originally intended to use this grant to attend various dance intensives and festivals throughout the summer. My plans changed however, as I have recently been chosen to be the Development Fundraising/Individual Intern for Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. The Pillow is an incredible chance to work with and around dance in an incredibly intimate and creative way; this was an opportunity that I could not let pass me by. Because the internship runs from May to September, the only opportunity the internship with Jacob's Pillow prevents me from is experiencing other dance festivals this summer. Therefore, I am really excited to be able to use the College Arts Scholar grant over next fall, and be able to take full advantage of both opportunities.

As I am crafting a thesis for my Interdisciplinary Major next year, I want to use this grant as a way to research and explore dance that will then be used in my thesis. Between my work at Jacob's Pillow this summer and working intimately with George Sampson on the upcoming second half of the Bill T. Jones residency in the fall, I will have had ample experience seeing dance from an Arts Administration perspective. For my thesis, I am planning to put on a dance concert featuring my own choreography. At this point, the theme of the concert is *structure*; from concrete framework of buildings to the 14 lines of iambic pentameter in a sonnet.

I plan to use winter break as a chance to utilize the Arts Scholar Grant to go dance and choreograph. I am planning on either going abroad to Europe or staying within the US, probably in the North East region. The grant will fund my travel expenses and any fees associated with dance classes and programs. I am not sure yet who I will be dancing with; what company, program, or instructors, but I know I want an experience that has a holistic approach to dance, for students as dancers, choreographers, and artists. If I could find a program that incorporates Laban Movement Analysis, a system for analyzing and describing movement, I could then ideally incorporate my knowledge of Laban

as well. I hope to use my experience dancing over the January term as source material, movement vocabulary, and choreography experience to apply to my thesis concert.

I am thrilled to be honored as an Arts Scholar, and to be able to make the most of my opportunities at hand. I truly feel that there are so many doors and windows open to me because of this program, and I am very thankful. I cannot wait to find an avenue to explore dance for the January term, that will be a fantastic supplement to the dance portion of my Interdisciplinary Major, an incredible source for my thesis, and truly a culminating capstone for my four years at UVA.