"Measure That" is a duet that was collaboratively created by Courtney Baron and Megan Kendzior. The work began as an exploration of the various symbols of a meter stick. They investigated the relationship that is immediately presented when an object is introduced. The duet resulted in the literal use of a meter stick and the study of culture with relationships such as: batter vs. pitcher in baseball, sword fighting partners, the exact distance between people things, and other human interactions. Courtney Baron, originally from Hewlett, NY, and Megan Kendzior, originally from Sarasota, Fl, are both junior BFA dance majors in the School of Theatre and Dance at the University of Florida. They have worked with various artists during their time at UF, such as Neta Pulvermacher, Shapiro & Smith Dance, Tche Tche, Physical Dance Theatre, among others. Their experience with these artists made their collaborative efforts on the duet possible. This work has been presented in the Spring 2008 BFA Showcase and at the Joyce SoHo in New York City during the UF/NYC Dance Xchange. They plan to use the award in order to attend the American College Dance Festival in Roanoke, Virginia in March 2009, where this duet will be showcased in representation of the School of Theatre and Dance.

Lauren Bailow is a senior at the University of Florida and is preparing to receive her BFA this upcoming May. Her minor in Art History has sparked her interest in Italy, and with this award she feels as though she has already made it 1/12th of the way there. She tends to work in the abstract and working with opaque slick surfaces. Although her concentration is in drawing she likes to use malleable materials such that she might hand-shape them, later defining them as sculpture. With her series last semester titled "pennycandy" she appears to have had more fun melting things than the spring sun wiping out snowmen. Many of the methods she uses incorporate ingrained practices from childhood, many of which can be found in generic toys she finds at the dollar store. She likes to keep busy by making piñatas and carving pumpkins depending upon the season. She will be using this award toward the purchasing of rolls of plastic to attempt work in a greater scale. With no goal, by any means, to save the world, she would like a career of a display artist, but in the meantime promises to recycle.
Evan Kassof began studying cello and composing when he was 12 years old. Now a physics and music composition major, he studies cello with Dr. Steven Thomas and composition with Dr. Paul Basler, Dr. Paul Richards, and Dr. Paul Koonce. Since his arrival at the University of Florida, he has had three works premiered, including the Physics Suite for Cello Sextet. Evan’s music concentrates on achieving a balance between accessibility and artistic innovation and he hopes that his pieces successfully do both.

Crystal Runk is a senior majoring in dance. She is very involved in the dance department in many ways. She is a leader in the classroom and out, she is an emerging choreographer, and dances in productions every semester. The dance work that she won the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Award for is titled "Unconscious Accomplice". This was her senior thesis dance work that she created in the fall of 2008 under the direction of Richard Rose. The piece is an interactive dance piece that focuses on submission to authority. It explores the ideas presented by psychologist Stanley Milgram in his obedience experiments. She also used personal experience and events from history and present day that deal with authority in the making of the dance piece. Crystal plans to use the award to help travel to American College Dance Festival this spring as well as travel with the UF dance department during their summer dance exchange. She will hopefully present her work during the exchange this summer.

Morgan Slavens is a Senior in the Graphic Design program at the University of Florida. She was accepted to this upper level, computer-integrated graphic design program in the Fall of 2007, becoming one of eighteen in a unique community of student designers. The design studio promotes communication, collaboration, and individual concept development. Also, while on track for her BFA, she began taking psychology classes and became interested in the field of psychology. She volunteered as a research assistant on Dr. James Shepherd’s social psychology research team in Fall of 2007 and continued volunteering for Spring 2008. This experience led her to combine the two fields into a project called "Oneironauts", a board game created in Spring 2008 for Brian Slawson’s Image, Form, and Meaning junior-level design class. The game focuses on the theories of four major psychologist’s in the field of dream analysis, and allows the player to judge and interpret dreams using creativity, humor, originality and realism. Morgan is also the recipient of the Spring 2009 James J. Rizzi Scholarship for artistic ability and academic standing. She plans to use her award to pursue further research in design for sustainability and economic, social, and environmental development.
Emily Ricq is a senior majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Psychology and a Flinn Scholar at the University of Arizona. As a participant in the France REU program, Emily spent 8 months at the Pierre et Marie Curie University in Paris, France where she synthesized novel cell-penetrating peptides in the group of Dr. Solange Lavielle. This research will result in two publications, one on the synthetic techniques of her project, and another on the biophysical interactions of these peptides with cell membranes. As a recipient of a 2009 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science for Life Undergraduate Creativity Award, Emily will present her research at the 238th ACS conference in Washington D.C. in August of 2009. In her free time, Emily loves running, singing in the university choir, and baking for her family and friends.

Miorel Paliu graduated from the International Baccalaureate program at Eastside High School in 2006. He is currently a junior pursuing a triple major in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Physics, and Computer Science. He is the captain of UF’s programming team and was on the first-ever UF team to qualify for the World Finals of the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest. Miorel has been involved in undergraduate research since his first semester as a full-time UF student. His first project was investigating the post translational modifications of the human activating transcription factor 4 protein, in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Kilberg, under the auspices of the HHMI “Science for Life” program. Miorel discovered his interest in structural biology in fall 2007 and joined the laboratory of Dr. Robert McKenna, where he is involved in a variety of projects. In summer 2008, Miorel received a summer research scholarship from the American Cancer Society, to study the synergy of carbonic anhydrase IX inhibitors and the chemotherapeutic agent docetaxel. Starting summer 2009, he will be participating in the University Scholars program, solving structures of a drug-complexed mutant HIV protease by X-Ray crystallography. After college, Miorel’s career plans are interdisciplinary research as a medical scientist using both physical and computational methods. In his free time, Miorel enjoys playing tennis, learning languages, and telling anyone who will listen about the merits of the Linux operating system.

Johnny Harris is currently a member of Dr. Gail Fanucci’s research group and had the opportunity to complete a summer internship last summer at Emory University under the leadership of Dr. Dale Edmondson. His current research project involves studying the flap conformations of HIV protease when selected mutations are introduced into the protein’s structure. His research project at Emory consisted of finding potential sites for phosphorylation on Human Monoamine Oxidase A. In his free time he loves working out, playing basketball, reading and playing video games. He is a third year Biochemistry major and plan on entering a MD or MD/PhD program upon graduation. He was selected to be a University of Florida Ronald McNair Scholar this year and was chosen to come back as a member of the program during his final year at UF. He is honored to win the HHMI Science for Life Creativity Award and plans on using his scholarship to fund his trip to Boston for the Biophysical Society’s annual conference where he will present a poster entitled “Kinetic Characterization of Spin-Labeled HIV-1 Protease Mutants for Pulsed-EPR Experiments.”
Andrew Scheuermann is a sophomore double majoring in Chemistry and Economics. After graduating from Edgewood High School in 2007, he entered the University of Florida and began working in Dr. Cammy Abernathy’s group that September. Since then, Andrew has been awarded UF’s Wentworth Scholarship, the Department of Material Science’s REM Scholarship, the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Scholarship, and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. For the 2009 University of Florida & Morehouse College HHMI Celebration of Undergraduate Creativity in the Arts & Sciences, Andrew presented his research on “Failure Mechanisms and Reliability of GaN-based HEMTs and MESFETs,” a part of the MURI project funded by the Department of Defense and the Office of Naval Research. This exciting sector in semiconductor research is working to open the road for compound semiconductors. His specific research area will be applicable to new applications in next generation battleships and submarines, the “more-electric” airplane, hybrid drivetrain automobiles, and power transistors for communication power stations and industrial machinery. With the Undergraduate Creativity Award, Andrew is looking to present his research this summer at a Gordon Conference in the New England area along with performing an internship at Harvard University with Dr. Narayannmurti where he will continue studying electron transport, now on the nanoscale. In his free time, Andrew helps coordinate the Undergraduate Research seminars on campus, is actively involved at First Presbyterian church of Gainesville, plays intramural basketball, and leads a successful rock band performing regularly around town. Andrew is apart of several clubs at UF, but plays the biggest role in the UF Fencing Team where he recently became the highest ranked foilist in the school and the second highest collegiate foilist in the state of Florida.

Sara Raiser is an undergraduate senior majoring in biology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. During the spring semester of 2008, she began working with her mentor, Dr. Vin Tangpricha, Associate Professor of Medicine at Emory specializing in Endocrinology, in his research lab. Sara worked through the summer, funded by the Emory Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), and the Atlanta Research and Education Foundation (AREF). Sara completed a ten-week clinical pilot study with Dr. Tangpricha, examining the effects of oral calcitriol treatment on hypertensive adults. She presented the study’s findings at poster symposiums at Emory University in July and October of 2008, as well as, at the University of Florida in January of 2009. With the first place award she won at the UF competition, Sara will present and defend her poster at a hypertension conference of her choice during 2009. A publication is in preparation on these current findings, with Sara listed as a co-author. Sara’s current research project is working on a senior honors thesis with her advisor, Dr. Mark Nanes, Professor of Medicine at Emory School of Medicine, Assistant Chief of Medicine at the Atlanta Veterans’ Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), and Chief of the Endocrine Section at the Atlanta VAMC. In addition to participating in academic research, Sara is also an avid sportswoman. At Emory University, she has been a member of the Club Sports Program, serving as Treasurer for the Cycling and Triathlon Club and the Club Sports Council. She regularly competes in long-distance running events as well as triathlons and hopes to complete her first marathon this year.

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