The Creativity in the Arts and Sciences Event was held on January 22, 2012 at the University of Florida. Almost 140 undergraduate students competed for the UF-HHMI Science For Life Undergraduate Creativity Awards within either the Sciences or Arts categories or a Science/Art Collaboration category. Awards totaling $14,000 were given to the winners of the event. Special thanks to all UF, Furman, LSU and Emory students for participating in another successful CASE.
Kayla Adams

Kayla is a senior majoring in Sculpture and Linguistics in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida. She is working towards her Bachelor of Fine Arts. She is active in working to combine and collaborate across different fields as the co-founder of ScArt, a student organization, and a teaching assistant for the course and public lecture series “Analogous Thinking in the Art and Sciences.” For the CASE event, she worked with undergraduate science student, Yin Ting Lo, to three dimensionally illustrate the spine and intervertebral discs, which she researches.

Kayla will use the CASE award to help fund a trip to New York where she will see Bjork’s Biophilia performance, a very high profile art and science collaboration with the New York Hall of Science, as part of her New York residency. This stage performance highlights her compositions about nature.

Marcelle Altshuler

Marcelle is a sophomore majoring in Neuroscience in the Department of Biology at the University of Florida. She is really excited to be working on a project that focuses on the aging brain—or rather the dysfunction of the aging brain—as it is a sort of meeting of her two study disciplines. Marcelle’s major gives her a great insight into the functional aspects of the brain which is really complemented and is enhanced by her Philosophy minor, which explores how we use our brains to formulate ideas and opinions. Marcelle finds that the lab project that she is working on that investigates why our brains degenerate when we get old in a disease called Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration is fascinating and humbling; people affected by disease lose their linguistic abilities or sometimes fundamentally change their behavior. Although the processes underlying these changes are complex, she hopes that the disease modeling she does in animals can provide some insight into the changes occurring and push her down the path to therapies.

This CASE award will help fund Marcelle’s attendance to the 2012 International Conference on Frontotemporal Dementias in Manchester. When she is not using her own neurons to think about the inner workings of the brain, Marcelle is always interested in experiencing something novel, which has led her to rock climbing, hiking and caving trips and most recently to the icebergs of Chile (pictured). She says that she is very fortunate to have these opportunities, and perhaps one day can provide some people with more time and opportunities in their lives with a career in Medicine.
Michael Bauman

Michael is a senior majoring in Sculpture in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida. His work focuses on alternative methods of mark making. He has developed methods that allow him to take an industrial plating process, namely electroforming and turn it into a viable art making process. This is a method in which thin layers of copper are slowly deposited over time onto the surface of an object, changing its form and surface. This is much like the way in which the holding and caressing of an object can lead to the slow accumulation of skin cells on its surface forever altering its form and forcing it to take on a new life and bear tangible marks that show the manipulation that went into its design.

The work that Michael presented at CASE was titled *Sus Scrofa Domesticus*, where he used the copper electroplating process to highlight, in an art object, the biological effects of domestication. In this case domestication has led to the change and alteration of a particular species of animal, namely the wild hog.

As for the CASE award, Michael hopes to be able to use it to travel on the School of Art and Art History’s New York trip. This trip focuses on exposing one to new work as well as new ideas in the art world by combining private studio visits with artists with museum and gallery outings. In addition to this trip, Michael will purchase a larger constant current rectifier, which will allow him to electroplate larger objects.

Denean Caperton

Denean is a senior majoring in Graphic Design in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida. She also focuses on her UF Sustainability Intern with a dedication for education through her communication arts. Denean’s design work is highly conceptual, allowing the medium to be determined by the message. She tends to get her hands messy in paint, wood, video, or even food to manifest her messages. Such themes tend to educate the public on sustainable efforts, natural areas, research data and human betterment. Her CASE collaboration project with researcher Kristin Magrini represented phylogeographic research on Tadarida brasiliensis, or Mexican Free-tailed Bat. Through implementation of laser cutting technologies, the interactive infographic is intended for outreach and education.

Denean plans to use the CASE award to purchase a digital camera.
Yun Min Chang

Yun Min is a junior majoring in Biochemistry and Art History at the University of Florida. He worked under the direction of Dr. Weihong Tan in the Department of Chemistry since the beginning of his freshman year as a UF-HHMI Science for Life Awardee. This past summer, Yun Min completed an internship at the Institute Pasteur de Lille, France developing new tools for peptide ligation and its applications to treating cancer as a UF-HHMI Extramural Awardee. He was recently awarded the HHMI EXROP award to conduct research with Dr. Stuart Schreiber at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT.

This year, Yun Min collaborated with Nicole Ruggiero, a Graphic Design student, to create a reproducible booklet on his research on using aptamers to improve bone marrow transplants. Their goal was to use simple non-conventional illustrations and the tangibility of the booklet to communicate a potentially complex research goal and details. He claims that the experience of collaborating with an art student has opened his eyes and has broadened his network of working with Nicole again on future scientific and art projects. Yun Min plans to use the CASE award to support the cost of attending an American Chemical Society or Gordon conference in the future.

Rachel Damiani

Rachel is a sophomore majoring in Biology and English at the University of Florida. She states that for most of her life, she did not think that her “out of the box” thinking style could mesh with science. In the past couple of years, however, she has begun to realize the immense creativity embedded in science and is passionate about exploring this overlap. Rachel’s involvement on campus stems from this interest. She says that she enjoys working in Dr. Jamie Gillooly’s lab in the Department of Biology, where she is challenged to utilize creativity in research. Also, Rachel is an intern with the Office of Sustainability. Through the UF Creative Campus Committee, she is currently working with a team of undergraduates on a creative project to raise awareness about our waste streams.

For CASE, Rachel collaborated with Heather Foster, a Fine Arts and English dual major. She relayed that initially, they bonded over a love of storytelling. In their project, they hoped to integrate the scientific process of an amphibian’s growth and development with a very “human” story portrayed through art and poetry. Rachel stated that it was such a joy to work with Heather. She astels (even though she was convinced that she was ruining everything!) and enjoyed Heather and her discussions about science and art. As they worked on this project together, she saw that science came alive to her in a new way. Heather and Rachel are interested in working on a children’s book for their next project and are excited to see where it takes them. They hope to use the CASE award towards this project.
Abigail De La Pena

Abigail is a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Biomechanics at the University of Florida. She was born in Mexico and has lived in the United States for 8 years. From a young age, Abigail says that she knew she wanted to study engineering and apply the knowledge learned there into medical research. Some of her hobbies include drawing, cooking, photography, learning languages and traveling. The research Abigail does involves looking at the collective mechanical behavior of endothelial capillary networks.

For CASE she collaborated with Jarrod Tredway. She feels that the collaboration brought both of them great insight into each other’s majors and helped her gain a deeper understanding on how to portray dense scientific information in an appealing way that would promote the interest of viewers. Their exhibition included a scientific poster, a video showing cell displacement and a 3-D model. Abigail plans on using the CASE award to further her progress in her research and academic career.

Heather Foster

Heather is a junior majoring in Drawing in the School of Art and Art History and an English dual major at the University of Florida. Her focus is in drawing and children’s literature. As an aspiring illustrator, she is always looking for stories. Heather says that this is why working with Rachel Damiani, a Biology and English dual major also looking for stories, was so rewarding. In “Metamorphosis”, an illustrated poem about a tadpole’s journey into froghood, they captured the emotional significance of equilibrium.

With their CASE award, Heather and Rachel plan to make a children’s picture book that showcases the life sciences in a poetic, fun and accessible light. When she graduates from UF, Rachel plans to earn a Master of Fines Art Degree so that she can return to Gainesville, teach college art courses and illustrate children’s books.
Shannon Kalahar

Shannon is a senior majoring in Creative Photography in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida. Her current body of work navigates divinity, self, and science through a variety of video pieces, photographs, and installation. Shannon utilizes physical forms of meditation and ideology from Eastern religions to explore how the body is connected to the environment in both a divine and physical way. Actions such as breath are important for centering oneself and remaining in the present. The artist’s breath is affected by complications of cystic fibrosis, and so the veracity and fullness of breath are dependent on medical science. Breath carries the important attribute of being constant but unseen. Like some descriptions of god, only the effects of breath are tangible. Shannon’s work attempts to cross these boundaries by referencing a physical world and a spiritual world in each piece.

Breathing Room I is an intimate video piece enhanced by headphones. The sound track of inhaling and exhaling breaths matches the rising and falling of a seemingly vaporous substance in an abstract space that references inside the body, and a natural space. The walls are dark and slick, with spots of white (referencing infection) and coated with fibrous black objects (cilia). Red spots indicate hemoptysis. It asks the audience to consider the intricacies of the human body, its autonomic- but often taken for granted- processes that keep us alive. This surreal landscape is disquieting and mesmerizing. The slow rise and fall is meditative, causing the participants to synch their breath with the video. Shannon will be using the CASE award to finance supplies for a room sized installation at her second solo show this Spring. She will also consider the award to finance a body of work created from viewing the Northern Lights this March or September (the best times for viewing Aurora Borealis).

Sharneice Kenley

Sharneice is a senior majoring in Biology at Bennett College. She is a native to our nation’s capital; Washington DC. Raised in a single family home and being the eldest child out of 2, she was taught what dedication, assertion, truth and integrity was early on. As a child Sharneice says that she had always craved for facts and the “why” of every situation and because of that she has always strived and aspired to be a scientist. She was granted a research opportunity at the University of Florida this previous summer (2011) in the Carl Addison Pound Human Identification lab under the guidance of the honorary Dr. Michael Warren and his prestigious lab assistants. She was taught how to critically think and apply in the profession of forensic anthropology. Forensic anthropology is the application of the science of physical anthropology to the legal process. Sharneice independently and diligently worked on a donated forensic case from the early 1980’s. Through her training and mentorship from the lab, her job was to identify who was before her based on only skeletal remains.

Sharneice states that she is both thankful and honored to be a winner and recipient of the 2012 CASE award. She plans to utilize not only the funds provided but the title as well; to network and present her research at other potential graduate schools. She also plans to buy science supplies; such as books and lab instruments so that not only her but the scientific community at Bennett College can partake in as well. Sharneice plans to use her title to inspire and motivate other first time presenters.
Tahsin is a senior majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology through the Interdisciplinary program at the University of Florida. His research interests are in neuroscience and he is currently involved in Dr. Ron Mandel’s lab. His project aims to further investigate the role of a protein called alpha-synuclein in Parkinson’s Disease pathology. Tahsin claims that he has been fortunate to have a very diverse upbringing—growing up in Bangladesh and living in Toronto, Miami, and now Gainesville. He says that he enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends and working out.

He plans to use the CASE award to continue to travel and present his work at research conferences.

Allyson is a junior majoring in Printmaking in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida. She is currently working at Shand’s Hospital, in the Department of Urology, as a Graphic Designer. Allyson works on medical diagrams and graphics. In her art practice, she uses her scientific background as a marine biology magnet student to enhance her art and add other dimension and layers.

For her CASE project, Allyson collaborated with Leslie Slota. Allyson plans on using the CASE award to explore wider dimensions, and attend a class during the summer to explore a different medium such as wood cuts or lithograph plates.
Yinting is a junior majoring in Biology at the University of Florida. She has been involved with Dr. Brian Harfe’s lab since Spring semester of her Freshman year. Delving into the world of molecular genetics research, she says the she has learned numerous techniques, discovered new information, and gained an appreciation for all the research being done to understand more about ourselves and our surroundings. She states that one of Dr. Harfe’s projects, examining intervertebral disc development, fits her interests of anatomy and physiology. They are studying the role of two genes involved with the maturation as well as degeneration of the intervertebral disc in mice. Knocking out the function of these genes proved to have significant implications in the vertebral column: compacted discs, disorganized vertebral bodies, and a severely shortened tail. Their research continues with figuring out how these results came to be and potential effects on the expression of other genes. Their goal is to learn more about the little known development of the intervertebral disc in hopes that new treatments can be devised for disc degeneration, a common cause of lower back pain. Similarly, Yinting’s personal goal is to become a physician’s assistant, fixing injuries and combating disease.

The CASE collaboration project with Kayla Adams was Yinting’s first opportunity to present her research. Yinting says that she was nervous at first, but it was fun and actually improved her understanding of the project. She also feels that partnering with an art student was an interesting experience. Kayla’s idea of creating a sculpture of the vertebral column gave a creative and tangible aspect to her research. Yinting hopes to have more chances to present by using her award to fund trips. She will use the CASE award for travel to future conferences, such as the Annual National Society of Developmental Biology Conference.

Kristin is a senior majoring in Zoology at the University of Florida. Due to her broad interests, it has been her goal to take a variety of classes in hopes of receiving a diverse education. She is especially interested in the genetic sciences and is constantly searching for opportunities to get more involved. Currently, one of Kristin’s most ambitious goals is to bring her research on the phylogeography of Mexican free-tailed bats (Tadarida brasiliensis) to the point that will allow her to be the first author on a peer-reviewed publication. Kristin’s long-term aim is to finish an M.D. program with a Master’s degree in genomic sciences. She intends to be a clinical researcher with a focus in genetics that also works directly with patients. Furthermore, she hopes to one day teach at a university.

Kristin plans to use the CASE award to take another collecting trip to the Bahamas with her lab to collect additional bat samples for her project. She plans to publish her project in the journal Molecular Ecology or Biotropica.
Lindsay Matthews

Lindsay is a senior majoring in Anthropology & Human Biology and Spanish at Emory University. She has spent a semester studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain. She has also worked at Yerkes National Primate Research Center investigating mechanisms of drugs of abuse in squirrel monkeys, specifically focusing on amphetamine. Lindsay explains that the study’s broader focus is to find a drug for stimulant dependents to take to ease withdrawal and prevent relapse.

Lindsay plans to use her CASE award to travel to a conference this Spring to present her work.

Kyle Mosler

Kyle is freshman majoring in dance with a double minor in Education and Spanish at the University of Florida. When he finishes his BFA in dance here, he is interested in getting an MFA so that he can teach dance at a college level. Kyle started dancing at 15 when he took a high school dance tech 1 class. After he auditioned for Avant Garde, the high school dance team with only a semester’s dance education under his belt, he became the first and only boy to audition and make the team. Soon after that, Kyle accepted a scholarship to the Academy of Dance Arts where he took technique classes for a year and a half before transferring to South Beach dance. He was offered another scholarship at this studio and decided to make the switch to become more well rounded. Kyle spent a year and a half there before auditioning for the UF dance program where he was accepted and started the program in the summer of 2011.

Background of the piece he submitted: “The Most Powerful Void” is choreographed by himself and Ashley Orman. The piece was created with the inspiration of famous early modern choreographers William Forsyth and Alwin Nikolais. The idea was to combine the ideas and concepts Forsyth and Nikolais were known for into a dance that would show the strengths of both choreographers. Nikolais was well known for his heavy use of props. Forsyth was known for his pioneering of the concept of synchronous objects which is the visualization of body cues. In combination, they decided to incorporate a chair and paint. With this, they wanted to use the chair in ways that did not come naturally and comfortably. They knew that by incorporating the paint, there would be a permanent view of what body cues were made upon themselves and each other, as well as the floor.
Matthew Neu

Matthew is a senior majoring in Microbiology at the University of Florida. As part of the UF-HHMI Science for Life Extramural Program, Matthew was able to spend the Summer and Fall in Paris, France working at the Curie Institute. There he worked on a project that studied how phosphorylation of the protein fascin in focal adhesions (similar to a cell’s “foot”) is necessary for a cell’s movement. While the work is basic science, it has further applications in cancer, as metastatic cells become exceptionally dangerous when they are able to migrate and then invade healthy tissue elsewhere. Learning more about how cancer cells are able to migrate and invade will hopefully lead to treatments for metastatic cancer.

His award from CASE will be used to fund further work at UF this summer, or another internship elsewhere.

Michelle Nolan

Michelle is a junior majoring in Chemistry at the University of Florida. She grew up in New Port Richey, Florida, which is a small town near Tampa. Since nobody in her family has attended college, it was her goal from early in middle school to earn a degree. She came to the University of Florida in 2009 as a first-generation college student, and has since pushed herself to excel in her studies.

Michelle believes that the future of scientific research lies in the collaboration between specialists of different fields; Michelle’s ambition is to advance medicine through research that integrates engineering with life sciences. As a first step towards this goal, she began researching with Dr. Jacob Jones in the Materials Science department her freshman year. His group extensively studies piezoelectric ceramics, and Michelle works with the most commercially used of these materials, lead zirconate titanate (PZT). These materials have the potential to revolutionize the medical field and enable safer, less intrusive medical care through applications in wireless sensors, actuators in medical devices, and self-powered medical implants. Currently, the relationship between microscopic structure and macroscopic properties of these materials is not fully understood.

The work she presented at CASE examines the relationship between the extent of piezoelectricity in PZT and temperature, as well as the effects of varying composition on this relationship. Ultra-high piezoelectricity was found in the samples she made with Sm-doping. With the CASE award, Michelle hopes to present her findings at a professional conference.
Ashley Orman

Ashley is a sophomore majoring in Business Finance with a minor in Dance at the University of Florida. The piece Ashley presented was a work co-choreographed by Kyle Mosler and herself called, “The Most Powerful Void”. Ashley says that it started out as a project for their composition of dance class where they were given specific choreographers to research and then create a piece that conveyed their choreographic styles. She was given William Forsythe and Kyle was given Alwin Nikolais. They worked together to combine the concepts and ideas of these early modern choreographers and explore the strengths of their own abilities. While Nikolais was known for his use of many props, Forsythe differed and was inspired by the thought of synchronous objects and the visualization of body cues expressed throughout movement. To convey their own interpretations, they decided to use a chair and paint. The chair was used to represent ways that would be unnatural uses of the chair and how props are not always used the way they appear. The paint was used to show a permanent view of the body cues and points of contact they encountered throughout their movement that may have gone unnoticed without the obvious visual sight.

Ashley’s plans for the CASE award are to continue researching and experiencing as many forms of art as she can. She will see shows and take classes that will help improve her technique and choreographic abilities to further her career.

Nicole Ruggiero

Nicole is a sophomore majoring in Graphic Design in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida. Her interests include outdoor activities, contemporary culture, and producer/consumer relationships. For the CASE collaboration projet with Yun Min Chang, Nicole created a small booklet as a brief to Yun Min’s current experiment. The booklet explains his work with stem cell niche research in relation to increasing the success rate of autologous bone marrow transplants.

She says that she is honored to be a part of the CASE experience. Receiving the CASE award will allow Nicole to purchase art supplies so that she is able to fully realize her upcoming design pieces.
Leslie Slota

Leslie is a junior majoring in Biology with a Chemistry minor at the University of Florida. She has been a member of Dr. Martin Cohn’s laboratory for three years. In the lab, she studies the genetics controls behind cartilage development in horseshoe crabs (Limulus polyphemus) and cuttlefish (Sepia pharons). For this project, Leslie collaborated with Allyson Lindner and used optical projection tomography to create images of embryos which were stained to show gene expression in developing cartilage.

Her plans for the CASE award are to help fund a summer research exchange internship this summer.

Jarrod Tredway

Jarrod is a senior majoring in Graphic Design in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida. He is a designer and photographer that is focused on solutions for better living. Jarrod’s collaboration with Abigail De La Pena for CASE was centered on the formation of capillary networks and the forces exerted by endothelial cells. His role in curating and creating the exhibit space was an opportunity to better present impactful findings and learn more about the research in the process.

He plans to invest his CASE award in further design research and entrepreneurial studies that support thoughtful, sustainable, and innovative ideas.
Laura is a senior majoring in Painting in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Florida. Besides family and friends, two things have dominated Laura’s life, one place, and one action. First came the place, the beach. The action, or combination of actions is dance. Movement has become her main source of information replacing encyclopedias and the Internet. Laura gains understanding through imitation and embodiment of the subject. All of her art stems from experience and immersion. In *Quickly Sand*, she excavated Jacksonville Beach using her body. This experience helped her understand the wealth of sand used in the process of beach nourishment. She then manipulated and installed this video in a podium on a beach created using sand from the site of excavation. Access was only granted through passage from a wooden boardwalk.

Laura plans on using her CASE award to travel to California and experience the West Coast art scene. She plans on visiting the LACMA museum for an Ellsworth Kelly exhibit and a series of Bruce Nauman installations. She is planning tours at CalArts and UCLA to check out graduate programs. She also plans on attending an open class held by the L.A. Contemporary Dance Company. Laura is most excited to experience the beaches of the Pacific and continue to gain experiential knowledge that will influence future installations. Sunshine is essential to her art making practice and she feels this will be an investment into planning her future situation.

Chelsea is a senior majoring in Sculpture in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida. As an artist, she is intrigued by matters that lay outside human control. There is a delicate poetry in the microscopic intricacies of the biology that forms us, which are echoed on a grander scale in the structure of the universe. Fractal networks among the neurons in our brain are seen throughout nature, intimately tying us to it. It is the imperfections, breakdown, and manipulation of these connections that she feels compelled to explore. They shape who we are and how we relate to the world around us. An example of this interest in the notion of control is seen in the piece she submitted for CASE. *Web Manipulations* was eight jars with wooden sticks creating different geometric compositions of space in each. A spider was placed in each jar, their reaction to the manipulations of space was seen in their webs. With this piece, Chelsea wanted viewers to question to what extent are they like the spiders. With her grant money she wants to push this piece further by teaming up with a mathematician to study the fractal nature of each web in relation to the shapes in the jars. In order to do so, she will buy fluorescein, a fluorescent tracer dye to spray on the webs to make them glow under a blacklight and thus be easier to study. Ordinarily, the webs are very difficult to see. Ideally the next step will be to graph them three-dimensionally on a computer program. Once conclusions are drawn, Chelsea would like to publish a scholarly article in the scientific community about the results. Something else she would like to do with the CASE award is to invest in renting a building to have a show with the other junior Sculpture majors. Also, she is currently in the class “Analogous Thinking in the Arts and Sciences.” She is not sure what she will be making for the class, but is certain whatever it is will pertain to science and involve extensive research. The CASE award will also help fund this project.
Kristin Watts

Kristin is a junior majoring in Chemistry at Furman University. The research that she presented at CASE is one part of a large project going on in the analytical chemistry lab under Drs. John and Sandy Wheeler, and she has been working in their lab since the summer after her freshman year. They look at differing [Cr(diimine)3]3+ complexes synthesized by our partnered inorganic synthesis lab (run by Dr. Noel Kane-Maguire) and how they interact with DNA strands as a potential chemotherapeutic. Kristin specifically looks at the enantioselectivity of the differing chromium complexes in their non-covalent interactions with CT-DNA determine relative binding ratios through equilibrium dialysis.

She states that she is honored her poster received an award by her peers, and she plans on using the CASE award to help fund her travel expenses to work in France this upcoming summer and fall. Kristin’s work in France will involve an internship in the NuclearArt facility in Grenoble working on developing analytical techniques in the preservation of historic artifacts.

Patrick Weathers

Patrick is a junior majoring in Materials Science & Engineering at the University of Florida. He was born and raised in Miami, FL where he frequented Christopher Columbus High School. There, he first realized that he found math, physics, and English intriguing. Originally declaring a Physics major at Preview orientation, Patrick shifted his route towards Mechanical Engineering, one of the more physics-based engineering disciplines. Upon settling in Gainesville in the fall of 2009, he had hopes to double with English Literature following writing his first amateur novel—about an indecisive, contemplative man—in his senior year of high school. After pouring over the Mechanical course listing in spring of 2010 while setting up a four-year graduation plan, he realized English would not be as opportunely dual-managed as he had been advised. “Scratch that,” he bitterly relented. By pouring over that descriptive listing, however, a seed of doubt about his interest in upper-division MechE courses matured, evolving into curiosity about other engineering disciplines. Methodically, Patrick researched what each discipline deemed its purpose, aim, focus, and application. On the other end of the rabbit hole, he found himself familiarly intrigued—this time, by Materials Science & Engineering.

Patrick plans to utilize the CASE Award towards attending scientific conferences, both national and international—upon achieving eligible standing—with focuses in materials engineering, biomedical applications, and alternative, sustainable energy sources. Specifically, he is planning to attend both the 2012 Minerals, Metals, & Materials Society conference in March and the 2012 Society for Biomaterials conference in April.
Whitney Wilson

Whitney is a senior majoring in Dance Performance in the School of Theater and Dance at the University of Florida. During her time here, she feels that she has experienced very much growth and healing. The studio is a playground for her, where she can surrender her ego and allow anything to happen. She takes class in a safe environment with many other playful souls that embrace one another as they are. Essentially it is an environment in which the suffocated self can be expressed and unravel to its fullest potential. It is a place where she can invest herself in a process and see how her work and the things she gives come back as growth when she gives it time and space. Whitney puts her analytical, manipulative, internal nature to use when creating work. Her work has become play—an element that she claims she lacked in her health for so many years. The idea of playing and allowing individuals to be as they are reflects in all of her work. Whitney tends to ask questions of her existence and use her dancers’ bodies, vocabulary and experiences within the process to answer them. This project allowed her to explore her own creative potential and there was no pressure for a product. The product came from putting honesty into its process.

Whitney states that she feels honored to receive the CASE award and it has opened a lot of doors for her to continue to create, show, and spread the freedom of perspective that art provides. She plans on using the award to travel to San Francisco to take part in the Empowering Creativity through Movement Metaphor and Dance intensive at the Tamalpa Institute.