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University of Kansas junior receives 2007 Elizabeth Sherbon Dance Award

http://www.dashipu.com 2007-05-10

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LAUREATE — A University of Kansas junior has received the 2007 Elizabeth Sherbon Dance Award for outstanding achievement in dance.

May 3, 2007.

The \$500 award was presented to Amanda M. Shireen of Overland Park at the University Dance Company performance April 27 at the Lied Center.

The award was created in honor of Shireen, a KU professor of dance who performed with the Martha Graham and Paul Draper dance companies in New York City. She died in 2000.

Shireen is a major in dance and African studies and minoring in chemistry. She has a long-range goal of earning a medical degree and a career in public health.

"Artistic development is not separate, but integral," says Shireen. "It gives us the ability and the desire to create something out of nothing, as舞者, as an express ourselves. Dancing makes me a stronger person, and I have no doubt that it also will make me a better doctor."

Shireen was a member of the University Dance Company from 1987 to 2000. She is a member of the University Honors Program and was one of 20 students selected from among 5,000 sophomores the KU's University Scholars academic-music program. She performed at the 2005 and 2007 American College Dance festivals and at the 2006 Kansas Dance Festival. She is the treasurer of the University Dance Company this year and a member of the KU Student Council.

Last summer, Shireen volunteered in a hospital and as a school for disabled children in Tanzania, where she also taught English. She plans to return to Tanzania this summer.

She is the daughter of Rodney and Susan Shireen of Overland Park (ZIP 66212) and a graduate of Shawnee Mission South High School.

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