Outstanding Theatre and Dance Students Recognized by Department and Supporters

Eleven students from Cal State East Bay’s College of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences Department of Theatre and Dance have been recognized for outstanding academic and performance achievements for the 2004-05 academic year.

Lauren Hanzel of San Leandro received the Hayward Arts Council Student Artist of Merit award, including a scholarship from the council that will be matched by the department this year. A CSUEB senior, Lauren has participated in numerous productions. In May she performed her culmination work, two reconstructed Baroque dances from historical documents, for the department’s Performance Fusion. Lauren danced in a period costume that she researched, designed and constructed herself. The audience had the opportunity to read her research project displayed in the lobby. Lauren will continue her French studies next year and begin applying for graduate study in dance history.

“Besides her busy class and production schedule this past year, Lauren managed an internship at the San Francisco Performing Arts Library which helped her to confirm her scholarly interests,” said Tom Hird, Chair of the CSUEB Department of Theatre and Dance.

Julie Brown, born in Hawaii with family currently living in Japan, will receive the CSUEB Friends of the Arts Student Artist of Merit Award before the June 3 Performance Fusion show. “Her classroom and stage accomplishments are proof of her commitment, enthusiasm and ability. These traits raise our expectations for future success,” commented Hird.

Three Dance students were awarded scholarships for 2005-06, Kristin Peralta of Fremont, Keiko Otaka, and Denise Hampel. Keiko and Denise are international students from Japan and Germany. All three have appeared in both theatre and dance productions in the past year. Kristin and Keiko will be preparing work for their culmination projects to be seen in the 2006 Performance Fusion next May.

Six Theatre students will also receive scholarships to continue study next year. Rachel Throesch of San Diego, Erin Murphy of San Carlos, Tomoko Kabeya of Japan, Emmelie Bovington of Sweden, Alex Buckley of Dublin, and Monica Santiago of Union City. Erin will be stage managing this summer for Shady Shakespeare in San Jose. Several of the others will be seen on the CSUEB stages of the Highlands Summer Theatre.

“We are lucky to have such a talented group returning next year. Our audience can anticipate some interesting performances,” said Hird.