The Department of Dance provides comprehensive training in
dance technique, performance, choreography, and theoretical
studies while approaching scholarship, creative research,
and studio-based training in the framework of a liberal arts
education at the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and
Master of Fine Arts levels. Integrating dance studies with
the liberal arts and sciences, the dance degree programs
promote creative and intellectual growth in an environment
that develops young artists and advances the art of dance.
The undergraduate major prepares students for careers
as performers, choreographers, and educators as well as
for graduate studies in dance and related fields. The MFA
curriculum broadens and deepens the knowledge and
experience of returning professionals seeking to reenter the
field or to secure positions in higher education.
The Department of Dance imparts the values and knowledge
necessary to empower students as they create unique paths
forward. Students develop as young artists, creative thinkers,
and problem solvers who may further the arts in society in
diverse, urgent, and transformational ways.
The department offers up to 10 concerts each year, providing
dance students with numerous opportunities to perform
and/or to present their choreography; visit the Performance
Opportunities website for more information. The department's
annual Dance Gala on campus, performed by dance students,
presents original faculty choreography as well as work
by a distinguished guest artist. UI Dance Company, the
department's student repertory company, performs across
Iowa and surrounding states.
All dance faculty members regularly present and/or
publish their choreography or scholarship nationally
and internationally. Students have ample opportunities
to work with faculty on their creative and/or scholarly
research. Periodic master classes with noted guest teachers,
choreographers, and touring companies introduce students
to contemporary artists and provide opportunities for
professionalization and networking.
Students have the opportunity to earn a major in dance
and a second major in another of the university's programs,
including one of the other performing arts units—music or
theatre arts. Faculty and advisors guide students in combining
their rigorous dance education with many other disciplines.
Dance graduates work in the dance profession and also
establish careers in a range of professional fields, such as arts
administration and production, education, business, the health
sciences, law, and engineering.