

News & Publications

Creative Process Gets Early Start

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Although Terpsichord's Spring Concert is two months away (March 8-9), members of the contemporary dance company, who train in ballet, modern, and improvisation, have begun setting a piece with the help of a visiting guest artist. On Monday, Jan. 7, Jillian Harris, Assistant Professor of Dance at Temple University, wrapped up her four-day stay in Chattanooga and a weekend of rigorous practices by supervising a run-through of a piece she choreographed with the dancers for the annual concert.

Harris received her MFA in Dance from New York University and has performed with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. She was a featured performer in the PBS televised broadcast of Della Davidson's *Night Story* and has performed works by noted choreographers. Her own choreography has been shown at venues in New York City, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, and Bologna, Italy.

"The guest artist program, funded by the annual VISIONS auction, allows the students to work with professionals from across the country," says Cathie Kasch, director of Terpsichord and chair of the GPS Fine Arts Department. "They observe a choreographer's creative process from beginning to end, thus broadening their own perspective of dance making. As a professor of dance, Harris is also able to give the students an inside view into college dance programs."

While at GPS, Harris conducted several master classes with the 23 sophomores, juniors, and seniors in Terpsichord. A number of GPS Terpsichord alumnae are currently pursuing dance majors at Connecticut College, Ohio State University, and Goucher College.

