

APPENDIX F

Citation

MELISSA HAYDEN

The primary purpose of the North Carolina School of the Arts shall be the professional training of talented students in the fields of music, drama, the dance and allied performing arts, with emphasis placed upon performance of the arts.

Early on, MELISSA HAYDEN earned a secure place in the history of American ballet through her successful career as a performer and teacher of young dancers. For 28 years, Hayden was a leading ballerina with the New York City Ballet from 1949 to 1973 and the American Ballet Theatre from 1945 to 1948 and 1953 to 1954. Her awards are many. In May 1973, she received the Handel Medallion, New York City's highest cultural award. Other honors include the Albert Einstein Award, the Mademoiselle Award, the Dance Educators Award, and the Dance Magazine Award. She holds honorary degrees from Skidmore College and Siena College and has served on the Board of Trustees of Brandeis University.

Following her retirement from the stage in 1973, she spent three years as artist-in-residence and director of ballet at Skidmore College. She then established a dance studio in Manhattan where intermediate and advanced students and young professionals from all across the country had the chance to study with one of America's most distinguished ballerinas.

In 1982, Ms. Hayden came to the North Carolina School of the Arts, where she has established her reputation as a master teacher while continuing her career as a visiting artist throughout the world. Today Melissa Hayden continues to share her extraordinary vision and talents with the fortunate students in the School of Dance. Her students regularly win competitions and coveted roles within the country's most prominent ballet companies, and they often do so immediately upon graduation from school. The University owes a great deal of gratitude to Ms. Hayden for her willingness to both preserve and share her art with these young people.

Ms. Hayden's illustrious career as a world-renowned ballerina, and her lifelong commitment to the training of ballet students, represent great contributions to the human race. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina is honored to name MELISSA HAYDEN, ballerina and master teacher, North Carolina School of the Arts, as a recipient of the 2002 Oliver Max Gardner Award.

Response of Melissa Hayden

I am pleased and honored to be with you today. I am especially grateful to the members of the Gardner family who are with us today. Their forbearer's wisdom and generosity has made this day possible.

I think of my professional life as being in two separate and distinct phases yet each bound together in a continuum.

As a fledgling dancer, I was blessed by being a part of the beginnings of the New York City Ballet and to work under the artistic direction of George Balanchine. This was at a time when Mr. Balanchine was entering his most prolific period of creativity. We early company members were the foot soldiers upon whom Mr. Balanchine created his works. Our bodies were constantly introduced to new and exciting ways of movement, to music and musical phrasing that stimulated our senses, and to new patterns on the stage that evolved as we moved to his direction. It was a stimulating period in our lives. But only in retrospect, years later, were we able to understand that we were a part of a period of such creativity. All we knew at the time was that we loved what we were doing and that we looked forward to each day's creation in the studio and to bringing that creation to the stage.

Mr. Balanchine gave us all something more than the ballets he created upon us. He gave us more that would stay with us and enhance our lives forever. He gave us a sense of artistic integrity and an inability to accept anything less than the best we had to offer and the best we had to give.

Today, in the next phase of my artistic life, I am part of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. This school is a kind of addendum to the academic University system created by a wise and forward thinking legislature many years ago and has blossomed into one of the premier such institutions in the nation.

Once again I am blessed. I am surrounded by and get to know and interact with professional artists not only in dance but also in music, theatre, visual arts, design

and production, and film. We are all supported by a stellar academic program, which gives the student the necessary dimension to their professional studies. And the beauty of the school is that not only do we as faculty have this interaction and mingling, but also the students have that kind of stimulating environment and interaction outside of their field of discipline. We are producing, for the most part, well-rounded young people who have a depth of experience.

And this is borne out by the variety of careers our students go on to follow. Not all our students will go on to have professional careers in the arts. My fellow faculty members and I are as proud of our students who go on to become lawyers, physical therapists, doctors, and similar professionals as we are of the students who have careers in the arts. The academics of the school and the discipline they learn in their studies of the arts stand them in good stead for whatever path they may follow.

Once again I am blessed by working under the guidance of the two most recent chancellors. Each of these men have had the wisdom and sensitivity to allow the artistic faculty to function without hindrance. But each has added and Wade Hobgood is currently adding an extra dimension to the school. Alex Ewing broadened the scope of the school while Wade Hobgood currently has provided all of North Carolina's students the financial ability to attend the school. Because of Wade Hobgood, no North Carolina student will be constrained by financial restraints if they wish to attend the North Carolina School of the Arts.

So while you are looking at a woman who is currently being honored, you are also looking at a woman who has been given the privilege of having had two separate but touching careers and has loved every moment of each of these two careers.

Thank you.