

## Student Perspective: The Summer Dance Intensive



During the first summer session, I was lucky enough to participate in the Dance Program's summer intensive with Autumn Mist Belk and Code f.a.d. Company. I have been looking for a dance studio or company that was the right fit for me since I moved to Raleigh three years ago. I danced at a small studio in Natick, Massachusetts, before completing a minor in dance at Springfield College, also in Massachusetts. I performed several times with the modern dance company, Monkeyhouse, at First Night Boston and at other sites in the Boston area. Spending my days as a doctoral student in the mathematics department left me craving dance again.

Code f.a.d. and Autumn came at the perfect time. The summer intensive was professionally run, artistically interesting and fun. Also, the company members are among the friendliest and diversely talented dancers I have met. They are supportive and quite welcoming too. Having the opportunity to work with an artistic director of a local company was wonderful. It is a great way to expose professional and pre-professional dancers to company life and the local dance scene.

It is always exciting to delve into the many eclectic styles in modern and post-modern dance. With Autumn, it was a welcome challenge to incorporate her unique style into my dance repertoire. Her choreography remains a great mental and physical exercise as I prepare to perform as part of her piece, *Indulge*. I am looking forward to seeing the many facets of the piece come together. It is nice to watch the creation of and be part of the commitment to a successful evening-length dance piece. It is unfathomable that the summer intensive could culminate in a professional performance. I am excited about keeping in contact with Code f.a.d. Company and participating in other non-traditional dance opportunities available at NCSU.

—Catherine Buell, PhD student in mathematics

### MORE ABOUT THE SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE

Spanning six weeks in June and July 2009, the NC State Dance Program hosted its first summer dance intensive—providing undergraduate and graduate students of all majors the opportunity to study modern and post-modern dance technique and participate in the creation of a professional dance work over the summer months. The intensive was led by Dance Program assistant director Autumn Mist Belk, who was joined by dancers from the Raleigh-based multimedia dance group, Code f.a.d. Company. The company members served as assistant teachers and mentors to the students, as the company and students danced side-by-side in technique classes and throughout the creation of Code f.a.d.'s newest evening-length work, *Indulge*.

In all, eighteen students participated during the intensive, with eight students completing the program and performing in an informal showing on July 26, presenting several sections of *Indulge*. The showing was held in the Carmichael Dance Studio and was attended by the students' friends and families. Two program participants, Catherine Buell and Ashley Walls (senior in mathematics), were asked to continue training through August and September with Code f.a.d. Company and will perform with the group in the premiere of *Indulge* on October 14 & 15 at Duke University's Reynolds Industries Theatre.

More more information on Code f.a.d. Company and the work created while in residence at NC State, visit [codefadcompany.org](http://codefadcompany.org).

images at left: Code f.a.d. Company dancers in *Indulge*, photos by Stephen Aubuchon.

