Lisa A. Cramer

Lisa Ann Cramer, Iowa Alpha '86, an electrical engineering major participating in the honors program at Iowa State University, has been selected as a Tau Beta Pi Laureate for her contributions to the university's dance program.

Since the age of five when she attended her first ballet class, she has studied various dance forms from jazz to modern. Her early creative efforts were also enhanced by her musical studies. Lisa discovered the flute as a fourth grader and continued playing in a variety of music organizations throughout high school — in field, concert, and parade bands.

As a freshman at Iowa State, she was determined to continue her dance education along with her engineering studies. Upon auditioning, she was selected as one of 30 members of Orchesis, the modern dance club. Its focus is the annual March dance performance, Barjche. While the majority of choreographers and dancers are members of Orchesis, the group also invites professional dancers to join in the annual show.

Lisa increasingly participated in Barjche. As a freshman and sophomore she danced in four-minute student works. In her junior year she performed in two pieces, one professionally choreographed. During the past year she danced in four pieces — three modern works and one jazz piece. She was privileged to dance under the direction of guest choreographer Bill Evans of Salt Lake City, whose piece, Comes Winter, involves vocal sounds, spoken lines, and dive rolls. Lisa's own choreography, a lyrical jazz piece, was also performed last year.

Her involvement in Orchesis was not restricted to performing. Her administrative responsibilities evolved as she served in the positions of treasurer, business manager, and then vice president — when she held auditions, taught a class, and prepared Barjche programs. For her many contributions to the dance department, Lisa received the Anna Toman Award in her junior year.

Apart from Orchesis, Lisa has given lecture demonstrations and performed and choreographed for two concerts funded by the student government to promote the arts. One of her choreographed pieces was selected for performance at the highly competitive and prestigious American Dance Festival.

Lisa's extensive love of dance has not overshadowed her commitment to engineering. In order to accomplish her goals, she has extended her program one semester and will graduate in December.

Her coursework in electromagnetic field theory, digital signal processing, and computer systems has provided background for her summer employment. For the past two years she worked as a graphics editor and computer programmer for the General Electric Company, MERO, in Syracuse, New York, her home state.

Recognized by her peers, Lisa was voted one of the 10 finalists nationwide for Eta Kappa Nu's "Outstanding Junior in Electrical Engineering" award. In the top two per cent of her class and elected to Phi Kappa Phi, Lisa was named the "Outstanding Senior" in her department at Iowa State. She currently serves as corresponding secretary for Tau Beta Pi's Iowa Alpha chapter.