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No Ordinary Talent Contest

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Do you have an unusual talent that needs encouragement? Do you have a friend whose offbeat skills need nurturing? The Timothy Sykes Daytrading Award for the Talented may provide just the boost that special talent needs to flower.

The award is open to any member of the Tulane community -- students, faculty, staff and alumni. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by another member of the Tulane community. Applications, which are due April 20, will be reviewed by a committee appointed by Tulane President Scott Cowen, and the winner(s) will receive a cash award of up to \$1,500.

This unusual award was established in 2002 by Timothy S. Sykes, then a junior at Tulane. While in school, Sykes experienced success as an Internet day trader on the stock market, and wanted to do something to encourage others to pursue their own unusual abilities. He currently is managing partner of Cilantro Fund Partners LP in New York and frequently appears on CNBC as a stock market commentator.

"This unique award is designed to encourage those with talents that are not normally recognized by common academic and athletic scholarships," says Sykes. "There are many ways to be 'successful' in today's society and this award acknowledges young people with unique interests and passions. This does not preclude from consideration those with significant demonstrated success in the classroom or on the playing field. It simply seeks to broaden the definition of accomplishment in a university environment."

Past winners of the award include Henry Fitzhugh and Dimitri Papadopoulos, selected as the 2004 co-winners. Fitzhugh was selected for his dedication to the arts, including music and sculpture, while Papadopoulos is an award-winning karate champion and instructor.

The 2006 winner, Brian Pierson, a doctoral anthropology student, was honored for bringing scientific accuracy to his work creating special effects for film. More recently, Pierson assisted St. Tammany Parish, La., authorities in identifying a skeleton by means of his painstaking forensic reconstructive work.

Sykes has extended eligibility for the award to recent Tulane graduates and alumni to encourage hard-working young people venturing into the work force for the first time and seeking to launch their careers.



Brian Pierson, left, a Hollywood special effects artist who is now an anthropology graduate student at Tulane, was the 2006 honoree of an award honoring Tulanians who pursue non-traditional academic endeavors. Trent Holliday, associate professor of anthropology, nominated him for the award. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

[Application details](#) are available online.

Submit nominations by [e-mail](#) to or by mailing them to the Office of Development, Attention: Gwendolyn Perrilliat, Suite 200, 3439 Prytania St., New Orleans, LA 70115.



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