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LIVING

WPCC art ...something for everyone



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Pottery, drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, interior design, art history, weaving — there's something for the artist in everyone at Western Piedmont Community College in spring quarter art courses beginning this week.

The WPCC art program is headed by artist Raymond Goodfellow, originally from Chattanooga, Tenn., who began piecing together the mosaic of programs that make up the art program at the college when he became coordinator of the program five years ago.

Before Goodfellow's arrival, the school had only isolated art courses; WPCC now offers students a chance to earn a two-year associate of fine arts degree, which may be used to transfer to a four-year institution.

All of the courses are geared toward individual expression, and Goodfellow said he views the courses as giving students an opportunity to express themselves, however they wish to do it.

"I personally feel that anyone interested enough can be an artist," he said. "There's not any one way of expressing yourself."

Goodfellow estimated that about 60 percent of the students enrolled at WPCC will transfer to another school, but the student population is diverse: senior citizens, homemakers or those just looking for a way of relaxation or a catharsis.

Those in the associate of fine arts degree program take base courses but may choose an option of particular interest, such as studio art, ceramics, painting, sculpture, printmaking or commercial art. Goodfellow explained that the department geared its programs so that students who wish to transfer will be well prepared.

"Before developing the program, we did articulate with other institutions," he said. "I've been here five years, so the first student finished this past year. We've had good luck."

"The (core) programs are very similar (to other institutions). ECU (East Carolina State University) or Appalachian (State University) has exactly the same core program or very close ... We checked with other institutions to see how to give students the most."

Of course, not all the students are interested in working toward a degree or a transfer. Those who take the programs as a creative outlet may enroll as "special students" and take one course at a time.

As the program has grown, Goodfellow said he has

extended the programs to areas outside his expertise of painting. In addition to Goodfellow, who works full-time, the department also employs four part-time instructors, including Danny Coker, photography; Jerry Goodnight, evening drawing; Lynn Galvin interior design; and Betty Royall, ceramics.

The art department also offers a variety of cultural travel programs, all geared to fit into students' budgets.

"We take two or three trips a year," Goodfellow said. "We went to the Van Gogh show in New York in December. We've been to Washington."

These trips are open to the community as well, but Goodfellow said that most people who take advantage of the tours are from within the art department.

Last year, travelers took a trip to Ireland. The department is presently coordinating another trip abroad to begin at the end of July. Those participating will see Scotland, Holland and Germany and will receive class credit for a humanities course. Those seeking more info can contact Goodfellow or Ruth Thomas at the college.

Goodfellow said he was pleased with the support he has received from the college and the community. At the college, the art program has grown from room into three studio areas, allowing for the purchase of new equipment such as the recently acquired pottery wheels.

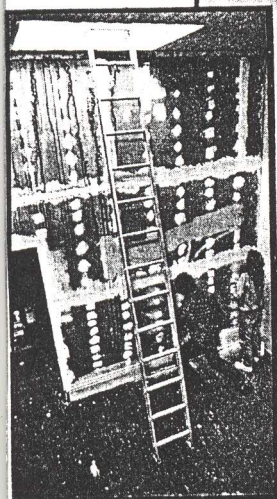
Another ongoing project is the creation of a gallery to house students works and show those of visiting artists. Located at 135 1/2 W. Union St., the 400-square-foot area is being renovated by members of Forttolo, the WPCC art club. Club members chose the design for the area from those submitted by the college interior design class.

The building also houses the studios of Goodfellow and other working artists. The club hopes to open the gallery in March with a showing of paintings by Hal Childers, a Hildebran native who is now a working artist in Raleigh. Childers transferred to East Carolina after earning his associate of fine arts degree through WPCC.

The gallery will include display and sale, and proceeds from items sold will be divided among the artist, the art club and expenses of running the gallery.

In addition to the gallery, the art department has other ideas for expansion, including an afternoon program for school children and an expansion of the photography and interior design programs.

"I'm real happy with progress," Goodfellow said. "I excited about the enthusiasm within the community."



Photos
by
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