Regional
"Art-A-Thon" celebrates importance of arts

Each year the College of Arts and Sciences of Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s Department of English promotes a project called “Art-A-Thon” with participation involved by several departments of the College. This year I interviewed some of the faculty, students and staff involved in this series of events. One was a poetry reading exercise organized by the department of English language and literature where in students presented their own work. Allah Villahoe, current vice president of the department’s English Language and Literature likewise involved in the event said, “For “Art-A-Thon” we did a collection of different kinds of spoken word, poetry, readings, creative fiction and non-fiction,” she added. “It brings to light things that are not necessarily brought up in the classroom. It makes you work much harder.”

Another event was a ceramic and visual art exhibit organized by the department of English language and literature where in students and staff involved in this series presented their own work. Annette Thomas, professor of English, said, “Katherine Poole-Jones, an assistant professor, has been working on promoting the arts in the community. This is an opportunity for us to showcase our members and what we are doing. We can see the level of achievement our students are doing and what their focus might be.”

Another visitor to the exhibit was the SIUE’s English Language and Literature Professor, Annette Thomas, who observed, “Students have got to work on their own, and also with visitors coming in. It’s important to share not only with the SIUE students but with the public as well.”

The SIUE steel band.

Students and the types of products they are creating within the department.

Another visitor to the exhibit was the chair of the department, Barbara Vucak, who said that she has seen an evolution in styles and techniques being used by the students. “We see things shift from year to year depending on what the graduate students are doing and what their focus might be,” she said. “In the past we have work students do ceramic work that has typography or graphics in it. We have a little of that coming back now this year. Sometimes we have people who are working on commercial ceramics to be displayed in a gallery or it may be on display at the university.”

Another of the events that took place that day was a pre-programmed installation at the SiQU Center. I spoke with the chair of the department of theater and dance, James Woodling, who designed the stage for this piece, and asked why the faculty decided on this particular performance. “I think in many says de la Barca is a choice for Shakespeare for the Spanish speaking worlds,” he said. “It is a choice for Shakespeare. He was a great writer, a great playwright, and a great person.”

At our talk back at our performance last night one of the audience members, professor of Spanish, brought up the fact that Spanish-speaking students learn to learn it in classes. In the same way we know ‘to be or not to be’ they know his lines. So it was really poignant for us to talk about the arts in a very personal way. It was not. The deeper philosophical thoughts that Shakespeare expresses in his writing are just really deep for today’s college student’s educators to work with, he added. “It was a provocative title.”

“Shakespeare was a very creative soul,” said Woodling. “He was very deep about who you are and what you are doing, he was very aware of what you really are doing that. Check Harpers Ferry he was the teacher of the art.” Woodling added that Rosaura is a very strong and powerful female role in going and adapting a male role to resource her honor. But she is strong and doing it for herself. Seguin’s, the main character, finds his own honor and intelligence and mobility. He finds that mobility within and brings those qualities to the story.

Another event was a concert from the steel band at the evening event. Dan Smithiger, who is the director of the steel band, commented, “I think it was a great experience.” Smithiger said, “It was a great experience. It was a lot of fun and I hope we can get to work with that of the birthplace of that, the Caribbean, the Caribbean of Trinidad and Tobago. We were there, we felt it was a great experience.”

Aldemar Romero Jr.
College Talk

The charge was elevated to a felony due to previous convictions or existing court supervision during the following incidents on May 20, 1999, and July 19, 2003.

Kohlberg said Fishel was stopped at 1:21 a.m. for allegedly making a left turn on red at the intersection of Vandalia and North Main Street.

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