Students exhibit talent

By AMY STALLINGS
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Fine Arts students showcase their talents as they prepare for graduation at the IU Southeast BA Student Exhibition. The reception was on March 6 at the Ronald L. Barr Gallery in the Ogle Center, and the exhibition will continue through April 19.

The exhibition is a chance for senior Fine Arts students to display their work in a gallery setting. The display is a collection of pottery, photography, paintings, graphic designs and prints.

"Therapy" by Cortney Downey

Cortney Downey, fine arts senior, has nine pieces in the exhibit, all of them paintings.

She said she had a difficult time deciding which pieces she should display in the exhibit.

One of Downey's large paintings entitled "Therapy" started out as a painting she said she did not like very well.

"When I finished the original painting, I was not happy with it," Downey said. "I tore it apart and sewed it back together."

Downey said the ripping apart of the painting and creating something new was like therapy for her. She said by re-creating the painting, the end product was something she really liked.

Inspired by color and texture, Downey said she wants people to touch her paintings as well as look at them.

"I feel like my soul is on the wall for everyone to see," she said.

Downey, set to graduate in May, plans to travel for a while after graduation. She said she wants to see the world and get inspired.

Another Fine Arts senior, Donna Kielman, has a display of ceramics in the exhibit.

"I am extremely proud to have my work on display," Kielman said.

Kielman said her work is highly influenced by Spanish pottery and ceramics.

"I love Spanish ceramics. I have been to Barcelona to see the Spanish artists there, and I am going to the historic barrio Tlaquepaque in Mexico for spring break," she said.

Ceramics by Donna Kielman

After graduation Kielman said she will continue her education at the University of Louisville where she will be working toward a Master of Arts in Teaching.

"I want to teach art at the middle school level and would like to teach Spanish also," Kielman said.

Although both of these seniors have different inspirations and mediums they work with, both women share a strong passion for art.

Susan Moffett, professor of Fine Arts, said inspiration comes from everywhere and everything can be a springboard on which a piece of art is conceived. She also said she believes everyone is creative, but express their creativity in different ways.

Fine Arts students have spent four years, sometimes more, in the program and this exhibit is a culmination of their study in the program, Moffett said.

"It is hugely important students present their work like this. It gives them the chance to present their art in a professional manner," she said.

Professor shares China experience with students

By RICHARD CLARK
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Chinese viewpoints on history were forever affected by the tumultuous post-World War II period, as explained by Yu Shen, associate professor of history, to a group of interested attendees at the IUS Library on March 6.

Deborah Finkel, professor of psychology and dean of research, organized a series for IUS professors to do research for a summer fellowship. Ten professors were selected to do their research. Finkel opened the presentation by telling about Shen's trip to China this past summer.

Shen explained her visit to the city of Chongqing which is in the Sichuan province of China. She showed the audience a series of slides which pictured the geography and history of the area.

"Chongqing had been elevated to war capitol of China from 1938 to 1945," Shen said.

Shen explained after the defeat of the Japanese in 1945, the struggle between the Nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek and Communists under Mao Zedong intensified.

"Just before the Communists took over Chongqing, the Nationalists massacred all the people held in the prison," Shen said. "It didn't matter if the prisoners were Communists or not, they were all killed and thrown into a mass grave."

The Sino-American Cooperative Organization was involved with the Nationalist government in China during World War II before the Communists took over. With the ensuing Cold War, the Communist government tried to link American imperialism with the massacre in Chongqing.

"History is not an innocent agent and can be bent to fit any agenda," Shen said.

In 1949 a tombstone was erected in Chongqing to remember those who were massacred in prison, called the Memorial to the Revolutionary Martyrs. In 1955, the memorial site was enlarged with a tablet indicting the Americans as collaborators in the Chongqing massacre.

"There was a photo with Chiang Kai-shek with someone identified as Captain Milton Miles of the American Naval Intelligence," Shen said. "The Communists used that photo as evidence the Americans were involved in the massacre at Chongqing."

During the 1950s the memorial area was expanded and a museum, the SACO Museum of American and Chiang Kai-shek Crimes, was built.

"During the 1980s when relations between China and the United States improved, the rhetoric was toned down," Shen said. "It was renamed the Martyrs' Memorial Park."

In 1986 a massive wall was dedicated to the martyrs' memory, but the earlier inflammatory text was reduced.

"There were also 50 statues of individual martyrs erected," Shen said. "Tablets were also made with the words of the Chongqing martyrs on them."

By the 1990s, paintings of the massacre came out to evoke respect for those killed by the Nationalists. Emphasis was placed on the martyrs rather than American imperialism.

Shen mentioned an interesting incident which happened in the 1990s. The widow of Captain Miles visited the museum, and saw the photo of Chiang Kai-shek with her supposed husband.

"The strange thing was, it wasn't her husband in the photo, the widow said," Shen said. "The man with Chiang Kai-shek was wearing a clerical collar."

Shen said beliefs die hard and the photograph remains in the museum.

Kelly Ryan, assistant professor of history, was impressed with the creation of the individual statues.

"I can see where they went from revolutionary to more creative art," Ryan said.

James Beeby, assistant professor of history, asked what kind of people visited the martyrs' museum.

"At first a lot of students in the Young Pioneers Communist organization," Shen said. "Now there is more emphasis in getting more people there. Money is a big factor."

Shen is a native of China, from Beijing. She received her doctorate at the University of Illinois-Urbana in 1995.

Photo by Richard Clark

J.W. Grimes, long time patron of Bills 5 Lakes, casts a line.

Going fishing at Bills 5 Lakes local tradition

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Spring fever is in the air and for a relaxing time back to nature, Bills 5 Lakes can be found just a little more than a mile from IU Southeast.

Bill Day is the proprietor of the scenic 40-acre, five-lake fishing and camping area, which is nestled away from the noise and congestion of city life.

"My grandfather started these pay lakes back in the mid 1950s," Day said.

Day said the lakes are stocked every Saturday from fisheries in Arkansas and Mississippi.

"We have bass, crappie, bluegill and other game fish," Day said. "But the catfish are the biggest draw."

He said the fishing and camping starts getting busy after the Kentucky Derby weekend, but business isn't like what it use to be.

"Back in the '70s we used to have cars lined up to the highway trying to get in," Day said. "But today it seems like young people are more interested in staying home and playing computer games. I guess it's a generational thing."

The camping at Bills 5 Lakes is primitive, but drinking water and portable toilets are available. The charge is $10 per person to camp and fish with special rates for family weekends.

"Then I extend the camping an extra day if the family is along," Day said.

Day said he doesn't mind students from IU Southeast coming down to just walk around the area.

"There is no charge if they aren't fishing," he said.

Day said he remembers during the '60s at 5 Lakes there use to be a concession stand during the weekends where Samtec is now located. There was a jukebox under the canopy and bands used to play for the campers.

"The most popular song was Beer Barrel Polka," he said.

J.W. Grimes, a regular at Bills 5 Lakes, was busy cat fishing at one of the lakes. Grimes said he doesn't mind spending all day by himself fishing.

"Last weekend I caught a crappie that was almost 3 pounds," Grimes said. "As far as I'm concerned, these lakes have the best tasting fish around here."

Grimes said the trick to catching good fish at 5 Lakes is not expensive gear, but rather to know where to cast a line.

"You also have to know how deep to set your line to catch the really big ones," he said.

Day talked about some of the aquatic wildlife in the area. He said Bills 5 Lakes even has its own species of snail.

"A girl from IUS came down here with her boyfriend and found a strange looking snail," Day said. "She wanted to show the snail to her biology teacher."

It turned out the snail found at the lake was unique because it could breed in cold water, unlike other snails that only breed in warm water.

"We named it the Bill snail," Day said.

Small jellyfish have also been found in the lakes.

"They're about the size of a quarter but they don't sting," Day said. "One was taken to Claude Baker, the biology professor at IU Southeast, and he said it was the Medusa jellyfish."

Small eels called the Gregory eel have also been found in the lakes, along with several geese that visit the lakes. There was one goose in particular Day pointed to.

"His name is Hopalong because he has an injured leg," he said.

"Hopalong is always the first goose back from Florida and he has a habit of adopting a mallard duck and protecting its eggs."

'He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.'

– Oscar Wilde