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Mills paintings greet visitors to Melrose

Two pieces of artwork by Ron Mills, professor of art at Linfield College, were unveiled in Melrose Hall during a Nov. 1 ceremony.

Mills donated “Brinded Arc” and “Rampant Arc,” that hang in the foyer of the newly renovated Ice Auditorium in Melrose Hall. Mills hoped “to create a sense of place, and a warm, even luminous greeting for those first passing through the front portal [of Melrose Hall]” as they approach Ice Auditorium.

The two arches deliberately echo the entryways to the auditorium and reflect the artist’s special affinity for the arc form as congenial to the layered complexity of his style, with its open invitation to viewers to exercise their imaginations in response to his imagery. Among the more striking elements of the project has been its speed of conceptualization and execution: Mills began working in late summer and painted intensively through October.

Elsewhere on campus, artwork by Mills can be seen in “Vignettes: Recent drawings and acrylic paintings in grisaille,” the February art exhibit in the James F. Miller Fine Arts Center. The show runs through March 3 in both the Fine Art Gallery and Studio Gallery.

During February, Mills will execute a new large-scale painting in the gallery. Each Monday and Wednesday, the public is invited to visit with Mills as he works from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Musicians and dancers will perform impro-



Ron Mills, professor of art, donated two paintings that hang in the foyer of the newly renovated Richard and Lucille Ice Auditorium in Melrose Hall.

vised routines at 2 p.m., followed by a discussion between Mills and invited guests about the subject of improvisation at 3 p.m. A closing reception and gallery talk will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 5:30 p.m. in the gallery in conjunction with the inauguration of Thomas L. Hellie as Linfield’s 19th president.

Campus prepares for inauguration

“Educating Global Citizens” will be the theme of the inauguration of Thomas L. Hellie as the 19th president of Linfield College. A weeklong series of events from Feb. 23 through March 2 will focus on topics such as preparing students for a global society, international life at Linfield, and global health and global warming issues.

Tracy Kidder, author of *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, the Man Who Would Cure the World*, will discuss his book Thursday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ted Wilson Gymnasium. The installation ceremony will be held Friday, March 2, at 3 p.m. in the Ted Wilson Gymnasium. For a complete schedule of activities and events visit:

www.linfield.edu/president/inauguration.php



Walker receives volunteer award



Charles Walker

Former Linfield College President Charles Walker was one of six individuals to receive the 2006 Oregon Governor’s Volunteer Award.

Walker, who led Linfield from 1975 to 1992, was named the outstanding senior volunteer, recognizing his work with the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Chalkboard Project.

After being appointed to an interim task force on cultural development by former Gov. John Kitzhaber, Walker went on to chair the task force’s development of the Oregon Cultural Trust. Additionally, he served on and chaired the Oregon Council for the Humanities and served as vice chair of the Ford Family Foundation. He is chairman of Foundation for a Better Oregon, leading the planning work of the Chalkboard Project. He also remains a current board member of Neskowin Chamber Music, the South Tillamook County Library and the Cultural Advocacy Coalition.

Scholars take their work international

Linfield scholars are making their mark on the international scene.

Thierry Durand, associate professor of French, and Brian Winkenweder, assistant professor of art history, both presented talks at European conferences last fall.

Durand presented “‘The Non-Seriousness of Edification’ and the Depth of the Good” at an international colloquium, *A Century with Lévinas: Lévinas-Blanchot, Thinking the Difference*, Nov. 13-16 in Paris, France. His presentation was a comparative approach to the two writers’ groundings of ethics. Fifteen nationalities were represented at the event. Winkenweder spoke on “After Words: Intention and the Homometrics of the E-Interview” at the seminar, *Artist Participation in the*

Preservation of Installation Art, at The Ghent Museum of Contemporary Art in Ghent, Belgium, Oct. 19-20. The presentation focused on a three-year electronic interview Winkenweder conducted with conceptual artist Robert Morris as part of doctoral research. Morris refuses to be recorded by video or audio, only conducting interviews via email or fax.

Barbara Seidman, dean of faculty, underscored the hard work that lay behind such prestigious invitations.

“Both Thierry and Brian have completed significant research to earn inclusion in these scholarly venues,” she said. “We are very proud of them and appreciate that they also bring this kind of international recognition to Linfield.”

Students learn the power of pollsters

Students from two Linfield College classes teamed up to design and execute a statewide pre-election poll.

Linfield juniors and seniors in Mass Media, Politics and Public Opinion taught by Brad Thompson, assistant professor of mass communication, and Social Research Methods led by Amy Orr, associate professor of sociology, came together for the project.

The poll focused on the governor’s race and the 10 initiatives that appeared on ballots across the state. Students created 50 questions, then conducted telephone interviews. In more than 200 person-hours of calling, students dialed approximately 8,000 telephone numbers and interviewed 253 respondents. The poll has a 6 percent margin of error.

Ryan Jones ’07, a mass communication major and Associated Students of Linfield College vice president, saw firsthand the huge effect polling has on public opinion.

“I have a better understanding of the power that lies in the hands of the pollsters,” he said. “Honest results can be skewed in the beginning with questions or in the end with how they are reported.”

The class project combined strengths from each curriculum, those of quantitative and experiential learning, according to Thompson.

“Students got hands-on polling experience and learned what it takes to run a poll,” Thompson said. “It makes it real for them.”

Orr agreed. In her Social Research Methods class, students learn about sampling, survey construction and administration of surveys. She said the project helped them to understand the process in a way that is not allowed by simply reading a book.

“Though they had a low response rate, and their sample does not appear to be representative of the population of Oregon voters, students learned valuable lessons about



Amy Orr, associate professor of sociology, left, and Justine Triest '09 discuss telephone interview techniques during a statewide pre-election poll designed and conducted by two Linfield College classes.

the complexities and challenges of conducting social research,” Orr said.

With responses ranging from hang-ups to yelling, Jones gained an appreciation for telephone pollsters.

“We all decided that from now on when we get calls like that we’ll give a nice answer instead of a slam on the phone,” he said.