Art Therapy Grad students!

In a competitive admissions market, senior Ellen Schroeder and Kari Weingartner have been accepted to art therapy programs in Illinois and Kentucky, respectively.

Ellen states: “I am happy to continue my artistic endeavors and feel the knowledge gained at the university is a great asset to my studio at Southern Illinois University.”

Kari says: “Beginning Fall 2011, I will be attending the University of Louisville to obtain my Masters of Education in Counseling and Professional Services with a concentration in Art Therapy. I am so thankful that upon graduation I will obtain a counseling license as well as one for practicing Art Therapy on the state of Kentucky.”

Congratulations, Ellen and Kari! We wish them every success and future hold on to happiness!

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Departmental Blog and Facebook

Art Award

Senior Ellen Schroeder was awarded the University Art Award during the April 17, 2010 All Honors Day Program. Congratulations Ellen!

Scholarship Reminder

Alumni, friends and prospective students are reminded that applications for the Scholarship programs must be accepted by the Early Action deadline. The Early Action deadline is February 6. Call (513) 745-3811 or check our website at www.xavier.edu/art for scholarship details.
I can only speak to my experience, but I found that Ignatius Loyola’s Spiritual Exercises look to a transformation of consciousness. The course is divided into four stages of meditations, prayers, consideration, reading scripture, and contemplative practices that help the retreatant develop a closer relationship with God and become more fully alive in the everyday life. I did the Exercises without going away on a retreat and instead worked them in my everyday normal course of life. I practiced them daily and two weeks later I found myself feeling much more focused and attentive to my director once a week.

I was enjoying myself in the studio one morning as I worked on some of my older pieces for the retrospective show. This morning I was working on a landscape painting highlights on the water. I felt as though I could continue working on the same piece with joy for about another year.

In fact, when Phyllis Winton suggested the retrospective show, I didn’t get it because I am only 40 years old and I thought too young. Now I believe her idea was inspired. The retrospective is the perfect project for me to be working on at this time. It is continuing to make the Spiritual Exercises alive in my life. Were there ever times when you thought you couldn’t manage it (ie: Spiritual Exercises)? Were there ever times when you thought you couldn’t do it? What/where was your favorite Ignatian moment? Oh, there are so many. I loved it when I would complete a painting and not really know where it came from and it was happening week by week. I mostly feel more like a witness to the creation of the work than the creator. Also during the Heartland Conference held at Xavier last summer, I walked into the gallery and there was a pair of high-heeled shoes before the Black Madonna like an offering. A woman took off her uncomfortable shoes and unexpectedly placed them there. I think it was a Providence slip. In the paintings and your gallery installation you feel a closer relationship to Ignatius Loyola... How did you find ways to make his story universal and inclusive? I was surprised at how much I related to this man who lived at the turn of the 16th century. I simply share my experience and understanding with him. I believe that because I experimented with it, others would too. I am not at all unique and we are all really much more the same than different.

On a weekend in April more than 2,000 students and their faculty advisors from 350 colleges nationwide and internationally attended the 24th National Conference on Undergraduate Research held at the University of Miami in Miami Beach. Professor Suzanne Chouche and four series are among the students who present their work at the conference. Students from the conference is based upon submission of an abstract describing the student’s research in an abstract two pages long, one page of artwork, or a survey study or combination thereof. Two painting majors, Ellen Schroeder and Ryan Hallman, presented their art and research in Prin providers. While printmaking students Jake Ferry and Jenna Zavala submitted and exhibited their works and gave presentations in the University of Miami’s student center gallery. For senior Ellen Schroeder, one of the most memorable experiences at the conference was the second time she had to defend her art work in front of the NCUR conference. She stated “Going to NCUR for the second time actually helped me to feel comfortable in presenting my work to fellow colleagues. I was no longer nervous about my work, and I learned to trust the process.”

What lessons did you learn from your time in your endavor and what advice would you give to young artists just beginning to embark on their own journeys? I discovered that my answers about my skills were blocking my creativity and my confidence. I discovered that my skills to other artists was a spin mesmeric habit. The best thing I did was to focus on self-confidence and the beauty of the studios instead of being a co-creator with God. Each painting session began with an acknowledgment of my Higher Power’s grandeur and offering up my work to God. Technically, I’d advise the young artist to step out into the creative process. Listen to your work and allow it to give you the answers. Trust that they are there right in front of you. You can make no mistake that leads to failure. All art students have been participating annually in NCUR since 1979 when Chouche took our first time accepted printmakers to New York. Like many of our students, she enjoyed the opportunity to experience the work of other artists from around the country and inspirations new ideas and ways of looking at their creativity. For Chouche the experience confirmed that Xavier’s Department of Art presents students to produce exceptional work and to present that work with passion and confidence.

A girl or learning opportunity. In 2009, I was painting a landscape. My hand smeared a yellow dot on a tree in the background. I asked the yellow dot what it was trying to say to me. I saw that the tree was appearing too flat and some of the lightest values were needed. The painting is much more because of that accident. It is hard to say what was the most memorable. I think it was the moment where I realized I am an artist. I fell in love with a woman who lived at the turn of the 16th century. I fell in love with a painting and was thrilled that the painting was mine. I fell in love with a landscape that I had created. It is continuing to make the Spiritual Exercises alive in my life. It is continuing to make the Spiritual Exercises alive in my life. Were there ever times when you thought you couldn’t do it? What/where was your favorite Ignatian moment? Oh, there are so many. I loved it when I would complete a painting and not really know where it came from and it was happening week by week. I mostly feel more like a witness to the creation of the work than the creator. Also during the Heartland Conference held at Xavier last summer, I walked into the gallery and there was a pair of high-heeled shoes before the Black Madonna like an offering. A woman took off her uncomfortable shoes and unexpectedly placed them there. I think it was a Providence slip. In the paintings and your gallery installation you feel a closer relationship to Ignatius Loyola... How did you find ways to make his story universal and inclusive? I was surprised at how much I related to this man who lived at the turn of the 16th century. I simply share my experience and understanding with him. I believe that because I experimented with it, others would too. I am not at all unique and we are all really much more the same than different.