



ArtFest, hosted by the Visual Arts Committee, showcases student artistic accomplishments.

ArtFest exposes Aggies to student creativity

By Sydney Shuetze

The winners of the Visual Arts Committee's 2015 ArtFest Competition are on display in the MSC Reynolds Gallery.

The contest, which is part of the larger Artstock program put on by the MSC, was open to all students of Texas A&M and includes a variety of mediums, including charcoal, mixed medium and sculpture. More than 45 pieces were submitted from 28 different artists.

Mary Compton, MSC Program Coordinator and advisor to the Visual Arts Committee, said the MSC has put on the event for years to recognize creativity at Texas A&M.

"They had ArtFest when I was a student, and that was 10 years ago," Compton said. "You could say it's tradition."

The contest does not provide a particular theme or topic for the students to follow when submitting their art piece to the ArtFest display.

"We have a lot of range as far as what people can submit, so there are some really nice examples," Compton said. "It's really just to give the students

a chance to express themselves and create some artwork and include it in the gallery. It's pretty special for us to get students to participate."

Kate Lindeman, a general studies freshman, was named the first place winner of the art contest for her entry "Boats."

The piece, which was created with acrylic paint, took three months to complete.

"So my art teacher loved to bring me things to paint," Lindeman said. "I did this my senior year of high school. I spent so much time on it. Every free minute of every day, I was working on it."

Lindeman said the contest exposed her to the creativity of the student body.

"I hadn't really heard about the art at A&M," Lindeman said. "I think the students are really talented."

Raya Castaneda, a university studies senior who tied for second with her oil self-portrait, "Breaking Free," explained that the work was one of her most personal.

"I've noticed A&M is not as well known for its art," Castaneda said. "Seeing all this art around sort of gives

me hope for this kind of thing."

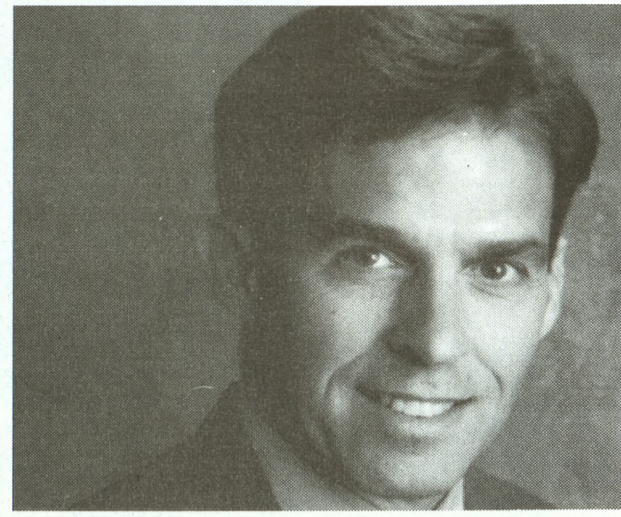
Castaneda said contests like this allow her to pursue her dreams, even at a school not known for its art program.

"I came here for veterinary medicine, but I realized I loved art more and I wanted to pursue that more, that even though there isn't an art school here I could still find classes and I could still find people who loved art as much as I do," Castaneda said.

Castaneda said she was pushed by her teacher to try a self portrait instead of what she had originally planned.

"I was in the Corps at the time so I had my hair in a tight bun," Castaneda said. "So we were taking pictures for reference and somebody said, 'Hey, why don't you take your hair down and see if we can mess with it?' So I did. It was kind of liberating. I just started swinging it around and got several good pictures of that. So I took it, added Photoshop to it and some crazy colors inspired by some pieces I saw on Pinterest, and I found this. I said, 'This looks hard, but I'll challenge myself to do it,' and in two weeks, I got this done."

The ArtFest display will be in the Reynolds Gallery through April 12.



Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Atkinson visits Wednesday to share thoughts on WWII and U.S. national identity.

Journalist to talk societal impact of WWII on the US

By Spencer Davis

Understanding national history has a connection to understanding national identity — a point the Glasscock Center for Humanities Research of Texas A&M hopes to instill in students through a guest lecture Wednesday by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Rick Atkinson.

Atkinson is a journalist and historian whose study of military history has been celebrated by numerous national awards, including three Pulitzer Prizes. He will present his lecture "10 Things Every American Should Know About WWII" to analyze the political and social lessons of the war.

In his lecture, Atkinson will use historical anecdotes to draw larger conclusions about national identity, said Donna Malak, communications specialist for the Glasscock Center.

"In his presentation, he'll share some stories and lessons about WWII while discussing its seminal moments and how the war shaped our modern world, created an American heritage, and led to great social change," Malak said.

Joseph Dawson, professor in the Department of History, said Atkinson is especially adept to wade through the controversies that surround the history of the world's

bloodiest war.

"He is a thorough researcher and he has an excellent analytical ability," Dawson said. "His talks have been both informative and also extremely thoughtful in order to prompt listeners to continue to look at the kinds of controversies about the war that he analyzes."

The lecture is part of the Glasscock Center's WWII Global Legacies initiative, which is a platform for guest speakers to discuss the long-lasting impact of the war. Richard Golsan, director of the Glasscock Center, said Atkinson is a qualified speaker for the program.

"I think that Atkinson is uniquely placed because he's a great historian of the European theatre to really provide some clarity and context to make people understand better what happened during the war and what its importance is now," Golsan said.

There will be a morning coffee hour at 9 a.m. Wednesday where students can have an informal discussion with Atkinson. The lecture itself will be held in the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center at the Bush School at 6 p.m. Wednesday. It will be preceded by a reception at 5:15 p.m., and will be followed by a book signing. Tickets are free and available to the public.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

J-COURT REVERSES FINES AGAINST SBP CANDIDATE TSAU

A Judicial Court ruling Tuesday lifted student body president candidate Isaiah Tsau's disqualification from the SBP race.

Tsau, who only garnered the third largest number of votes in the Spring 2015 election, was disqualified by the Election Commission for exceeding his campaign limit by \$111. Election Commissioner Emma Douglas fined Tsau over \$200 after a campaign slogan written on the chalkboard in

the Evans Library Annex surfaced on social media.

The summary claims that the election commissioner falsely assumed the campaign slogan was written by a supporter of Tsau and that the slogan was written in a classroom, an area designated as off limits for campaigning by the election regulations.

Both parties agreed that the fine was a miscommunication.

The ruling does not affect the final outcome of the Spring 2015 student body president election.

REVEILLE CONTINUED

Reber said when the search for a new mascot began, the committee put in charge of the search didn't have to look very far to find an example of the qualities they desired.

"As a committee, we met together to see what characteristics we wanted Rev to have to be a successful mascot," Reber said. "We really looked for what they looked for in Rev VIII, because we all believed that she was a wonderful mascot, and that a dog similar to Rev VIII would serve the university's needs."

Twix comes to A&M from her previous owners Mike and Marcy Fine, of Overland Collies in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. The Fines have built a strong reputation in the collie breeding world, earning the Collie Club of America's Breeder of the Year award nine times since 2000.

Mike Fine said his wife thought Trix would be perfect for the job and sent in a video of her when she heard about the search in late 2013.

"They found the video interesting and emailed her back saying they'd like another video of her," Mike Fine said. "We took Trix to Chagrin Falls, and she wanted to play with all the kids. I took a video of her that day

and sent it down to [A&M]"

Early on in the process, many students and former students alike hoped the new mascot would come from a shelter, or even return to being a mutt like the very first Reveille. Reber said several shelter dogs were considered, but returning to a mutt was never in the plans.

"Of the four finalists, two of them were shelter collies from Houston, so it was a serious consideration from the committee," Reber said. "We said from the very beginning we said that we were going to get the absolute best dog for our new mascot. If that would've happened to be a shelter dog, then that would have been fantastic, but it turned out to be from a breeder."

Mike Fine said it is an honor that a university to which he and his wife have no ties considers one of their dogs worthy of such a great honor.

"I have to tell you, it's pretty exciting," Mike Fine said. "It's something that we'll be able to brag about for years, right up there with our championship dogs."

Reveille IX will be formally introduced at the Corps of Cadets Final Review on May 9. There will also be a campus-wide event honoring the new First Lady, with details still to be announced.



Junior outfielder Cali Lanphear steps up to the plate against the Kentucky Wildcats during a home game on March 7.

A&M softball carries Kentucky series momentum into date with SHSU

By Milkyas Gashaw

The No. 20 Texas A&M softball team looks to get back to its winning ways with a midweek visit from Sam Houston State on Wednesday at the Aggie Softball Complex.

The Aggies (19-5, 2-1 SEC) took an 11-game winning streak into their SEC home opener against Kentucky this weekend and pushed it to 13 with wins on Friday and Saturday before falling on Sunday to the Wildcats.

The Bearkats from the Southland Conference (7-14) got off to a rocky start this season, losing their first six games. They turned it around by reeling off four straight victories before a loss against No. 2 Oregon, who also beat the Aggies 5-1 on Feb. 18.

The Aggies are projected to send senior Rachel Fox to the circle on Wednesday. Fox has been pitching lights out this season with a 12-3 record and a team-high 11 complete games. Junior Katie Marks has been a complement to Fox, posting a 6-1 record of her own and a team-leading 1.38 ERA. Head coach Jo Evans said she was especially pleased with Marks' last outing, albeit in a losing effort.

"The great thing with Katie was that all of their runs were solo home runs," Evans said. "Tip your hat to Kentucky who was ready to swing the bat. Our team got down two runs and could have given up but Katie Marks put them back in the game. Katie had a really good and solid pitching performance today. I

feel very encouraged by her performance, she showed such great fight, especially with those two huge strikeouts to end the sixth inning."

The Bearkats are led on offense by senior Sarah Allison and junior Peyton Webb. Allison leads the club with six bombs and 20 RBI's on the season while Webb is second on the team with 16 RBI.

A breakout performer for the Aggies to watch is freshman center fielder Erica Russell, who took over for junior Alex Masek on Sunday and did not disappoint, reaching base on all three appearances with an RBI walk and a double to left-center against the Wildcats.

First pitch is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.