

Exhibit showcases art – and BC3, SRU collaboration

Feb. 8, 2019



Barbara Westman, right, an associate professor of printmaking and fiber art at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, is shown with David Ludwick, a Butler County Community College fine arts instructor, during an artists' reception for "When Art and Science Collide" at BC3's Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

(Butler, PA) A Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania art exhibit at Butler County Community College is as much about displaying the partnerships between Butler County's institutions of higher education as it is about printmaking, BC3 and SRU representatives said during an artists' reception Tuesday.

"When Art and Science Collide" is the fourth SRU art show to be held on BC3's main campus, according to BC3 fine arts instructor David Ludwick, and the first in BC3's Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery since Ludwick became its curator in the fall of 2017.

The display also follows SRU's Barbara Westman conducting a two-day workshop on shibori, a Japanese dyeing technique, to Ludwick's introduction to painting class in the fall 2018 semester, and the two institutions in December signing articulation agreements for five additional programs that will enable BC3 students to more efficiently transfer to SRU in pursuit of a bachelor's degree.

Collaboration between the SRU and BC3 art departments is "absolutely important," Westman, an SRU associate professor of printmaking and fiber art, said Tuesday. "I don't think we should be separating each other because we belong to different colleges."

"We are trying to open the doors of communication and joint activities between our department and Slippery Rock's department," said Ludwick, a BC3 fine arts instructor for 21 years. "One of the reasons for that is that so many of our students transfer to Slippery Rock."

Each year, more than 200 BC3 students transfer to SRU, the university reported in December. With the addition of the five new agreements, BC3 students will have 32 formal academic pathways to SRU, according to the university.

Among the Dec. 4 agreements is one that allows graduates of BC3's associate of arts degree program in social work to transfer credits seamlessly into SRU's bachelor of science degree program in philanthropy and nonprofit management.

BC3 and SRU students in clubs representing those academic programs are also planning a 24-hour "Volunteer Crawl" on Feb. 22-23. Students will volunteer at Glade Run Lutheran Services in Zelienople, at the Butler County Humane Society in Renfrew and at Newhaven Court at Clearview, Butler, under the direction of Dr. Karen Stubenbort and Dr. Alice Del Vecchio, faculty members of BC3 and SRU, respectively, according to Dr. Nichol Zaginaylo, BC3's associate dean of humanities and social sciences.

BC3 president: Partnerships "incredibly important"

Butler and Chester are the only counties in the state to host a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education institution and a Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges member.



Former Butler County Community College students Caitlyn Sweetland, left, and Alyssa Edinger, seniors at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, are shown during an artists' reception for "When Art and Science Collide" at BC3's Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

“It is incredibly important that we collaborate like this,” BC3 President Dr. Nick Neupauer said at the artists’ reception. “It’s the right thing to do. It makes great sense for our students. In a student-centered environment, when you consider the possibilities that exist in these collaborations, those above all are great reasons to be doing exactly what we are doing.”

Forty-seven BC3 students this spring are enrolled in art history II, drawing, introduction to painting and sculpture classes on BC3’s main campus, according to Sharla Anke, BC3’s assistant dean of institutional research. Another 14 are taking drawing and sculpture courses at BC3 @ Cranberry in Cranberry Township, Anke said.

Eleven are pursuing an associate of arts degree in fine arts from BC3, which, Jon Shumway said, is “far and away the pipeline” to SRU.

“It makes perfect sense, from our standpoint of being in the art department, that students go to BC3, get a solid foundation under their belt in their first two years, then make the easy jump to Slippery Rock, where we can work to develop ideas and understanding to a greater extent and work to finalize their bachelor’s degrees,” said Shumway, chairman of SRU’s art department.

“Having these two entities in such close proximity to each other is a boon to the region, the county and the immediate surroundings. To have that in your backyard is a distinct advantage to the populace of the immediate region.”

Exhibit features former BC3 students’ works

“When Art and Science Collide” represents a collaboration among SRU’s art and astronomy students. Astronomy students learned about printmaking techniques and printmakers learned about astronomy. The display features 46 linocut, etching and monotype prints – ranging in size from 5 inches by 5 inches to 6 inches by 6 inches – and created by 12 SRU students, two of whom attended BC3.

The exhibit “gives people from different departments a chance to see what students from Slippery Rock are doing,” said Alyssa Edinger, 26, a senior art major at SRU who studied graphic design at BC3 @ Cranberry and who also attended BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing in New Castle.

The display in the Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery could also “inspire BC3 students to pursue art,” said Caitlyn Sweetland, 23, a senior art education major at SRU who attended BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing and BC3’s main campus.



A print created by former Butler County Community College student and current Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania art student Alyssa Edinger is shown at BC3’s Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

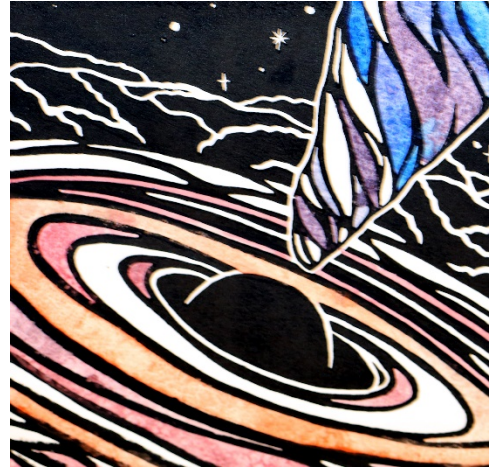
The exhibit is also an opportunity, Neupauer said, “for that faculty dialogue, faculty exchange of ideas, and the highest quality at both institutions that results from these types of collaborations.”

BC3 artists’ works could also appear in SRU’s Martha Gault Art Gallery, Westman and Shumway said.

“That,” Westman said, “is definitely something we could do.”

Added Shumway: “I would like to explore those possibilities. I think there is a lot there to be considered as further ways our institutions and, in this case, the art programming can interact with one another and work to dovetail our efforts.”

“When Art and Science Collide” is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays through Feb. 25 at the Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery.



A print created by former Butler County Community College student and current Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania art student Caitlyn Sweetland is shown at BC3’s Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.