Celebration of RCC Creativity

April 20, 2017
Congratulations from Dr. Wood

Members of the Rockland Community College community are renowned for their dedication to students, offering academic and moral support both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition, many members of our community are recognized within their fields for their creative accomplishments. We are very proud to honor members of our RCC community who have made important contributions to the literary, performing, and visual arts. Their achievements underscore the value that RCC places on creativity, providing a positive example of excellence for our students and for the community.

Dr. Cliff L. Wood, President
Program

Live Performance by the Campus Players and the Performing Arts Department

Creativity in the Performing Arts
  Gino Diiorio
  Patricia Maloney-Titland
  Angelo Parra
  Christopher Plummer
  Freia Titland
  Barry Wiesenfeld

Creativity in the Visual Arts
  Brook Evans
  Janice Goldstein
  Eileen MacAvery-Kane
  Beth Robinson
  John Schlesinger
  Suzanne Cleary
  Tzipora Reitman
  Sherrill Wilson

Award for Creativity Pin Design
  Samantha Lettire

Refreshments
Creativity in the Visual Arts

- Brooke Evans
  “Eva”

- Janice Goldstein
  RCC-TV Digital Network

- Eileen MacAvery-Kane
  “The Ghosts We Live With”

- Beth Robinson
  “The Pond of the 200,000”

- John Schlesinger
  “Unsmoke Systems”
“Eva”, the latest dinnerware design by Brooke Evans, took second place in the Workhouse Clay National at the Workhouse Art Center, Lorton, VA
Brook Evans
Art Department Adjunct Faculty

She has also assembled the following exhibitions:

- Tristate of Mind The Clay Art Center Port Chester, NY 2015
- Baltimore Clayworks 35th Anniversary Invitational Baltimore, MD
- Juried National 3 Red Lodge Clay Center, Red Lodge, MT
- Slip Cast Object Re-visited Plinth Gallery, Denver, CO
- Tabletop Ceramics The Art League Gallery, Alexandria, VA
- Communal Clay Duchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- NCECA Expo with The Clay Art Center, Providence, RI
Janice Goldstein received the "Award of Distinction" for RCC-TV from the Communicator Awards - Honoring Excellence in Marketing and Communications. It was presented by AIVA Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts.
Janice Goldstein
Multi-media Production Center Director

Janice Goldstein has over 31 years of experience as an award winning director, producer, videographer, editor and photographer. During this time, she created and built RCC's Multi-Media Production Center - a state-of-the-art digital production and post-production facility as well as creating RCC-TV, RCC's first campus digital network.

A sample of other awards and honors within the last decade include: National Council of Marketing and Public Relations - Wildcard Category; The Communicator's Award - Award of Distinction -"and so we did" "The Sam Draper MTS Honors Program"; National Council of Marketing and Public Relations - Silver Medallion Award - College Viewbook (Electronic); and State University of New York - The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Videographer Award of Distinction - "The Internship Program: Linking Knowledge to Experience."
Eileen MacAvery-Kane’s film, “The Ghosts We Live With”, was made possible through partnership with the Downing Film Center and with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson.
Eileen MacAvery-Kane
Art Department Instructor

Photographer, filmmaker, artist, and graphic designer, Eileen MacAvery-Kane has also written and designed the books "Ethics: A Graphic Designer’s Field Guide," "East End Stories," and "Teacup Secrets" and the blogs ethicsingraphicdesign.com and chakraspirit.com.

Selected additional awards include:
- Arts in Orange/NYSCA Grant Recipient, “Love Sense” (film), Orange County, NY, 2013
- Community Solutions Foundation Project Grant Recipient, “Newburgh Youth Art,” 2011
- Orange County Arts Grant Recipient, “East End Stories,” Goshen, NY, 2010

Eileen's work primarily explores our relationships with memories, family, community, spirituality, nature, and the environment. The interaction of these elements, and the sometimes unlikely pairing of them, is what interests her.
Beth Robinson wrote, shot, and produced this 7:00 minute video which received an award from the Venture Foundation.
Beth Robinson
Communication Media Arts Department Chair

Beth Robinson got her expertise in communications at CBS. She also worked for Westwood One and Dial Global. She managed Broadcast and Technical Operations for national broadcast centers in New York, Washington and Los Angeles, and was responsible for studios, production staff and major broadcasts such as the Super Bowl, Olympics, NCAA “March Madness” and CBS News, including breaking coverage of the 9/11 attacks.
John Schlesinger created this installation at Unsmoke Systems Artspace along with partner Tra Bouscaren. The installation incorporates photographs, recycled materials, neon and video projection.

Other installations that have been created during the past two years can be found at the Walker Art Center, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Houston Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Hamburg Kunsthalle, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Brooklyn Museum, and the MoMA.
John Schlesinger is a photographer turned sculptor. He has won a Rome Prize, a Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, a Peter S. Reed Foundation Award and two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships.

His work has been reviewed in Art in America, Village Voice, Aperture, Bomb Magazine, ARTnews, and the New York Times.

Collected broadly, Schlesinger's output can be found at the Walker Art Center, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Houston Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Hamburg Kunsthalle, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Brooklyn Museum, and the MoMA.
Creativity in the Literary Arts

- Suzanne Cleary
  “Elm Street”

- Tzipora Reitman
  “Springboard to Success”

- Sherrill D. Wilson
  “Hosting the Vision”
Suzanne Cleary

Elm Street

I am so happy to see the man who lives in the house on the corner
sit on the porch with a guitar on his knee, one arm draped
loosely, as if he patiently scans a vast repertoire, choosing
which song to play, or as if he has stopped mid-song
to tighten a string, then decided to listen to Elm Street
and compose a new song, notes his fingers will find and follow,
for Elm Street is a steep hill that draws skateboarders like a magnet,
that makes drivers roll down the truck window and stick an elbow out.
Elm Street has been here since before it had a name, dirt path
from hilltop to river. I am happy if the man is new to the guitar, pauses
in the middle of the only song he knows, because he has lost his place
or lost touch with the touch he has learned to imitate, late nights
in his attic-room rental, this middle-aged man who works second shift,
homemade for the night, which he will fill, perhaps, with song,
or with stray notes that make song of the silence between them,
for sometimes song is beyond our reach, as found the art student
who dutifully copied masterpieces until he saw his true gift: forgery.
For a brief time, he built a life on copying Matisse,
for his simple line, unable to see that the line halted when the painter paused
to look at his model. The line resumed with hesitance, a quaver
the forger never could replicate, conceding.

I mastered his line, it was his pause I could not master—finally having seen
that to see the model is to quaver in her presence, is to carry forward
what little you can balance on the tip of the brush.

Silence, big silence that surrounds us, some of us dare to hear you.
Tonight, I am happy it is the man on the corner, instead of me,
who sits in your presence, and readsies himself to play.

_Elm Street_ by **Suzanne Cleary**
published in current issue of _The George Review_
Suzanne Cleary
English Faculty

Suzanne Cleary is Third Prize Winner of the 2017 Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Prize.

Suzanne has published three poetry books, the most recent being BEAUTY MARK, published by BkMk Press (U of Missouri-Kansas City) in 2013 as winner of the John Ciardi Prize for Poetry.

Other awards include a Pushcart Prize, the Cecil Hemley Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America, and a fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

She has received writing residencies from/at the MacDowell Colony and Yaddo. She has an MFA in Poetry from Washington U and a Ph.D. in Literature and Criticism from Indiana U of Pennsylvania. She also teaches as core faculty in the low-residency MFA in Creative Writing Program of Converse College.
NEW YORK'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES:
SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS

Tzipora Reitman,
SUNY Council for University Advancement, 2015
Tzipora Reitman
Chief Communications Officer


Tzipora Reitman founded the Campus Communications department at RCC more than twenty years ago and now serves as the College's Chief Communications Officer. She previously worked as a freelance journalist and newspaper editor, and is co-editor of a popular cookbook, The Spice and Spirit of Kosher Jewish Cooking (1990, LWC Publications, NY). She helped found Hillel of Rockland in 1999 and serves on its executive board. She earned a B.A. from Hamilton College.
Sherrill Wilson, “Holding the Vision” published in the Columbia Journal

These additional poems were also published: “Artifacts …”, “Celebrating New York Freedom” from a collection in progress.
Sherrill Wilson
Multicultural Studies Adjunct Faculty


Dr. Wilson has lectured at the Smithsonian Institute, the American Museum of Natural History, the National Monument NY African Burial Ground, the Museum of the City of NY, the US Mission to the United Nations, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the NY Historical Society, the Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture and numerous other organizations and institutions nationally and internationally. She is the recipient of the 2005 History Visionary Award from the Manhattan Borough Presidents Office and the first recipient of the African American Heritage Award from Historic Hudson Valley Museum in Tarrytown, NY.
Creativity in the Performing Arts

- Gino Diiorio
  “Sam and Dede” or
  “My Dinner with Andre the Giant”

- Patricia Maloney-Titland
  The Robert Flynn Irish Heritage Festival

- Angelo Parra
  “The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith”

- Christopher Plummer
  “Playing the Assassin”

- Freia Titland
  “Orange is the new Black”

- Barry Wiesenfeld
  “Kevin Gray”
“Sam and Dede (or) My Dinner with Andre the Giant” opens at 59 East 59 Theatre

Gino Diiorio
“Sam & Dede”
or “My Dinner with Andre the Giant”
Gino Diorio
Performing Arts Adjunct Faculty

Gino Diorio’s plays have been produced at a number of theatres across the US and internationally including New Jersey Rep, Penguin Rep, Urban Stages, Luna Stage, Virginia Stage Company, Seven Angels Theatre, the Arclight Theatre, the Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, and the Garter Lane Theatre.

Written by Gino Diorio, “Sam & Dede, or My Dinner With Andre the Giant” opened off-Broadway in March with reviews such as: “an affectionate tribute to a stage goliath and a grappler built like a brute.” - The New York Times and "Cleverly written, wonderfully acted, and staged with creative simplicity, Sam & Dede, or My Dinner with Andre the Giant is an enchanting fantasia." - Theater Scene

Prior works include The Jag, winner of the 2010 Firehouse Theatre’s Great American New Play Award and a finalist in the 2011 Laurents Hatcher Award Competition. Reparation won the 2011 E. Desmond Lee Playwriting Prize (University of Missouri-St. Louis) and was a Yale Drama Series Finalist in 2010. Dead Ringer won 1st place in the BBC’s 2005 International Playwriting Competition and was performed on BBC Radio.
Patricia Maloney-Titland

$50,000 grant recipient for the Robert Flynn Irish Heritage Festival to develop a year-long celebration of Irish Culture.

2016 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence Faculty Service recipient for creative and innovative service projects.
Patty Maloney-Titland, Professor/Chair of Performing Arts, has enriched the greater community as well as RCC’s Performing Arts during her 29-year tenure at RCC. She instituted an internship initiative with Penguin Repertory Theatre, benefits multiple charitable causes through student productions. She has received numerous accolades for her work, including two SUNY Chancellor’s Awards, one for Excellence in Faculty Service and the other for Scholarship and Creative Activities in 2009, the RCC Foundation Person of the Year and Recognition for 25 years of dedicated service to RCC, Arts Council of Rockland Award for Arts Educator of the Year, and a Creative Artist honoree from the Penguin Repertory Theatre to name a few.

She is Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of the long-running Rockland Shakespeare Company which has been nominated six times for an Arts Council of Rockland (ACOR) award, and is advisor to the Campus Players club where she has directed numerous productions and collaborative events at RCC.

A professional actor, Professor Maloney earned her MFA from Catholic University of America (With Honors) and was also selected to study for a year at a professional theater school in Manchester, England. She received a scholarship to the Washington, DC, Arena Stage’s Actors Workshop. She is a member of SAG-AFTRA, Actor’s Equity Association (AEA) and the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD).
Angelo Parra

"The Devil’s Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith"
Angelo Parra, an award-winning writer, has had plays produced Off-Broadway, in Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and at Hartford Stage, Florida Stage, Cape (Cod) Playhouse, George Street Playhouse, and Florida Rep among others.

"The Devil’s Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith" was named among the “Top-Ten Off-Broadway Experiences” by the NY Daily News, nominated for a 2012 Lucille Lortel Award, and was performed at the 2012 Montreal International Jazz Festival, the only play ever invited. Most recently the play was performed (six shows) at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Center in Winnipeg, and made its West Coast premiere at the Rubicon Theatre in Ventura, California. His honors include the Jewel Box Theatre, Mixed Blood Versus America, and David James Ellis Memorial national play awards, two NY Foundation for the Arts Fellowships in Scriptwriting, and the 1998 Chicano/Latino Literary Award (UC Irvine). In 2000, he was named a Tennessee Williams Scholar at the prestigious Sewanee Writers Conference.
Christopher Plummer
“Playing the Assassin”
Among other talents, Christopher Plummer is a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors and a recommended Actor-Combatant who is proficient in all eight endorsed weapons. His work as fight director for "Playing the Assassins" was identified as "gut-wrenching" in the New York Times review.

Christopher is also the Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director of the long-running Rockland Shakespeare Company. The RSC has multiple nominations for Best Arts Organization by the Arts Council of Rockland.

As a screenwriter, he has written a number of screenplays including "Of Love and Fate", "A Tale in Time" as well as a number of short films. As a playwright, Christopher's most recent work is entitled "Vero Nihil Verius (Nothing Truer Than Truth)" - about Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford.
Freia Titland

“Orange is the new Black”
Freia Titland
Performing Arts Adjunct Faculty

Freia M. Titland is a NYC based actress, model, writer and arts educator.

As an actress, she was featured in Orange is the New Black and in various other films and TV shows. A film she was featured in will be making its NYC debut at the Manhattan Theatre Festival. Recent film work includes short films such as Scared Awake, Unknown Number and Growing Up Fat and Albanian. 'Growing Up' is an official selection for the Manhattan Film Festival, the Maryland International Film Festival, Bucharest Shortcut CineFest, Female Filmmakers Festival, Best Shorts Festival and SHORT to the Point.

Recent Television and Media work includes a spot for Zagat, The Chew, and Orange is the New Black. Recent Theatre work includes the Nordic Symposium for Origin Theatre and The Resister Project. Freia recently made her directorial debut with her original play, The Last Dance, and The Manhattan Rep Theatre.

Freia has also been a featured model in Milan Fashion Week 2015 for Marina Rinaldi, and was seen in Vogue Italia and Shakespeare Magazine UK.
Barry Wiesenfeld
“Forever Always”
Barry Wiesenfeld had the honor of being asked to perform, along with major Broadway stars and musicians, on a recording, "Forever Always", a tribute to passed Broadway star, Kevin Gray. Barry played both electric and double bass on the recording. The recording was nominated for Grammy Awards in two categories.

Barry's career has included performances with Grammy and RMI winners, tours on three continents as well as well-known 'local' venues (e.g. Carnegie Hall, PNC Arts Center). His own trio was awarded the title of "Vocal Band of the Year" by the NJ Country Music Association and he has provided the bass lines for major stars (The Association, Tommy Makem, among others).

In addition, Barry Wiesenfeld has been a music teacher for decades, and is currently authoring a book for children about participation in music (and how we can ALL take part in music making!).
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