



CROWN POINT

# STAR

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
*Kimberly Mathisen*  
 kmathisen@post-trib.com

**Classified and Subscriptions**  
 (219) 663-4212  
 FAX: (219) 663-0137

**Office location**  
 112 W. Clark Street  
 Crown Point, IN 46307

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In my last column, I reported on local graduating Lowell High School art student, Ashley Kronsell who won first place and an opportunity for a \$1,000 art school scholarship in a state-wide competition in Indianapolis. Here are more local student artists.

Recently Joseph Rejholec, Steeple Gallery patron, sculptor, and South Suburban College Art Instructor, invited me to attend the South Suburban College Regional High School Exhibit 2009. The exhibit included art work from 24 high schools in Illinois and Indiana. The exhibit was Feb. 2 to Feb. 27, which featured a closing reception.

The day included welcoming remarks from Joseph Rejholec, the coordinator; Debra Hingst, dean of arts, English and humanities; and Jack Kirkpatrick, chairman of the art and design department. Robert Sirko, art department chairman and art professor of Valparaiso University, lectured, using a power point presentation featuring selected art merit award winners for each high school. Edwin Shelton, program director for the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, in Michigan City, served as judge for these awards.

Hanover Central High School's winner was Andrew L. Kleine, for a ceramic piece (walrus on page 2).

The art instructor is Louis Greer. Lake Central High School's winner was Heather Hofer, for a ceramic vase. Also Erin Zlotkowski, of Lake Central won the poster and brochure design award for 2009. The art teachers are Sandy Bushong, Chris Colle, and Maureen Yeager.

The participating high schools included: Argo Community High School, Summit, Ill.; Bishop Noll Institute, Hammond; Bloom Township High School, Chicago Heights; Bloom Trail High School, Chicago Heights, Ill.; Bremen High School, Midlothian, Ill.; Crete Monee High School, Crete, Ill.; Griffith High School, Griffith; Hanover Central High School, Cedar Lake; Hillcrest High School, Country Club Hills, Ill.; Kankakee High School, Kankakee, Ill.; Lake Central High School, St. John; Munster High School, Munster; Oak Forest High School, Oak Forest, Ill.; Reaves High School, Burbank, Ill.; Rich Central High School, Olympia Fields, Ill.; Rich East High School, Park Forest, Ill.; Rich South High School, Richton Park, Ill.; Alan B. Shepard High School, Palos Heights, Ill.; Seton Academy, South Holland, Ill.; Thornton Fractional North High School, Calumet City, Ill.; Thornton Fractional South High School, Lansing, Ill.; Thornridge High School, Dolton, Ill.; Thornton Township High School, Harvey, Ill.; and Thornwood High School, South Holland, Ill.

Rejholec, SSC instructor, and coordinator of the exhibit explained why South Suburban College started the exhibition. "It is a great opportunity to bring area high schools to exhibit their artwork in a gallery environment. Also it is also a way for high school students



**Students from Hanover Central High School and Lake Central High School took part in the South Suburban College Regional High School Exhibit 2009 on Feb. 21. Featured on page 2, is "Pontio" a mask done by Panagiota Doukas of Lake Central High School; and "It is What it Is" by Hanover Central High School's Andrew L. Kleine. Above, one of the walls of art at the exhibit — pictured is Hanover's. Below at left, work done by an Illinois student Agne Tolkaciovaite, whose pointilism/impressionism work, "Text Messaging" was done using tiny pieces of tape. Below at right is an assortment of pottery creations done by the students at the exhibit.**



to see each others' work.

"(The exhibit) is a super networking tool for high school students and art teachers to work their curriculum and course content. It gives the students and faculty an opportunity to learn about various professional artists, their education, background, content and lifestyle."

I asked Rejolec what he liked most about the exhibition, " I really enjoy the reaction of all the students exhibiting in the show. To watch their faces, there is a sense of delight that they are not alone but rather part of a community."

Rejholec served as emcee for the day. I was very pleased to hear him recognize Louis Greer, Hanover Central High School art teacher for promoting the arts in South Suburban Chicago and Northwest Indiana for 32 years. The audience gave a loud round of applause.

Jack Kirkpatrick, chairman art/design, South Suburban College provided additional background information: "The exhibit and festival was organized by the Illinois High School SICA Art Guild in the 1990s to provide students the opportunity to exhibit artwork in an off-campus gallery environment. South Suburban College stepped forward to provide the membership of SICA with an excellent venue to showcase their work. " The exhibit has evolved with cooperation of the College and countless extra hours by high school art teachers into a scheduled annual event.

Guest artist for the exhibit and festival have included Chicago Painter Ed Paschke, Tony Fitzpatrick, and Sculptor Richard Hunt.

Established artists both nationally and internationally, have provided the high school art students insight into their educational backgrounds, life experiences,



and artwork. Included in the activities on festival day are studio demonstrations by the Art Faculty of SSC Ceramics, Computer Generated Artwork, Printmaking and Bronze Casting, enabling the students to observe media and techniques that are used by professional artists. It is with these attributes of educational outcomes and the continued support by the Board of Trustees, Administration, and Faculty of South Suburban College that we are pleased to host this exhibition for the young artists."

Congratulations to the following local students from Hanover and Lake Central for being a part of this event: Hanover - Jessica Barlo, Brandon Bispig, Chelsea Combs, Nathan Dewey, Michelle Eriks, Alex Goheen, Andrew L. Kleine, Ashley Reeves, Ashley Swart, Whitney Thompson, Zack Van Der Weide, Brianna Voas.

Lake Central- Ashley Chiluski, Ashlee Tancos, Kaitlyn Stancy, Erin Zlotkowski, Jamie Huisenga, Natalie Velasano, Samantha Gindl, Leah Cerwinske, Samantha Feldman, Julia Cook, Heather Hofer, Jamen Lane, C.J. Nicholls, Panagiota Doukas.