Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art News

May 1, 2010

Georgia Southern University

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Mark your calendars for the Club Mud Exhibition & Sale, April 29 - May 1 at the Ceramic and Sculpture Building on Georgia Southern University Campus. Over 40 undergraduate and graduate art students will exhibit and sell their work in ceramics, porcelain and stoneware, jewelry, small metals, prints and handmade books. "Over the years Club Mud has evolved into a three day Gallery opportunity for the students." says Jane Pleak, professor of ceramics, "We have such a diverse group of students the work always varies expanding creative offerings." The Exhibition & Sale is free and open to the public - student prices will vary.

Celebrating its 27th year, the Club Mud Exhibition & Sale provides an opportunity for students to develop as professional artists. Proceeds not only support the Betty Foy Sanders Department of art students, student travel, and the visiting artist program, but local causes such as Food Bank, Human Society and the American Red Cross.

Consistent from year to year is the opportunity for student artists to exhibit, network
with the public and understand the business of art. "Club Mud," says Pleak, "gives art students the opportunity to see what it's like to become a professional artist." "The university and local community have been our biggest support encouraging our students as they develop their creative talents," continues Pleak, "They support and encourage young artists and, over the years, see the student work evolve and grow."

Ceramics and Sculpture Building
Georgia Southern University
236 Forest Drive [map]
Statesboro, Georgia 30460
912.GSU.ARTS

Hours
Thursday, April 29 and Friday, April 30: 10am - 9pm
Saturday, May 1: 10am - 6pm
MAY 3 - 7, 2010

Reception: Friday, May 7; 5 - 7pm

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art at Georgia Southern University is pleased to present the works of the Bachelor of Fine Arts graduating class of Spring 2010. Titled *Thresholds*, the exhibition will be on display in the Center for Art & Theatre from May 3rd through May 7th, 2010 with a closing reception Friday May 7th from 5 – 7pm; all are invited to attend.

*Thresholds* is defined as a place of entering, a point at which physiological or psychological effects begin to be produced, and a value above which something will be considered true. The
multiple meanings of *Thresholds* embody a commonality between ten artists whose mediums include photography, painting, drawing and ceramics.

Though different mediums, three artists toy with the thresholds of memory, anxiety, abstraction, intimacy, creation and beauty. Tami Henry, Jessica Eanes and Elizabeth Debban’s works evoke empathy in their viewers. Henry photographs personal memorabilia in new settings, which reinvent the memory connected to the object where Eanes stages objects and actors in scenes reminiscent of film-noir to sensitize the viewer to her debilitating phobias. Similarly, Debban connects the viewer to the struggle of the Alzheimer’s patient and family though symbolic representations of memory loss.

Kristen Camp, Ashley Davis and Daniel Maskery’s photographs teeter on the threshold of abstraction. Camp’s scanography transforms everyday objects into luminescent stripes of light and color that dance across the picture plane. Davis’s photographs of found wood grain record a process of holding onto her roots as she prepares to leave her home. Maskery’s series of self-portraits, couples and dream-like landscapes are formal experimentations with light and composition.

Ceramicists Jeanne Henry and Kim Riner are drawn to the elemental thresholds the medium passes through in the process of creation: earth, water, air and fire. Riner views her work molding clay as an extension and appreciation of God’s creativity whereas Henry is interested in harnessing the energy, unpredictability and complexity of the firing process.

Nicole Augustine and Abby Zimmerman’s paintings reveal the underappreciated and overlooked in nature. Augustine focuses on a painting process that produces “happy accidents” as she investigates the shapes and textures in nature; Zimmerman glorifies the most humble of nature’s creations while exposing nasty truths behind some of its striking beauty.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art’s Bachelor of Fine Arts program, made from a dynamic, multi-faceted curriculum and led by exceptional faculty, graduates many gifted and diverse undergraduate students each year. The Department will host a closing reception honoring these graduates on May 7th, 2010 and is open to the public.

Find *Thresholds* on Facebook!
All events are free and open to the public. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Georgia Southern University will honor requests for reasonable accommodations. For more information contact the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art at (912) GSU.ARTS or online at http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/art
Remembering Smith Banks...
A reflection by Patricia Carter, Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

May, 2010 (Statesboro, Georgia) - The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art sadly said goodbye to a dear friend, Smith Callaway Banks, age 73, who passed away in May 2010 after a lengthy illness. An eighth generation native son, he was related to thousands of citizens in Bulloch and surrounding counties. He joined the family dairy business at an early age, dipping ice cream as a young boy and as a young man, delivering milk to local residents. A graduate of Statesboro High, he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree at Emory University, and after post graduate studies at the University of Georgia, he returned home and was married to Willa D. Alexander in 1963. A businessman, he was president of City Dairy, owner of Smith Banks Antiques and a board member of Statesboro CATV, Inc.

Smith Banks invested both his time and resources in projects that benefited citizens. For 18 years, he was a member of the Statesboro Regional Library Board of Directors, serving several years as chairman. He was both a founder and a leader of the Bulloch County Historical Society. His public achievements include the Brannen Genealogy Room in the local library and numerous publications about the history and people of Bulloch County. The Bulloch County Historical Society published his roster of Confederate Soldiers of Bulloch County and a volume of unique historical sketches, "A Bulloch Sampler," as well as articles in a series of publications. He was a member of the planning committee for the bicentennial celebrations of the county in 1996 and of the city in 2003. He was co-author of two pictorial histories about Statesboro and Bulloch County in the popular national series, "Images of America."

He was a curator and board member of the Georgia Southern University Museum, held a membership in the Scottish Heritage Society of Southeast Georgia, the First Families of Georgia, the Mill Creek Chapter of the Sons of American Revolution and an officer and charter member of the Huguenot Society of Georgia. He was also an official historian both of the Bulloch County Historical Society and of the Ogeechee Rifles Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans and a recipient of the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award as well as the Deen Day Smith Lifetime Achievement Award.
More personally to the Art Department, in 2007 Smith Banks donated a large and unique collection of Southern Folk Art to the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art where it became the Smith Callaway Banks Southern Folk Art Collection located in the Visual Arts Building. Patricia Carter, Chair of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art said, “I’ll miss talking with Smith a great deal… his favorite joke that seemed to wind its way into conversations, intended as a compliment to our friendship… “you’re a yankee, but you’re not a Damn Yankee” -- followed by a succinct recitation of Smith’s family lineage that included cousins, kin of course, hailing from New Jersey, my home state -- typically within five minutes of his delivery of this cornball/bad joke, we’d be in a philosophical conversation about how in reality, we’re all kin. I learned a lot from my conversations with Smith Banks.”

Smith Banks began curating his collection of folk art in the 1980's when he bought his first face jug. He continued adding to the extensive compilation ever since, and the collection grew in quantity and quality, to well over five hundred pieces of folk art. When Banks’ generously donated his folk art collection to Georgia Southern University, he knew he was guaranteed the opportunity to introduce one of his great passions in life, folk art, to children and adults alike. When the Smith Callaway Banks Southern Folk Art Collection and Research Center debuted on campus in 2007, Banks remarked, “The pleasure I derive from collecting folk art is now matched by my pleasure in sharing it with others…”

What Banks may not have known was the magnitude of influence his collection would have on Georgia Southern students, faculty, and folk artists from the region. For example, a history major that worked side-by-side with Banks while researching the collection discovered her career path as a museum curator. Faculty quickly gravitated to exploring how the vast collection provides a visual documentary of Georgia’s history and culture from the past 200 years, researching how the collection is a rich resource for teaching children. Folk artists quickly became good friends with Banks, as he always demonstrated the utmost respect for their creative work; many of these artists consider their inclusion in Banks’ highly regarded collection as a pinnacle honor.

Banks curated several exhibitions that were displayed in the Smith Callaway Banks Southern Folk Art Collection. “Our students would assist Banks as he would choose pieces for the exhibitions, and as they worked by his side they were provided a rare opportunity to learn from a great historian, as Banks revealed stories rich with history and tell of characters full of life. ‘For the Love of Folk Art’ was the inaugural exhibition to showcase Banks’ favorite pieces in his vast collection. What transpired was probably one of Banks’ greatest challenges in life…editing his choices to a reasonable number that could be properly displayed in one room…he loved each and every piece in the collection, and couldn’t play favorites!” Carter reflects.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the First Baptist Church Building Fund, 108 North Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458; to Statesboro Regional Library, 124 South Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458; or to the Bulloch County Historical Society, P.O. Box 42, Statesboro, GA 30459.
Smith Callaway Banks Southern Folk Art Collection
224 Pittman Drive
Statesboro, Georgia 30460
[ map ]

912.GSU.ARTS
artdept@georgiasouthern.edu

Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

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