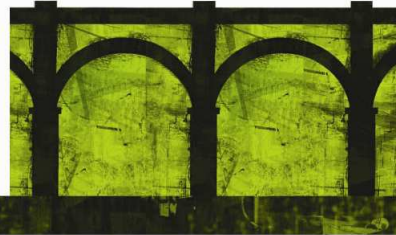


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Fowler, SU team up for mobile arts work

SU students will lead 49 teens in a creative writing and photography project.

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

By Sapna Kollali

Staff writer

Syracuse University students and faculty plan to unveil a mobile classroom today that will help Fowler High School students complete a community arts project.

English and art students at Fowler will tour the Mobile Literacy and Arts Bus, or the MLAB, and learn more about the multimedia project they will work on this semester.

The project will have Syracuse University students lead Fowler students in creative writing and photography exercises, then help them edit and publish their work in a zine, a small-circulation self-printed publication. The work may also be on display at The Warehouse.

Fowler English teacher Adam Lutwin said he is excited to be part of the launch and to see the work his students create. His 24 English 11 students and 25 of Eric Williams' photography students are participating.

"The students are excited to be the first ones to try it out," Lutwin said. "I hope they get a chance to show off the skills they learn all through high school but they never get recognized for, and also that they see some types of writing that they don't normally get a lot of exposure to."

Lutwin said students will practice different types of creative writing, including poetry, narratives, short stories and possibly plays, with a focus on family and identity. They will also borrow the lab's digital cameras to document their lives outside of school, which he hopes will help illustrate their writing.

"We can only follow them to the doors of this school. We really want to get a glimpse of their everyday surroundings through these photos," he said.

Last year, using \$30,000 from a state grant and a gift from The Pomco Group, 10 SU students in a social sculpture class purchased a 30-foot-long 1984 recreational vehicle, gutted and redesigned the outside and inside of it, and rebuilt it into a mobile classroom, sculpture professor Marion Wilson said. It now has about \$30,000 of equipment, also purchased with a grant - laptops, printers, digital cameras, projectors, workstations and wireless capabilities - said Wilson, also the director of community initiatives for the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Fowler junior Irene Rao said she can't wait to see the renovated RV. She said she has always wanted to be an author and is excited about the idea of her work being published.

"It will be a fun project, and it will be nice to be out of school," she said. "Even if it's just outside, it's a different setting. It's good to do that sometimes. It helps you think better, be more creative."

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