

Susan Slater-Tanner, right, hangs artwork by Mary Catherine Halfpenny in the Harriman Student Gallery. The efforts of Slater-Tanner and many others on campus have expanded the visibility of the College's Arts and Communication Department among academic circles, while a SUNY Orange agreement allowing its orchestra and symphonic band to perform at Middletown's Paramount Theater (shown today and during the 1930s), has grown those programs within the community.



Whether it is a simple stroll down South Street, a short drive to nearby Sugar Loaf, a trip to the Empire State capital in Albany or an intense overseas excursion to France and beyond, SUNY Orange is aggressively spreading its artistic wings.

The College, thanks to the inspired work of many staff and faculty members, is forging exciting new relationships that are fortifying its Arts and Communication Department programs and creating a dynamic and appealing on-campus arts culture that will benefit SUNY Orange and its students for years to come.

A recent agreement with the City of Middletown has allowed the SUNY Orange orchestra and symphonic band to move from intimate Orange Hall Theater on the Middletown campus to the historic Paramount Theater several blocks away on South Street.

The College is hoping to soon finalize details of an initiative to create a summer internship program that will immerse students in the "business" side of the arts by pairing the students with local artisans in Sugar Loaf. In addition, the College is looking at ways that it can offer courses in Sugar Loaf.

This past fall, four SUNY Orange students—alumni Nathalina Nesteroke, Mary Catherine Halfpenny and Mike Marquez, along with current student Angela Hermida—had their work displayed in the 2006 Fall SUNY Student Art Exhibition in Albany, marking a first for the College. Nesteroke's piece "Dresses" was chosen as "Best of Show," which

means it will now be featured in the "Best of SUNY" show at the New York State Museum this summer.

The College continues to provide the region with a strong theater arts program and this February formally launched its own internet radio station, Colt Rock Radio, bringing SUNY Orange to a global audience.

And earlier this spring, SUNY Orange students MaryLee Shorr and Jeff Fina were among a dozen students chosen from across the country for the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts' "2007 Visual Arts/Liberal Arts Workshop," a month-long international summer program that will immerse the participants in the works of Rembrandt and William Shakespeare.

Organized by renowned sculptor Greg Wyatt, this inaugural four-week workshop, made possible

through a recent grant from the NEA, will take the students to New York City, Giverny, France; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Stratford-upon-Avon, England.

"It is an incredible honor for the College to be included in this program, and it is an incredible opportunity we can give to our students," **Richard Heppner**, associate vice president for liberal arts, says of Shorr and Fina's inclusion in the NEA program. "The opportunity is so unique, for SUNY Orange to have two students selected in beyond description."

For many on campus, the expanded visibility, and newfound success, of the College's arts programs spotlights the sizable talent of SUNY Orange students, and provides a very public stamp of approval for future students who may be considering the College as a means to reach their goals.



Spreading





the Arts

"The support of the administration, as we've pursued these agreements and opportunities, has been wonderful, and it shows their commitment to the arts on this campus," Heppner adds. "And that has been a great boost for the confidence and morale of our students and faculty."

Kevin Scott, director of the symphonic band, echoes that sentiment. "Moving to the Paramount has been a huge ego boost and tonic for our band. And because we are a community band, our members feel more at home in a community setting (at the historic theater) rather than a campus setting."

The relationship has been beneficial to the Paramount as well, according to Maria Bruni, the theater's manager.

"As soon as I heard about the opportunity for us to work with the College, I jumped at it. I see all sorts of networking and collaboration opportunities with the students and the faculty at the College because we are within walking distance," Bruni says. "It opens new doors for everybody, from the students to the clientele who attend the theater, but mainly for the students because it allows us to showcase local talent."

For the students who are diligently working to craft and hone their skills, the chance to bring their art to the public is both rewarding and inspiring. Professor **Susan Slater-Tanner**, who manages the College's student art gallery in Harriman Hall, doggedly pursued the quest for inclusion in the SUNY show in

Albany this fall because she knows how educational those opportunities can be.

"It is integral for students to not only work in the studio, but to participate in organizing and hanging shows, and to learn about marketing and promoting their work," she explains. "That's critical to their development, because that is often the side of art that is most overlooked. In the end, we want our students to leave us with the most well-rounded experience possible."

By continuing its search for appropriate venues for its entire arts and communication program, SUNY Orange can assure future students of every opportunity to spread their own wings as well.