

Nicodemus Center Benefits Mont Alto and Surrounding Communities

Ever wonder what that pottery is on the third floor of the General Studies building, or what all the clay on the floor of the basement in GS near the vending machines is from? Penn State Mont Alto is home to the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies. Founded in 1994, its purpose is to preserve, collect, exhibit and interpret the historic folk pottery of the Cumberland/Shenandoah Valley region.

The center serves as part of an on-campus cultural arts program. Officials of the Nicodemus Center have developed a pottery studio, exhibit gallery, photo studio and office space and recently organized a pottery cooperative.

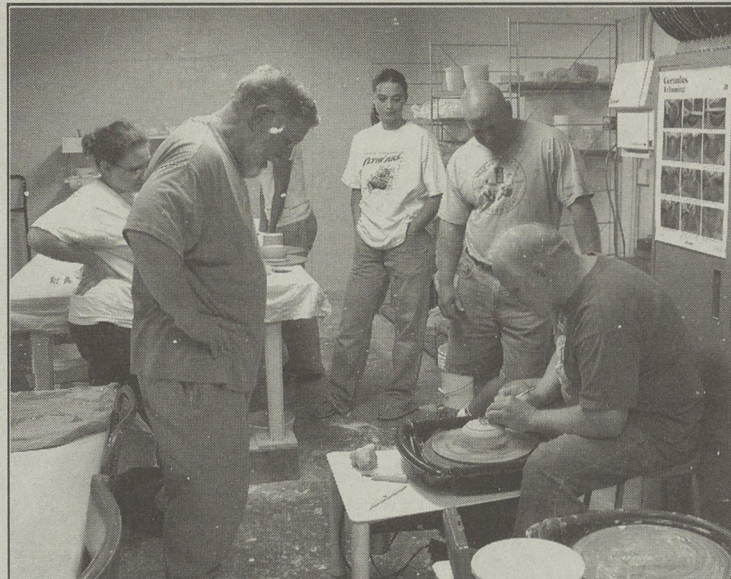
The first exhibit in the gallery, Room 302 of General Studies, opened in October 2003 and featured objects in the center's permanent collection. Works made at the potteries of John Bell and his sons of Waynesboro, Solomon and

Daniel Baker of Waynesboro, Jacob Heart of Chambersburg, Jacob Kimler of Smithsburg, Md., and Samuel Bell and Sons, Strasburg, Va., were on display. Each fall works created by students of the pottery class and members of the pottery cooperative are featured, followed by a sale of the exhibited works.

The center is named for the late Emma Geiser Nicodemus, who established Renfrew Museum and its collection of Bell family pottery as a bequest to the

people of the Waynesboro area. The center carries out its mission

through preservation, education and research.



Pottery instructor Tom McFarland, seated, demonstrates how to trim the base of an unfired bowl on a potter's wheel to a recent ceramics class. Standing, clockwise to McFarland, are students Jerry Kowallis, Fayetteville, Kristine Robson, Waynesboro, Amber Baughman, Chambersburg (partially hidden from view), Staci Willhide, Shippensburg, and Jason Levick, Waynesboro.

James Smith, executive director of the center, says, "Through its on-campus exhibition and studio programs, the Nicodemus Center offers students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to explore the area's rich tradition of pottery making and the creative potential this tradition provides to local and aspiring potters of today."

The next exhibit will open

during the fall semester and will feature works of the Mont Alto Pottery Cooperative followed by a pottery sale at the end of the semester.

When open, gallery hours are 10am - 4pm M-F. The next pottery class will run from June 14 through July 7, meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4. For the fall semester, classes return to Wednesday evenings, first session runs from September 7 through October 26 and the second session from November 2 through December 21.

The cost of the class is \$100 for center members and college faculty, staff and students with a \$25 fee for materials. All participants are allowed access to the pottery studio outside class time. Students interested in taking the class should contact James Smith at jms48@psu.edu.

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Collegiate Championship in August 2005. The champion at the national competition will secure her or himself a seat on the following year's Stihl® Timbersports® Pro Team. Team captain, Kyle Fuhrman, represented Penn State Mont Alto in this year's Stihl® competition.

As the crowd screamed and cheered him on, Fuhrman stood atop a piece of wood thirteen inches in diameter and swung his ax high above his head, bringing it

down hard between his feet, breaking through the horizontal block he stood on. Cheers from the crowd intensified as Fuhrman, leaning on his ax, caught his breath. Fuhrman scored the best time

in two of the three Stihl® Timbersports® events and will go on to represent the Mid-Atlantic region at the National Collegiate Championship in August.

As a spectator, and as a Woodsmen's Team member myself, the Stihl® competition was one of the day's most intense events. For those of you who have never seen the Penn State Mont Alto Woodmen's team chop, chop, chopping their way to victory, you really are missing something exciting.

This year's Woodsmen's meet was comprised of both team and individual events in sawing, chopping, and other forestry related competitions.

Both men and women compete on the team, and are not necessarily forestry majors. In fact, Sarah Merrill, a nursing major, competed in several of the day's events and claimed first place for Penn State in the women's bow saw

competition. Merrill says she joined the Woodsmen's Team because friends - foresters - who were already on the team encouraged her to participate.

Other first place winners for the Mont Alto

Woodsmen's Team include Stephen Cooney for bow saw, Kim Linette for women's pole climb, John Schwartzer for Dendrology, Joey Gilbert for chainsaw, and Jimmy Adams, Stephen Cooney, Zach Crumbling, Sarah Merrill, Greg

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