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TEACHERS, ONLINE STUDENTS AND SIXTH GRADE “VETERANS”
BENEFIT FROM LATEST GAERF[®] MINI-GRANTS

Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, is improving the online delivery of its course in Print Production, Analysis and Control.

In Johnson City, Tennessee, faculty and graduate students at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) are developing a new Digital Printmaking Workshop to be offered this fall.

At Rumney Memorial School in Middlesex, Vermont, sixth graders who already qualify as graphic arts “veterans” are about to publish the third edition of their own community magazine.

These three programs are the latest recipients of mini-grants from the Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation (GAERF).

The grant to Appalachian State University will help faculty and students select and prepare such resources as video clips and narrative audio files to be included in Microsoft PowerPoint lecture presentations. “Having media-rich content available for download from the course’s web site enables students to learn better the concepts introduced in the Print Production, Analysis, and Control course,” says Milos Krsmanovic, assistant professor in the university’s Department of Technology. The course itself focuses on planning and estimating time and costs in producing a printed product. “The opportunity to complete a well-prepared and content-rich course over the Internet will help not only our students, but also working professionals throughout the United States who may opt to enroll in an online class, making it a convenient tool for learners from remote geographic locations,” Krsmanovic says.

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College graphic arts students are also the beneficiaries of the second GAERF mini-grant. At ETSU, the Digital Media Program is developing a Digital Printmaking Workshop to be offered during the 2005 fall semester. The two-day session will focus on the technical aspects of color management and workflow through the entire digital printing process.

The workshop will combine lectures, lab activities and discussion. The main participants will include both faculty and graduate students who are developing curricula in image creation and processing. “This training is necessary for faculty to develop the skills needed both to manage the lab and to teach the processes needed to produce high quality digital images,” says Peter Hriso of the ETSU Digital Media Program.

The GAERF grant will be used to recruit and pay honoraria to noted artists to conduct the workshop, as well as to rent a lecture hall and to market and promote the workshop.

GAERF funds are also helping educators demonstrate to elementary school students the pervasive impact of graphic communications in daily life.

Students at Rumney Memorial School will publish a third edition of *Rumney View* magazine with support from a GAERF mini-grant.

Producing the magazine will involve students working side-by-side with professionals from the graphic arts community to learn all aspects of researching, interviewing, writing, editing, designing, page composition and print production.

“Our sixth-grade staffers are veterans who have been shown the way by veterans,” says Chip Hedler, educational technology resource teacher at Rumney Memorial School. “They continue to refine their own learning even as they assume the role of mentors for their fifth-grade classmates.”

Hedler says the magazine has succeeded as a part of the school curriculum, as a means of alerting students to career possibilities, and as an entertaining, informative publication for readers. “*Rumney View* takes essential communication and literacy skills beyond simple school assignments into the world of real subject material to be written about and shared with a genuine readership,” he says.

GAERF Chairman Randolph W. Camp, CEO of Walton Media Services in Monroe, Georgia, notes that “GAERF mini-grants are intended to provide a streamlined way for relatively modest programs to obtain valuable funding without the lengthy administrative process followed for larger or multi-year projects. These three new awards are typical of the kind of creative, locally focused activities GAERF wants to support through this mechanism.”

The Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote programs that strengthen the graphic communications industry. GAERF was formed in 1983 by the National Association for Printing Leadership (NAPL), NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies, and Printing Industries of America/Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (PIA/GATF) to channel a portion of the revenue from trade shows owned by the three organizations back into educational research projects.

In addition to the grant-making program, the Foundation administers two other programs.

PrintED[®] is a national accreditation and certification program for graphic communications courses of study at the secondary and post-secondary levels and currently numbers more than 165 accredited programs and more than forty candidate programs.

MAKE YOUR MARK® in Graphic Communications is a campaign to raise awareness of the graphic communications industry and its career opportunities. For additional information, visit www.makeyourmark.org.

Further GAERF activities include the staging of exhibits at industry and education events and the presentation and/or funding of Career Awareness Day programs for high school students.

For more information about GAERF, visit the Foundation's web site at www.gaerf.org or call toll free at 1-866-381-9839.

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