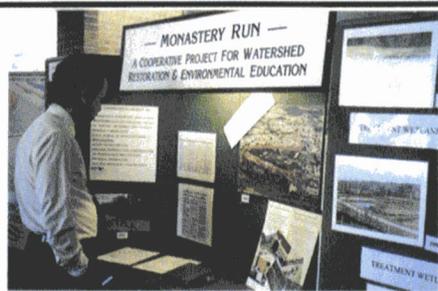


Article from St. Vincent Magazine - Winter 1999 (continued)



Among those gathered for the Monastery Run Project dedication were, from left, Steering Committee member and College Provost, Br. Norman W. Hipps, O.S.B., Congressman John Murtha who offered words of praise, Steering Committee member Linda Boxx and College President, the Rev. Martin R. Bartel, O.S.B.



A display at the Monastery Run Symposium, in photo at top, explains the project, while Dr. David Dzombak, C'79, pictured in photo above, is among the speakers at the symposium who talked about related research. In photo below, walkers hike around the wetlands designed to counter the effects of drainage seeping from abandoned mines and polluting the Loyalhanna.

included in that phase was construction of a four-celled mesocosm or outdoor laboratory. Major funding came from an Environmental Protection Agency 319 grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to the funding for construction,

additional funds have been used for subsidence in the area. There has also been funding to the educational programs at Monastery Run. In addition, some funding for the project has come from private foundations, including the McKenna Foundation and others.

which is designated as a high priority on Pennsylvania's degraded watershed list. The most visible and severe problem in the watershed is the discharge from abandoned deep mines seeping into two streams, Fourmile and Monastery Run, which flow into the Loyalhanna.

Restoration activities have included the construction of wetland systems to treat the mine discharges, the ongoing monitoring of the water chemistry and mine drainage research.

Speakers at the symposium included Wesley Gordon of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Eric Cavazza of DEP/Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation; William Aljoe of the U.S. Department of Energy; Thomas F. Grote of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association; and Rob McCombie of the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance.

Reporting on research projects were Dr. Cynthia Walter, Dr. Daryle Fish, and student Beth Smyder, all of Saint Vincent College; Dr. Carl Kirby of Bucknell University; Dr. David Dzombak, C'79, of Carnegie Mellon University; Dr. Rosemary Capo of the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Brian Dempsey of the Pennsylvania State University. Symposium coordinator Dr. Caryl Fish introduced the speakers. A welcome was offered by Saint Vincent Academic Dean, Dr. Barbara Edwards.

The goal of the Monastery Run Project is to restore the water quality of Loyalhanna Creek



Artists offer 'Creative View of Monastery Run'

The invitation was intriguing. Artists and photographers in the region were invited to bring paints, watercolors, cameras... whatever, and spend the day at the Monastery Run Project site at Saint Vincent working *en plein air* to prepare artworks for an exhibit that would capture the "spirit" of the project. The invitation also noted that cash purchase prizes were offered for the exhibit which would be on view at the College and would be titled, "A Creative View of Monastery Run."

"What is the Monastery Run Project?" That is what many of the artists wondered who had not heard of the project that is designed to help clean up the Loyalhanna Creek. But the on-site work day -- Oct. 17 -- was also designed to help them understand the significance of the project.

So the special day arrived (a balmy, summer-like day boasting of brilliant blue skies against crisp autumn colors) and the artists came equipped with cameras, paints, easels, chairs and all sorts of paraphernalia, and found their way to the site located near the Saint Vincent gristmill. With an introduction from the exhibit coordinator Carol Pollock, the former director of Saint Vincent Gallery (shown at left), and some technical background from faculty member, Dr. Caryl Fish, they were off to explore the site.



Kathleen Forejt of Scottsdale recalls that she arrived late that day and was trying to get a sense of what she was viewing. She stopped one man whom she mistook to be a backhoe operator and quizzed him. He turned out to be Saint Vincent College Provost Br. Norman W. Hipps, O.S.B., a member of the Steering Committee of the Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition which has sponsored the project. He patiently and at length explained what the project was about. She took his photo and went home and produced a large, vividly-colored oil painting which she titled, *Brother Norman's Vision*. It captured one of the three juror's award purchase prizes for the exhibit. "I think it was a blessing that I ran into him. I didn't know he was the Provost," she said at the exhibition reception.

Other artists offered their own interpretation of the site, some representational, others more abstract, even a bit impressionistic. Eventually about a hundred works were included in the exhibit including oil paintings, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, charcoal drawings, photographs, and sculpture. The exhibit was on view for a week in the new Prep Hall.

Ms. Pollock had been pleased that so many artists had shown up for the work day at the project site. As she prepared the exhibit to open, she said, "I was delighted with both the quality and the quantity of the works that were presented, and happy that some of the purchased winning works will be adorning the offices or halls of Saint Vincent."

Winners included Rita K. Haldeman of Jeannette who won the first place \$750 purchase prize for her oil painting, *Morning at Monastery Run*. Second place winner of the \$500 purchase prize was Rose Blout of Uniontown for her watercolor, *Reflection on Monastery Run*. The three



From top, visitors see a wide variety of work depicting the Monastery Run Project in the 'Creative View' exhibit in Prep Hall. Among the winning works, first place winner, *Morning at Monastery Run* by Rita K. Haldeman of Jeannette; second place winner, *Reflection on Monastery Run* by Rose Blout of Uniontown; and a juror's award winner, *Brother Norman's Vision* by Kathleen Forejt of Scottsdale.

winners of the \$250 jurors' awards were Barbara Kern Bush of Saltsburg for her oil painting entitled *Wet Color*, Betty Reese for her pastel entitled *An Evening Reflecting on Monastery Run*, and Ms. Forejt. A special \$125 Harold Grey-Carol Pollock Award for Photography was presented to Nancy Ravis of Latrobe for her color photograph entitled, *Twice Blessed*. There were also 13 honorable mentions.

This was not the first time that artists had been invited to use Saint Vincent as fodder for their artistic impressions. Twice in years past, artists were invited to capture the spirit of the campus for exhibits that were billed as "A Day in the Life of Saint Vincent."