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Health

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Samuel L.'s greatest moment

It didn't have anything to do with movies. It had everything to do with his drug addiction.

Inside Sunday



Photos by Duncan Scott/DScott@News-Herald.com

ABOVE: "Separating the Rummage," a piece by North High School student Ashley Haines, won a blue ribbon award in The Cleveland Clinic eXpressions art exhibit on display at the Intercontinental Hotel. RIGHT: Matthew Gentile hangs artwork by North High School students for the exhibit.



The art of medicine

Creativity, science leave area students at crossroads

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The exhibit hanging through the end of this month at the Intercontinental Hotel, opposite The Cleveland Clinic, is intended as the intersection of art and science.

But those viewing the works may see it as more of a left brain-right brain merger.

Art students at 20 area high schools took on the challenge to artistically portray the research done during a nine-week internship last summer by 100 area high school students.

Their interpretations are displayed in Cleveland Clinic eXpressions: An intersection of art and science.

"It was pretty far out there," said Kirsten Vaughan, art teacher at North High School in Eastlake.

North High senior Jessica Sheplavy, who completed an internship in the Clinic's Molecular Genetics department, tried to explain her research project's study of the human Notch3 gene to the art class.

"We were kind of lost, so we had her back a couple times," Vaughan said. "Then I contacted our science teachers to help us understand."

They were just as lost.

Videos provided by the hospital helped bring a visual interpretation to the research project. "We did the best we could to understand the process of DNA turning into RNA to grab amino acids," Vaughan said.

"It really was hard to explain," Jessica said. "The main thing is a disease is caused by a mutation in a certain gene, and what I had to do is prove that short hairpin constructs were able to knock down the Notch3 protein expression."

Taking their inspiration from scientific research was something new for the art students. Interpreting what's going on inside a cell was far from easy, their teacher said.

One student used musical staves and notes to show the process, while another used sewing materials, Vaughan said.

North High student Ashley Haines won a blue ribbon in the show for her interpretation, titled "Sep-



Sheplavy

arating the Rummage."

Ashley, who is in honors biology, is academically strong in both arts and sciences, Vaughan said.

The other North students participating in the exhibit are William Paolucci, who won a red ribbon, and Katherine Kirk, who scored a white ribbon.

The students also were awarded cash prizes from the hospital.

Bryan Pflaum, creative learning manager for the hospital's Civic Education Initiatives, said he was amazed by the depth and breadth of talent he saw among the students.

"The creativity demonstrated in this exhibit shows the complexity grasped by these talented young people," he said.

The eXpressions program and the science internships were designed to increase high school students' interest in science and math, encouraging them to pursue careers in health-related fields, according to Rosalind Strickland, director for Civic Education Initiatives.

"I knew I wanted to be a doctor even before the internship," said Jessica, 17. "But the internship reinforced that interest."

She hopes to become a pre-med student at Case Western Reserve University in the fall and eventually become a pediatric orthopedic surgeon.

"I've been a competitive ice skater for the last 11 years," she said. "In that time I have constantly been at different orthopedic offices and have become interested in what they do."

Applications for this summer's science and nursing internships are being accepted until Feb. 16.

To be considered, students must have a strong interest in science, a 3.5 grade point average and be 16 by June 1. Applications may be downloaded at www.ccf.org/CivicEducation.

If you go

Cleveland Clinic eXpressions: An intersection of art and science

Runs through Feb. 28 at the Intercontinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland