

Alumni Pride: Moon's art brightens community

by Natalie Johnson - Monday, August 10, 2009

<http://www.uwosh.edu/today/2112/alumni-pride-moons-art-brightens-community/>

While nationally recognized watercolor artist Joye Moon, of Oshkosh, a 1984 University of Wisconsin graduate, has painted her way across the world, she remains committed to supporting the local art community.

During Homecoming weekend Oct. 16-17, Moon will be among the nine UW Oshkosh alumni honored for their professional and civic achievements. She will receive the UW Oshkosh Alumni Association's highest honor — the Distinguished Alumni Award.

“Joye has long been a distinguished member of the watercolorist community,” said UW Oshkosh art professor Gail Panske. “She has an extensive exhibition record, including many national and international watercolor competitions.”

Moon's work has been featured in art galleries and museums throughout the nation. She also has taught classes across the U.S. and led international painting trips to the Bahamas, Costa Europe and Mexico. She has been awarded a Signature Membership in the National Watercolor Society.

In December 2008, Moon published her first book, “Exploring Textures in Watercolor,” which covers beginner as well as advanced projects; a variety of methods and techniques; and different surfaces, such as yupo paper, clay board, gesso paper and paintable canvas.

“I have been receiving encouraging e-mails from all over the world, some as far away as South Africa, stating how they have been re-excited about watercolor for the first time in many years,” she said.

Moon remains committed to her hometown and region. Since 1974, she has been active in the Oshkosh Fine Arts Association, which supports local artists and art groups. She also took part in the “Pride of Oshkosh” community art project.

“Appreciating the opportunity I had as a student at Webster Stanley Junior High to attend summer art school, I have been awarding scholarships to young and old to continue on their art journey,” Moon said.

No matter that she took 16 years to finish her bachelor's degree in fine art from UWO, Moon is grateful for having received a good foundation on her art career in her hometown.

“The art department staff members who impacted me the most were Paul Donhauser, Beverly Harrington, Bill Leffin and Marilyn Smith,” she said. “Their sound advice encouraged me to set my goals high, not get side-tracked and just keep doing the work.”

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