

SCC distinguished alumnus Paul Stankard to be featured on PBS program

From Staff Reports
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An award-winning video crew visited the Samuel H. Jones Glass Education Center in Alloway Township last month to tape a segment on Salem Community College distinguished alumnus Paul J. Stankard for the PBS program Craft in America (CIA).

Stankard, a Mantua resident who has established an international reputation in glass with his floral art, will be among five artists featured in the episode titled "Origins," scheduled to air on more than 300 stations late this year.

Before the taping started, Stankard met with the glass art and scientific glass technology students to discuss his multi-dimensional demonstration for the television production. Stankard's two-hour demo in the studio and lab that bears his name was a collaborative effort with SCC instructional chairs Dennis Briening (scientific glass technology) and Kristen Neville Taylor (glass art) and assisted by Glass Education Center Coordinator Jennifer Pagliarini.

Stankard's flameworking demonstration was the first phase toward combining his sculptured glass flower with casting to create a unique glass panel. Working with the skilled instructors and using a preheated five inch by seven inch graphite mold, Stankard placed his flower on the bottom of the mold covered with a powdered red glass background to accent the flower.

With CIA filmmakers capturing the hot-shop sequences in high definition, Pagliarini ladled glass out of the furnace at 1,275 degrees and skillfully encasing the glass flower with the red background. Once the glass cooled enough to not move, Stankard lifted the mold away from the casting and melted the rough surface with a gas air flame. In the final step, Taylor placed the casting into an annealing oven to gradually cool to room temperature over 24 hours.

"The demo was designed to illustrate how the various processes being taught at the Glass Education Center can come together in a very innovative way," Stankard said.

The Samuel H. Jones Glass Education Center, near Alloway, recently opened on the grounds of the Salem County Utilities Authority (SCUA). The center's Paul J. Stankard Studio & Lab features four shops: Cold glass, flameworking, hot glass (including glassblowing) and kiln-forming. SCC offers degree programs in glass art, industrial design and scientific glass technology, attracting students from around the country. **The 10,000-square-foot studio and lab will use methane extracted from the nearby landfill as an energy source. The initiative, known as "Gas to Glass," is a partnership of SCC, Salem County Utilities Authority and Energenic.**

Stankard, Salem Community College's artist-in-residence, inspired the establishment of SCC's glass art program and founded the annual International Flameworking Conference in 2001. At last year's commencement, SCC President Peter B. Contini conferred an honorary associate degree in fine arts upon Stankard.

The Craft in America video team won the 2007 Peabody Award, considered television's highest honor, for its three-hour chronicle of America's rich, ongoing traditions of weaving, quilting, woodworking and other craft art, according to the Craft in America Web site.

Carol Sauvion, the series executive producer, is joined by Nigel Noble, an Academy Award-winning producer/director of films and television.