

RIT Unveils Deaf Studies Archive During Heritage Month

March 13, 2006

A celebration of National Deaf Heritage Month (March 13-April 15) at RIT includes an exhibit of paintings by artist Susan Dupor, a book discussion with author Carol Padden, and the unveiling of a new Deaf Studies Archive at Wallace Memorial Library.

Signs of Nature/Nature of Signs, paintings and prints by Dupor, will be on display March 13-April 28 at NTID's Dyer Arts Center. A free public reception for the artist will take place 3:30-5:30 p.m, March 22, also in the art center.

Dupor, a native of Wisconsin, attended RIT in the 1980s and earned her bachelor in Fine Arts degree from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. She teaches art at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf.

Author Carol Padden will visit NTID April 6-7 to discuss her newest book, *Inside Deaf Culture*, which discusses contemporary issues facing deaf people, including genetic testing and cochlear implants. Padden will sign books at a free public reception 2-3 p.m., April 6 in the Dyer Arts Center. The following day she will speak to faculty and staff as part of a Brown Bag Lunch Series.

Padden, a professor in the Department of Communication at the University of California, San Diego, received her bachelor's degree in Linguistics from Georgetown University and her Ph.D., also in Linguistics, from UCSD. She has co-written four books with her husband, Tom Humphries, including *Learning American Sign Language* and *Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture*.

The Deaf Studies Archive, created to honor the 40th anniversary of RIT's becoming the host institute for NTID, features historical documents related to the legislation, construction, and presence of NTID on RIT's campus and also includes documents related to deaf education, deaf studies, deaf theater, and deaf culture. Those interested in more information should contact RIT Archivist Becky Simmons at raswml@rit.edu

The library also has a significant collection of materials that support the growing number of deafness-related classes, particularly in the sign arts. The Deaf Studies Collection includes DVDs of deaf Holocaust survivors; more than 50 plays written by deaf playwrights or about the deaf experience; a deaf literature and poetry collection with autobiographies and personal narratives; the Deaf Artists Website with biographies, artwork, links, online videos, articles, and resources; films and shorts by deaf filmmakers from the annual Deaf Rochester Film Festival; Deaf Women's Studies materials; and an online Deaf Studies database.

For more information on the RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Collection, contact Joan Naturale at jxnwml@rit.edu.

NTID is the first and largest technological college in the world for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. One of eight colleges of RIT, NTID offers educational programs and access and support services to the 1,100 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from around the world who study, live, and socialize with 14,400 hearing students on RIT's Rochester, N.Y., campus.

Web address: <http://www.rit.edu/NTID>.

For more NTID news, visit <http://www.rit.edu/ntid/newsroom>.