

# Artistic abilities fostered through volunteer-based WCCF drawing class

By Ryan Bonham  
*Lake County Examiner*

A volunteer-based drawing class at Warner Creek Correctional Facility provides inmates an opportunity to creatively and productively use their time on a weekly basis in developing artistic skills.

The class is taught by inmate Jeffrey Fahey, who sought out the opportunity to find a way to share a lifetime of artistic skills with other interested individuals. The third class of the eight-week series was held on Tuesday, Feb. 2, in the dining room at the prison.

The classes come at no cost to WCCF, as it is purely volunteer-based and held in the dining room during an activity night when there is already an officer scheduled on duty, said Adm. Asst. Rebecca Hargis.

"It gives them something constructive to do," Hargis said.

Fahey said that drawing has been a lifelong artistic outlet, and he has enjoyed the opportunity to share his experience with others.

"It's just been a hobby," he said. "I've been drawing since I was five."



RYAN BONHAM/*Lake County Examiner*

**Inmate Jeffrey Fahey teaches drawing on a weekly basis to a group of interest WCCF inmates as a pilot program.**

A former construction worker, Fahey said that his artistic pursuits eventually became his primary income. He'd participated in a number of art walks in Grants Pass, he said.

The focus of the class is on realism, and last week's primary emphasis was on proportion techniques. Each class begins with sketching exercises, Fahey said, followed by a specific technique of focus.

Fahey said that each of the inmates participating in the class have var-

ied skill levels, as well as varied interest in subjects to draw.

"I'm just helping them go through that process," Fahey said. "I'm really excited. When you're drawing, you're not really here. It's just nice."

Inmates interested in participating in the class apply to do so, and then are reviewed by a counselor and the security manager for eligibility. Good conduct is a prerequisite for eligibility of participation, Hargis said, and the class enrolls a maximum of 12 inmates.

Each week, inmates gather to learn various drawing techniques and practices, using colored pencils. The program's progenitor, Food Services Mgr. Virginia Rolph, said that the inmates purchase their own supplies through the prison's canteen, and colored pencils were selected as a medium for reasons of simplicity and ease of clean-up.

Rolph said that Fahey approached her about setting up the class, having been already teaching inmates in his unit basic drawing skills. Eventually, the pilot program currently in place was given the green light.

"It's kind of a win-win for everyone," Rolph said. "For a pilot group, it's flawless."

Rolph said that the enthusiasm and interaction of Fahey and the students has successfully shown the benefits of such a program for inmates.

Fahey has also commenced painting new wildlife and landscapes based on photos taken in Lake County in the WCCF dining room, Rolph said, creating a visitor-friendly atmosphere in the area that serves as the primary meeting point for visitors.

# Students benefit from prison classroom exchange

## Program promotes collaboration between students and inmates

By Jayne Omaye | News reporter

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University students can go far beyond the classroom setting through the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, a course where students take collaborative classes with prisoners at Oregon State Penitentiary.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program was developed at Temple University in Philadelphia in 1997. The program's purpose is to provide a unique learning experience for college students, called "outside students," to interact with "inside students" in prison. Criminal justice and related social issues were the main focuses of those classes.

English Professor Steven Shankman introduced the program to the University in Spring 2007. The class has been offered every spring term since 2007 through the Robert D. Clark Honors College. One class, "Literature and Ethics: Levinas and Vassily Grossman's Life and Fate" will also be offered through the Inside-Out program this spring.

Students who participated in Inside-Out traveled to the penitentiary in Salem once a week to discuss issues on literature and ethics, and attended classes in the penitentiary's educational department in a regular classroom setting.

The prisoners range in age from college-age to those in their 70s. In class, all students, inside and out, discuss their readings and essays they wrote.

Junior Madeline Bailey, who participated in the program in Spring 2009, felt that the experience was very eye-opening and humbling. Bailey felt that unlike some classes at college campuses, in this one, students made an effort to get to know each other and form positive relationships.

"Barriers society builds are always imaged," Bailey said. "The learning experience was very genuine."

In addition to Shankman's course, a spring film class, "Ethics and Aesthetics in Film," will open up to all undergraduates. The class will be taught by William Cadbury, a former University professor.

Cadbury's film class will take place at the Oregon State Correctional Institution in Salem. Inside and outside students will interact while watching nine films and discussing their significance to criminal justice issues.

"Each group of students benefits by developing an understanding of the very different circumstances of the other, yet of our common humanity," Cadbury said. "It seems to be the universal agreement among those who take these courses that they come out changed, for the better, but also it turns out to be a particularly stimulating environment for encouraging learning about the subject matter — in this case, what rich insights films can give into important issues of social justice and personal concern."

Shankman said he chose to teach the class through the Honors College because of the small class sizes it offers and the funding it provided the program. Inside-Out class enrollments average 20 to 30 students, about the same as regular Honors College classes.

An ice breaker on the first day of class made an impact on Bailey.

“While talking to one of the men in our class during a discussion exercise, we were asked to share our favorite place in the world,” she said. “Without hesitating, he shared with me that his favorite place in the world was exactly where he was because he strived to be fully present in every moment.”

Shankman said the program is very meaningful to students to gain life experiences and to break barriers within society.

“The essence of education is to go beyond who you are at the moment, to move outside your comfort zone and to recognize your responsibility to others,” he said, “broadening your horizons and becoming aware of how you can make a difference in the world. This class seems to have that effect on people.”

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## Student wins at national NBA fitness event

Maleyah Sage passed qualifying events, then took part in Texas finals

BY TARAH CAMPI • STATESMAN JOURNAL • FEBRUARY 24, 2010



Maleyah Sage (left) a third-grader at Salem Heights Elementary School, won in her age group at the NBA Fit/WNBA Fit Challenge National Finals in Dallas, Texas, on Feb. 13. (Special to the Statesman Journal)

Maleyah Sage, a third-grader at Salem Heights Elementary School, took first in her age division at the national NBA Fit/WNBA Fit Challenge on Feb. 13 in Dallas, Texas.

Maleyah was among 16 participants from across the United States who qualified for the national event.

Participants demonstrated physical fitness and agility through a series of time-based fitness stations.

"It was really fun because I got to meet a lot of basketball players and get their autographs," Maleyah said.

The national finalists included eight boys and eight girls. Maleyah was one of two girls in the 8-and-younger age group. She received a large trophy for her win.

The five Fit events, each timed for 30 seconds, are line sprints, speed rope jumping, basketball speed revolution, wall pass and defensive shuffle.

Maleyah also will be attending a basketball camp with the Portland Trail Blazers in Portland in March, and her family will receive complementary Blazers tickets.

The Dallas NBA festivities included a welcome dinner with NBA players, a slam-dunk contest and a run-in with Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders.

"(It) was an awesome trip," Maleyah said.

Participants and their families also got a private tour of the stadium where the Cowboys play, attended an NBA All-Star game and got autographs from players.

"It was crazy," said Erica Sage, Maleyah's mother.

"Her school has been especially supportive and announced her during an assembly, and her classmates made her a big poster that said 'congratulations,' which they all signed," said Maleyah's mother.

More than 100,000 boys and girls participated in local and regional competitions in 35 cities across the country to advance in the NBA competition, which encourages a healthy, active lifestyle.

Salem Heights students in grades three to five participated in the Fit local challenge at the end of October.

The regional competition was in Portland in December.

Students who timed well enough to place at regionals received plaques and got to meet former Portland Trail Blazers player Brian Grant.

Erica Sage credits Salem Heights teacher Dave Lemons with helping Maleyah.

"(He) is so amazingly supportive of Maleyah and all his students at Salem Heights," she said.

Maleyah's teacher places the credit on his student's shoulders.

"Maleyah's success in the Fit Challenge competition was not by accident," Lemon said. "She is a determined competitor."