

The Daily Courier

Yavapai County's News and Information Center Since 1882

Yavapai College art department honors family

By Paula Rhoden

The Daily Courier

Tuesday, February 10, 2009



Matt Hinshaw/The Daily Courier Laura Bloomenstein, a Yavapai College full-time art faculty member, finishes setting up a few sculptures for the Rhoads Retrospective show Wednesday in Prescott.

Cathy and Chuck Rhoads, and their daughter Beth, dedicated a large portion of their lives to the Yavapai College art department.

On Friday, the college will pay tribute to Cathy, Chuck and Beth with a retrospective of their work: woodworking, ceramics and jewelry.

Art department officials will play host to the Rhoads Retrospective reception from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13 in the Yavapai College Library.

The Rhoads Retrospective will feature artwork on loan to the college from family and friends.

Tom Rhoads said his parents moved to Prescott when his father retired from the Army 32 years ago.

Chuck started volunteering at the college, and it was not long before he was teaching woodworking.

Cathy began working in the ceramics lab. She helped students and worked on her own art.

Beth was a lab tech in the jewelry lab.

Art faculty and ceramics program director Laura Bloomenstein said, "When I came to [Yavapai College](#), Cathy was already here. She worked as a lab tech in ceramics, and even taught some. She was a very supportive person and was always there, overseeing the lab and making things work."

Bloomenstein said Chuck and Cathy were "both very sweet people. We didn't socialize much, but Cathy loved the opera, plays and reading. She was always interested in learning."

Chuck died at 78 in 2003, Beth died in 2005 at the age of 47, and Cathy died this past Oct. 5 at 78.

The artwork on display in the library is just a hint of what Chuck, Cathy and Beth did for many years at the college.

The artwork includes paintings, woodworking, ceramics, jewelry, papier maché, clay and macramé.

"I hope people who knew Chuck and Cathy, and Beth, will come and share their remembrances, and if they want, bring a little snack to share." Bloomenstein said.

She said organizers picked Friday the 13th for the reception on purpose.

"Cathy loved Valentine's Day, and would have appreciated the irony on having this on Friday the 13th. She was not a serious person. She was a little kooky," Bloomenstein said.

The Yavapai College Library is located at 1100 E. Sheldon St., in Prescott. Anyone interested in more information about the retrospective should call 776-2260.