



## VIEWING LAKE COUNTY THROUGH ART

University Center has long helped students see the world around them in new ways through its educational programs. Now it provides an immediate opportunity for doing so through a new art collection. In early June, a dozen large scale “kinetic images” of Lake County landscapes were installed throughout the building. Created by Antioch artist Michael Brown, the pictures combine original photography with lenticular print making, a technique that combines two images so that the final artwork changes when viewed from different locations. By using two photographs painstakingly taken from exactly the same point during two different seasons, Brown is able to create landscapes that change from summer to winter or from spring to fall as the viewer moves around the art.

Next fall, art will also be added to the grounds. In the courtyard on the south side of the Grayslake building, with the prairie restoration project as a backdrop, a series of six bronze bas-reliefs by sculptor David Seagraves will depict changes in Lake County’s land and population from a minimally-developed prairie to the highly-developed, technology-rich environment of today. (Look closely for a suggestion of the University Center logo on one student’s t-shirt.)

University Center is the beneficiary of the State’s Art in Architecture program, created in 1977 through Public Act 80-241 “to promote and preserve the arts of Illinois by securing artwork of all media for public buildings constructed with

State funds.” Administered through the Capital Development Board (CDB), the Art in Architecture program spends one-half of 1% of the construction appropriation for each building to supply art created by Illinois artists for display there.

Working under the guidance of Michael Dunbar, the CDB’s Coordinator of Art in Architecture, and with the oversight of the University Center’s Governing Board, a committee worked first to determine an artistic vision for the University Center and then to review the work of a number of Illinois artists. Committee members included Center staff Gary Grace, Hilary Ward Schnadt, and Brian Winiecke; design architect Steven Brubaker; managing architect Scot Parker of Legat Architects; and CDB representative Bruce Locke. Three artists were commissioned to submit full proposals and Michael Brown and Elizabeth-based David Seagraves were given commissions to carry out their proposed works.

At a January 30, 2009 meeting to review progress, the group saw a series of Lake County landscapes from which Brown will select the final dozen. He acknowledged that the scale of the pieces dictated by the size of the University Center corridors and alcoves had required him to work in a larger format and with new larger equipment. Mike Dunbar nodded enthusiastically— beyond making public art available to Illinois residents, an additional benefit of the Art in Architecture program is that



*“Raven Glen” (photo courtesy of Michael Brown). Imagine being able to see fully and in color each tree phase in turn.*

it often challenges Illinois artists to extend their own artistic reach.

The bronzes will be cast late this summer or early this fall at a northern Illinois foundry and will then be installed on six vertical cast concrete tablets that allude to the concrete slab at the west side of the University Center’s front entrance. These tablets with their bas-relief sculptures will be arranged behind the southernmost circle of the Center’s courtyard.. A scene of the natural world will lead to two pieces depicting early settlement and the dawn of industrialization. The next three scenes will depict leisure activity and the fruits of industrialization, higher education and the arts, and the growth of technology.

Watch [www.ucenter.org](http://www.ucenter.org) for news of a yet-to-be-scheduled art installation ceremony