

New art professor Lusk hired

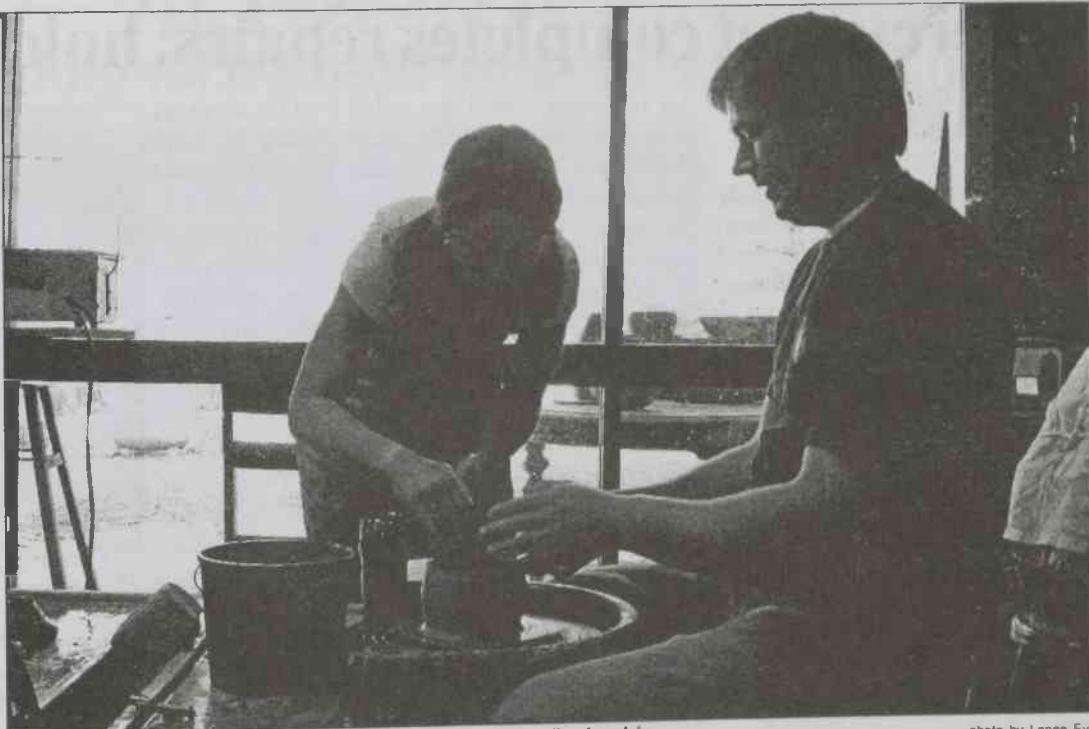
by Lange Eve
Staff Writer

Ever since word of Professor Tim Murray's retirement was spread throughout the art department, the reactions and attitudes were scattered between uncertainty of what may come and hope and wishes for the department to stay strong, or maybe even grow. The idea even left a few without any faith and considering to abandon the college altogether. But fortunately, the faculty and students were encouraged to voice their opinions on the matter by attending open slide presentations held by three candidates for the upcoming sculpture/ceramics professor.

It was a difficult choice that the school body and board had to make, but after much consideration, Mr. Kyle Van Lusk was hired to head the sculpture department at Brevard. With a summer to shake off the Murray blues, the art students returned with only a small glimpse of what Mr. Lusk might bring to the first floor of Sims.

Mr. Lusk, whom everyone calls Kyle, has just started his second semester at Brevard, and already he is enlivening the department with a fresh vision and teaching style. Perhaps the transition was smooth, in part, because Kyle was born and raised in Brevard, and is actually a Brevard College alumni of '92, with a degree in sculpture. Brevard was a two year school at the time, so he finished his B.F.A and then also his M.F.A at East Carolina University. He also comes with seven years of teaching experience at Appalachian State University School of Fine and Applied Arts.

His personal work involves mostly large-scale, outdoor, steel sculptures of which he, according to his artist's web page: www.KVLsculpture.com, in-



Professor Kyle Lusk shows Alisha Osborne how to "throw" a bowl in

Ceramics II class

tends to "reflect his mountain home and his affinity for materials." He has exhibited his work in art shows all over the state of North Carolina and in other parts of the country and has received several awards. More information on his work and background can be found on his web page.

With Kyle's calm and hassle-free manner, witty sense of humor, and broad understanding and appreciation for the world of sculpture, he has given his students, (majors and non-majors), plenty of reasons to be creative. When asked what they thought of Kyle, his advanced sculpture students responded enthusiastically, "He is an amazing professor because he not only becomes the teacher, but [also] the friend. He truly loves this place... [and] spends equal amounts of time, one-on-one, with the students, helping them with ideas and sculpture. All of us enjoy every minute in class with him."

The responses were almost synonymous in his ceramics II class as well. "He's unexpectedly, extremely humorous!" exclaimed Katie Grace MacEachern. "Kyle's the man, the myth, and the legend," said Vince Myers, a sculpture major. "Anytime you have a problem or question about anything," he continued, "he can answer it."

Kristin Veeneman, a non-art major in ceramics admitted, "He makes me want to come to class because it's fun. When I don't come, I feel terrible."

And fortunately, Kyle seems to enjoy his time and experience here as well. "I enjoy the synergy in the studio," he explains. "I get excited by seeing students discover things... it [in turn] helps energize me." He says he has "been happy with the students' motivation, responses, and interest in sculpture," here at Brevard, "and the faculty is very supportive."

Kyle is always eager to take students outside of Brevard to see and experience hints of the grander art world. So far he and his advanced sculpture class have participated in two different iron pours, one at Appalachian State and another at East Carolina University. The students come prepared with wax molds that they have constructed in the classroom and transform them into heavy iron works. Kyle is planning to attend another iron pour at Blue Ridge Community College, and also to hold one here at Brevard before the semester is over. His classes have also ventured to Tri State, an annual sculptor's guild conference, and outdoor exhibition held at Appalachian State and to Lenoir, NC for an outdoor



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exhibition. Every now and then he will offer a trip to Asheville to look at galleries, such as the Blue Spiral, which is open for anyone who wants to come.

The art department was in need of an energetic change, and that is exactly what they got. Kyle lives and breathes sculpture and is dangerously contagious in the classroom. He is nearly always teaching or working outside of class and helping students. He has helped direct their attitudes to a mature level of creativity, and steers everyone to respect the studio space by keeping it clean and organized.