

## "Day at College" grant enhances Head Start program

*Program designed to provide enriched monthly art classes for approximately 90 Pre-K Head Start students*

The North Carolina Arts Council recently awarded an \$8,000 grant to the Chowan College Department of Visual Art and CADA (Cherokee Area Development Association) for a program designed to provide enriched monthly art classes for approximately 90 Pre-K Head Start students of Hertford County. Titled "A Day at College," the grant provides funding for students, from ages 3-5, to participate in a program designed to accomplish multiple goals through the process of creating art. The program will rotate between Green Hall on the Chowan campus and the Murfreesboro Head Start School.

Young students are exposed to total environment experiences in art which may include coordinated music for each project, the ability to work with materials otherwise unavailable and an opportunity to focus on the *process* rather than the *product* as the end result. The program promotes children's understanding of self, assists with the development of ethnic pride and provides opportunities for acceptance and success.

Designed to develop positive community relations, "A Day at College" combines the talents of college art majors, Chowan faculty, local artists and parents all working closely with Head Start students.

Chris Rupsch, head of the art division at Chowan, calls the program, "an innovative introduction to art for young students." Rupsch continues, "We hope to open up the Chowan College campus in terms of art activities to all members of the Murfreesboro community. By engaging Head Start students and their families in the project, we also hope to expose them to other cultural activities such as concerts, plays, field trips, art openings and social events. By addressing some of the North Carolina art education competencies required in K-12 public schools, this program will better prepare the Head Start students for Kindergarten."

*Combines talents of art majors, Chowan faculty, local artists and parents*

### Michael's work in international show

Elizabeth Michael, assistant professor of art, recently exhibited her painting, *Keep Quiet, Keep Still* in the international juried exhibition, *Body Language*, at Soho Gallery in Pensacola, FL. Michael's work was one of 31 pieces accepted out of 444.



Murfreesboro Head Start students (above) enjoy an introduction to violin styles.



A young Head Start student (left) tries her hand(s) at "fingerprinting" with leaves.

## Gilded work of Xenakis illuminates gallery



Tom Xenakis defines the finer points of his work during a reception in Green Hall Gallery.

The visual art division proudly featured the work of Fulbright Scholar Thomas Xenakis October 11 through November 1. The varied collection, titled *Secular and Sacred*, included drawings, tempera on paper, wax encaustic on gilded paper and constructions of mixed media.

Xenakis describes his collection by stating, "Historically, these two genres, secular and sacred, have been separate and immiscible . . . I search for the environment, the moment, the state of being, when the duality is unified."

A visual artist, Xenakis expresses his personal identity through his work. His present concentration involves spirituality derived from the sacred viewpoint of the Eastern Orthodox Christian spiritual tradition.

He states, "My work in this exhibition addresses spiritual identity important to my thesis and my identities. These identities, whether creative, ethnic, gender-related, sexual or spiritual are integral to my being."

Xenakis was awarded a Senior Fulbright Fellowship and traveled to Greece during 1994-95 where he studied Byzantine wall paintings and ichnography. A former artist-in-residence at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. and a former faculty member of the Governors Magnet School for the arts in Norfolk, Xenakis is currently pursuing a second master's degree in fine art at the Hoffberger School of Paintings associated with the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore.