

Campus Extras

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Documentary prize winners to present views from Appalachia

PRESS RELEASE
Duke University News

Construction of an eight-mile segment of highway through the mountains of North Carolina has changed much more than the physical landscape in the area. In their recent work, photographer Rob Amberg and historian Sam Gray have collected compelling examples of the many economic, social and cultural changes affecting the remote Appalachian communities in the road's path.

Winners of the 1998 Lange-Taylor Prize, Amberg and Gray will discuss their ongoing project, I-26: Corridor of Change, on Thursday, Apr. 15, at 8 p.m. at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies. The Center presents the annual Lange-Taylor award of \$10,000 to a writer-photographer team

collaborating in the tradition of acclaimed American photographer Dorothea Lange and Paul Taylor.

Amberg and Gray's endeavor to respectfully record the impact of technology on the isolated folk culture and the forces that are slowly and permanently altering it.

"Out of 40,000 miles of highway in America, there's nothing unusual about these eight," said Amberg, "and that's why this project is critical. We as a culture have relinquished what is important to us eight miles at a time."

Corridor of Change grounds, through photography and text, the complex ramifications of a project undertaken in the name of progress. The effects, sometimes quite subtle, reach deep

into the fabric of mountain life, spawning mixed feelings among local residents.

"There is a great deal of sadness and loss, but mountain communities are also very responsive to opportunities and change," said Gray. "It is important, for future communities facing similar situations, that we make a record of the various shades of reactions."

The nature of Amberg and Gray's collaboration is an integral part of their work on Corridor of Change. Both longtime residents of the region, they have learned to follow each other's leads. As Gray explores the area through its oral histories and traditions, Amberg combs the physical landscape, collecting objects from abandoned homes and photographing symbols of the changes the

road has brought.

"He's connected to the area in a different way than I am," said Gray. "His photographs give me a trail to follow; I rely on them to guide me in new directions."

In turn, Gray's intimate historical and cultural knowledge allows Amberg a rich context in which to ground his photographs.

"Sam helps me interpret the imagery of this area. Once, while we were out at a farmhouse which was being destroyed for the road, Sam commented on how long people must have lived on that property. He pointed out the lilac bush growing next to what used to be the front door. No one plants lilacs anymore."

The Center for Documentary Studies, established in 1989 with an endowment

from the Lyndhurst Foundation, promotes the creative exploration of human experiences using photography, oral history, film and video, radio and narrative writing. The Center supports documentary work in various ways, engaging in teaching, documentary projects, publishing, exhibitions and community programs.

The Center for Documentary Studies is located at 1317 W. Pettigrew Street, off Swift Avenue in Durham. Gallery Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information about the Corridor of Change presentation, please call 660-3663.

Westaff announces College Greens Scholarship program

PRESS RELEASE, WESTAFF MEDIA RELATIONS

Westaff, Inc., the Essential Support Services Leader, announces its first annual College Greens scholarship program. The international staffing company will award more than \$15,000 in scholarships this year to outstanding Westaff employees who are also students.

"We are very excited about this new program," Branch Manager Dave Hutton said. "Temporary work is a perfect fit for those attending school. It provides a flexible work schedule and the opportunity to test-drive a variety of careers."

Westaff will award a \$1,000 scholarship to one employee in each of its 18 U.S. regions.

"Our local region covers Wake County," Hutton said. "If you or someone you know is a student who would like to earn money for college, we encourage you to visit our Raleigh branch and find out more about Westaff and its College Greens scholarship program."

In order to be eligible for the award, applicants must work 400 hours between May 17, 1999 and September 25, 1999 and be enrolled full-time in an accredited college, university or vocational school for the academic year 1999-2000.

Westaff provides Essential Support personnel, including office, light industrial and light technical employees, to meet the demands of highly competitive business in ever-changing global markets. Westaff, which operates more than 370 company-owned, franchise and licensed offices in the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, annually employs approximately 270,000 worldwide and achieved fiscal 1998 system revenues of more than \$670 million.

Westaff's Raleigh Office is located at 3801 Barrett Drive, off of Six Forks Road. For information on the scholarship program or Westaff's services, contact David Hutton at 781-7998 or visit Westaff's web site at www.westaff.com.

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