THINKING ANTHROPOLOGICALLY: CREATIVITY BEYOND LIMITS

STUDENT PROJECT COLLECTION

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“Creativity is the engine that drives cultural evolution.” — M. Csikszentmihalyi

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Student S-project collection is inspired by this year President’s creative challenge.

Students in the class Cultural anthropology created their unique Sheridan “S” that reflects their personality, role and expertise within the context of ANTHROPOLOGY – the scientific study of humankind in all times and places.

The 4th edition of Student Project Collection celebrates students’ creative thinking, imagination, originality, broad curiosity and love of knowledge, the key components in learning and student success.

November 12th, 2013

Dr. Anna K. Boshnakova,
Professor of Anthropology
Annie Leduc
Program: Bachelor of Animation:

“S” – Cultural anthropology at Sheridan college
My “S” represents cultural anthropology and its ultimate goal. We study anthropology through looking at the past, looking at the present and studying all the culture of all ages, through language, music and art. We study these things to not only learn about other cultures, but to understand those cultures and better accept and get along well with them. Anthropology is the path towards peace with ourselves in the past, and with others in the future as well as present.
Rui Hao  
Program: Bachelor of Animation

My “S” represents an image of a seed sprout, a metaphor for *dreams come true.*

"S" symbolizes Sheridan - my school - a soil, where seeds sprout and grow. Sheridan provides educational environment like soil to the seed. Through schooling, seed comes to a sprout. For it stands for multiple meaning, I applied the warmer colour to it, and using Sheridan’s primary colours as background, stands for air and water to the dream seed.
Beginning from the bottom of the “S,” we have magic, religion and art portrayed by a shaman, voodoo doll, potion and mana amulet, Lascaux horse cave drawing, along with the body art of henna. As we go up, we have the different rites of passages: birth (baby), puberty (young boy), a couple getting married, having children (the family) and death (the self-mummification). The skulls are human’s evolution, along with the development of our brain and the world and open head drawing represent how in cultural anthropology, we must think of everything as a whole, keeping open minded and doing no harm.
My idea is to fill the Sheridan “S” with speech bubbles with different languages on the inside. This is my metaphor of cultural diversity. We all have different cultures and traditions. Most of all I think we are defined by the languages we speak. Even if we are different, the language is a cultural universal and makes as humans. We all live on the same earth, so we can’t be so different.
My “S” is constructed out of hands and arms supporting and embracing one another. I imagined that all the cultures in the world, depicted by the different skin tones, help each other make up the Earth while together being one collaborative toward a bright future - all arms emerge in one direction coming from all corners of the earth, prosperously 'moving forward'.
My “S” is based on the fact that we are all different, not only in our cultures, but also as humans. Every human is a little planet. However, we all live on the same earth. So, I tried to do little planets that move towards the earth. We all look for perfection in art, religion, beauty, etc. but nobody is perfect, so I had perfect computer shapes contrasting with hand drawn shapes – this is who we are: a unique amalgamation of perfection and imperfection.
Ming Yu (Ann) Wei
Program: Bachelor of Animation

“S” – The whole world in one letter.
Yiping Yu  
Program: Bachelor of Animation

My “S” represents Sheridan as a sky, a metaphor of trustworthy and committed environment. Sheridan is like a big family having students from all over the world, which I will represent by flags from different countries.
For my “S” assignment, I decided to draw a line of skulls starting from Ardipithecines up to Homo sapiens. They are connected through the “S” by a strand of orange that builds up to multiple strands as they get closer to the human skull, showing both human development over millions of years: the stronger the orange, the more we have knowledge of us. The Homo sapiens (wise man) skull at the end of the chain has orange accents around the top, representing this knowledge and our desire to look back in history and learn our past.
Yingmei Pei  
Program: Bachelor of Animation

My “S” represents the broad perspective of human nature because anthropology is the study of humankind in all places and in all times. I did a research on images of people in different cultures around the world and I depicted them in profile, all joined the “global village” we live in.
I wanted to illustrate some different aspects of what we learnt in class, as well as express our origins and our identity. So, I drew eyes in the bottom corner of the “S” since they are said to be the window to the soul. I then illustrated the gradual evolution of the human race which is why I drew the different stances throughout time and a skull. Finally, I drew our planet at the center because as far as we currently know, it is the only planet that has so far been able to create such a rich place to live.
I really enjoyed and like drawing animals, so for my “S”- project I choose to create “S” out of animals without actually showing the letter itself. The animals used in the logo symbolize the variety of people within the Sheridan community. Without these people, there would be no Sheridan. The unification of the animals is representational of Sheridan’s existence.
Sheridan college is a place that welcomes students from different backgrounds. I am an international student and I appreciate that fact, and therefore I believe my “S” should show how welcoming Sheridan is to any student. The orange color represents the skyline of Toronto as a welcome to any student who wishes to attend this school.
For my “S” project, I illustrated what intrigued me the most during what I have learned throughout the course; and that is certain cultures still retaining their roots, like the Padaung in Thailand, the tribesmen in New Guinea and the Woodabe. As an artist myself, I find their cultural outfits very inspiring.
My "S" is built around the idea of my program (Animation), our life together as classmates and Sheridan community. This is a visualisation of us as a sub-culture group within the larger cultural umbrella of Sheridan College. I'm relating this concept to what we have learned in Cultural Anthropology this semester.
My “S” is a symbol of cultural diversity. By drawing an image of the world and presenting people of different race I wanted to depict a harmonious unity between people.
My ‘S’ is a visualization of cultural anthropology. In this logo I wanted to depict the globe and the different and unique people among this earth. I wanted to show the diversity of human beings and the importance of the various traditions, survival/living habits, use of different languages, physical appearance and much more. So that is why I chose to depict different cultural individuals in the world as well as a few of their habits and artistic displays.
I am from a very sheltered town where there is a lack of diversity among people. So when I came to Sheridan the thing that struck me most, was the variety of people and cultures that came together in this school. To represent the diversity and unity among students and faculty, I painted a face composed of many facial features from people of different ethnicities and cultures. This idea also relates back to my class Cultural Anthropology; on a global scale we share and make-up the Earth, but there is a bounty of different people and cultures.
Representation of religion being a universal constant. Women wear head coverings that are culturally significant to their belief system and exhibit/contrast in a common idea, their clothing suiting their needs.
“S” – different personalities in one letter.