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Contact: Paige Pertz 412-365-2145 x 202
paige@pittsburghglasscenter.org

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SiO₂: A FORMULA THAT SHATTERS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' NOTION OF GLASS

Local students exhibit studio glass art created in the Pittsburgh Glass Center Program

PITTSBURGH – They blew it! Twenty-three local high school students will be featured in an exhibition of studio glass art at Pittsburgh Glass Center on May 4, 2007 from 6 to 9 pm and May 5 from 2 to 5 pm. The work is the result of a unique scholarship program for high school students. The free 12-week after school program at Pittsburgh Glass Center is called “SiO₂: An Exploration in Glass for High School Students.”

The exhibition will showcase a variety of glassmaking techniques from glass blowing and casting to flame working. Students will display their work on Friday, May 4 and Saturday May 5. In addition, they will demonstrate their expertise in the hot shop at 2 pm on Saturday, May 5.

Students from several different high schools in Allegheny County participated in the Spring 2007 session including:

- Hunter Blackwell CAPA High School
- Julia Cahill CAPA High School
- George Cessna CAPA High School
- Jaime Condron CAPA High School
- John Conturo CAPA High School
- Hanna Davis Taylor Alderdice High School
- Michael Dodin Upper St. Clair High School
- Gayle Forman CAPA High School
- Morgan Gailbreath Winchester-Thurston School

- Grace Harjung Mars Area High School
- Sara Hudak Pine-Richland High School
- Sarah Kotsos CAPA High School
- Callie Lardas Woodland Hills High School
- Dana Laskowski CAPA High School
- Drew McDermott Serra Catholic High School
- Vincent Miltenberger Quaker Valley High School
- Luke Martin Mars Area High School
- Grace Rajnovic CAPA High School
- Chris Ross CAPA High School
- Shannon Schmidt CAPA High School
- Josh Soberdash Southmoreland High School
- Michelle Underwood CAPA High School
- Gavin Matthew White Mars Area High School

The SiO₂ program introduces the science and art of hot glass to high school students in Pittsburgh. SiO₂ allows students to create glass art, understand the scientific principles behind glass and apply the life lessons inherent in glassblowing such as teamwork, discipline, achievement and respect. SiO₂ takes place in one of the top glass studios in the U.S. Located in the East End, Pittsburgh Glass Center is a state-of-the-art glass school, studio and gallery. SiO₂ students have the rare opportunity to learn to create glass art with hands-on experience at the furnace, blowing and sculpting beginning on the first day. Each week, students work in the studio with a team of other high school students often beside world-renowned glass artists to create studio glass art. At the end of the 12-week session, SiO₂ students display their glass art in an exhibition at Pittsburgh Glass Center.

Pittsburgh Glass Center runs two 12-week sessions each year beginning in January and September. To apply for SiO₂, students must complete an application, submit one letter of reference and images of their art. No experience is necessary and all materials are provided. The deadline for submitting an application for the September 2007 session is August 1. For an

SiO2 application, contact Pittsburgh Glass Center at 412-365-2145 ext. 201 or visit www.pittsburghglasscenter.org.

SiO2 is supported in part by The Grable Foundation, Dominion Foundation, Buhl Foundation, Eden Hall Foundation, PNC Financial Advisors and numerous friends and neighbors of the Pittsburgh Glass Center.

About Pittsburgh Glass Center

Celebrating its fifth anniversary in conjunction with "Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass" in 2007, Pittsburgh Glass Center is a nonprofit, public access glass studio and gallery dedicated to teaching, creating and promoting glass art. The 16,000+ square foot facility houses state-of-the-art studios in hot glass, frameworking, coldworking, casting and kilnworking. The staff of skilled technicians, highly qualified instructors and dedicated administrators work together to create an open environment where students of all skill levels can explore and achieve their creative vision in glass. The goal is to provide instruction and resources to expand the skills and knowledge of our students, while fostering a new generation of glass artists and enthusiasts in the Pittsburgh region, and in its East End home. Learn more about the Pittsburgh Glass Center by visiting our Web site at www.pittsburghglasscenter.org or by calling 412-365-2145.

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