Report on SCGP Science-Art Program June 2010

Nina Douglas is the Curator-Director of the SCGP Science-Art Program. She is advised by a campus committee: Tony Phillips (Math, Chair), Dan Weymouth (Music), Anita Moskowitz (Art), George Hart (Computer Science) and Christa Erickson (Digital Art).

1. Much of the past year has been spent on working with the architects on details of the art-related areas of the Center (Exhibition Space, Artist’s Studio, Video Wall); and on rounding up art works for the embellishment of the public areas in the Center --current status described in detail in “Art for the Center” (attached).
2. Plans for this summer: Nina is planning one or two events (including a lecture on Islamic Art by Valerie Gonzalez, the wife of one of the Summer Program participants). Participants will get free tickets to the 15th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival (July 22-31).
3. Plans for AY 2010-11:
4. The Artists-in-Residence program is ready to start as soon as the studio space is usable. Nina has two artists lined up.
5. Plans are under way for an Opening Exhibition in conjunction with the formal opening of the Center. This depends on the Exhibition Area being usable.
6. In conjunction with the opening of the Auditorium, Nina has planned, with Steve March of the Theater Department, a staged reading by drama students (and perhaps some professionals) of a work like *Proof* or *Copenhagen* on a math or physics-related theme.
7. Stephanie Dinkins (Art) will substitute for Christa Erickson. who is currently on medical leave, in advising us on the installation of the Video Wall (in lobby, opposite auditorium entrance), and on the content to be displayed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Phillips

Chair, SCGP Science-Art campus advisory committee

Art for the Center June 2010

The Center has commissioned four substantial pieces of art for the main floor of the new building.

Chuck Hoberman has created a kinetic geometric screen for the large bay windows on the south side of the atrium. The screen will feature four different arrangements of shapes (circles, squares, triangles and hexagons) that will cast slowly evolving

shadows on the lobby floor. At night, the shifting patterns will show as silhouettes in the light shining out from the building.

Mr. Hoberman has also created an intricate gate for the art exhibition space gallery. When deployed, the gate complements the architecture of the building while protecting the exhibits. When it is retracted, the panels superimpose to create a complex geometric shape: their openings line up in such a way that the pattern of light and dark varies as the piece is perceived from different angles. Mr. Hoberman’s body of work can be seen at http://www.hoberman.com/home.html.

Earth, Wind, Fire, Water is a large ceramic installation being created specifically for the Center by Toby Buonagurio. It will be located at the lobby entrance, along the brick wall. The piece is comprised of eleven ceramic butterflies ranging in size from one to four feet in diameter and glazed, according to the four elements, in the bright hues this artist is known for.

 Ms. Buonagurio’s work, including her installation at the 42nd street (Times Square) Subway Station, can be seen at

http://www.tobytimessquare.com.

The Iconic Wall, to be located at the far end of the atrium lobby,

Is under development by Nina Douglas and Tony Phillips. The wall, which measures 20 by 23 feet, will be built of natural split limestone slabs, which will be carved (under the direction of a scientific committee) with a selection of mathematical and physical equations and diagrams of current and/or historical significance.