

The Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship

Background:

The Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship was established during the summer of 2005 to honor a very special person who truly created a presence in the Rockefeller Arts Center. Rodney "Rod" W. Welling was a student of the Visual Arts, who gave selflessly of his time and friendship to all those within the department, university, and community in which he studied and lived. In December 2001 Rodney W. Welling completed his undergraduate degree in Graphic Design from SUNY Fredonia's department of Visual Arts and New Media. On Monday, June 14th, 2004, Rodney W. Welling, age 33 was tragically killed in an automobile accident.

Rod was a gentle soul, a talented artist as well as an accomplished musician. He influenced many of his fellow students and was admired for his generous spirit. His passing left a great void for many in the Visual Arts community. Rod was known for his design work at SUNY Fredonia, but he was also a fine musician and a talented painter. Many of his wall-sized murals can be found at the Jamestown High-Rise Retirement Building in Jamestown, NY. The scholarship was created to memorialize Rod so that students who would never know him would recognize that they can not only succeed in the arts, they can touch people's lives along the way.

On Sunday, May 28, 2006 at the casino in Bemus Point, the first benefit concert was held in memory of Rod. Over 600 people were in attendance to remember his life and his legacy, and the event raised enough money to fully endow this scholarship. Its success was due to the exhaustive work of Rod's brother Sean, mother Cyndi, father Rodney and many friends.

Sean said of his brother, "He wasn't just a drummer, though – any instrument could be thrown at him and he'd play it". A longtime friend, Jamie Trusler stated, "His passion for learning coupled with unbounded energy let him master many instruments, evolve into a magnificent artist and become knowledgeable on a wealth of subjects. Most importantly, these attributes were reflected in his relationship with others, as I'm sure his family and friends can attest."

Scholarship Criteria and Selection Process:

The Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship is a prestigious scholarship given to a student selected each year by the Scholarship Committee in the department of Visual Arts and New Media. Scholarship recipients are exceptionally well-rounded student leaders who contribute to the exciting and challenging environment that characterizes the Fredonia community. The recipient will be a person who exhibits a positive work ethic, leadership ability and demonstrated concern for his/her fellow students. The scholarship is awarded to one deserving junior-level student and provides funds for tuition, room, board, and mandatory fees.

To apply for Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship the student must be enrolled as a junior level undergraduate major in Visual Arts and New Media. **Students apply for the** Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship by completing the cover sheet supplied and writing a one-page statement addressing how the applicant believes his/her behavior, attitude, character and/or experience warrants the awarding of this scholarship. Additionally two letters of recommendation must accompany the application, one from a full-time faculty member in the Department of Visual Arts and New Media and another from a member of the campus community who can speak to the candidate's broader contributions through their work outside the department. Each letter should indicate why the author feels this applicant should be considered for the scholarship and provide specifics to substantiate their support.

Applications including a completed cover letter, eligibility statement and two letters of recommendation for the Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship must be received in the Department of Visual Arts and New Media **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26th.**

The Department of Visual Arts and New Media's Scholarship Committee will evaluate the applications. The committee may solicit additional information for final determination. The Scholarship recipient will be notified and announced publicly during the spring semester's ART 120: Visiting Artist Programs Awards Night.

Scholarship Awards: One-year scholarship of at least \$1,400.00.

Type: Financial Endowed. The Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship is a **one-time award** that is applied to the recipient's tuition, living or schooling expenses at SUNY Fredonia.

Semester: Fall 2023

Level: Junior level undergraduate students of Visual Arts and New Media.

Eligibility: The recipient will be a person who exhibits a positive work ethic, leadership ability and demonstrated concern for his/her fellow students.

Deadline: 4:00pm Wednesday, April 26th.

**Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship
COVER SHEET**

Applicant Name:

FID:

Campus Address:

Home Address:

VANM Concentration:

VANM Advisor:

Names of Recommendation Writers: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E mail: _____

Applications must include Cover Sheet, one-page statement and two letters of recommendation
and should be addressed to:

**The Rodney W. Welling Memorial Scholarship
Department of Visual Arts and New Media
Scholarship Committee**

Application and support materials must be received in the Visual Arts and New Media
Department Office by 4:00 pm on April 26th.

Applications and support materials should be sent via email (with Welling Scholarship in the
subject line) to: VisualArts.NewMedia@fredonia.edu