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HORIZONS
SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

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Sculptor creates "wily" tribute to SCVRD's Evaluation Center

It's not every day that a vocational rehabilitation facility gets its own original work of art fashioned by a professional sculptor.

But a grateful Marty Murray wanted to pay tribute to the work of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Evaluation Center in West Columbia.

"I wanted to say something serious, yet say it in a zany way," said Murray, who recently received services at the center.

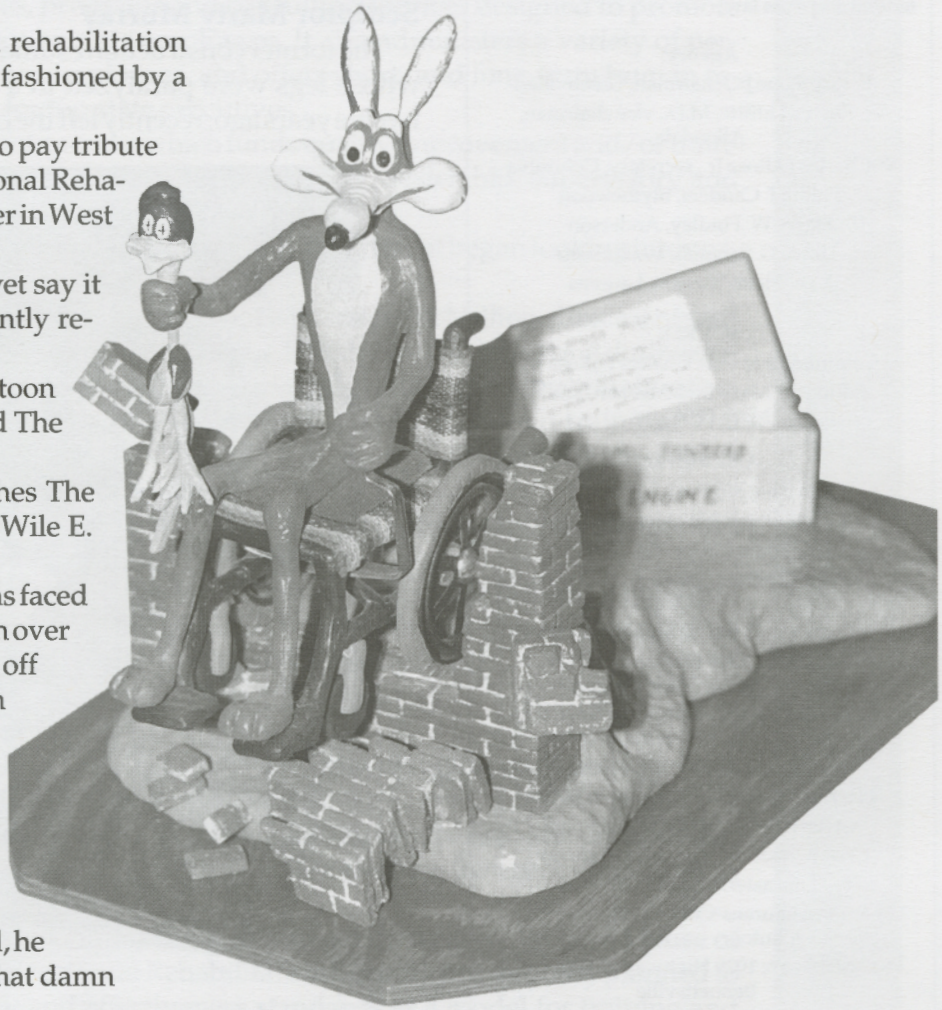
The resulting sculpture shows the cartoon characters Wile E. Coyote — Genius and The Road Runner.

In the sculpture Wile E. Coyote catches The Road Runner. Of course, in the cartoon Wile E. never catches The Road Runner.

Murray elaborates, "Wile E. Coyote has faced adversity for many years. He has been run over by trucks, trains, cars, etc. He has fallen off cliffs, had anvils and rocks dropped on him — but has always regrouped and kept trying.

"What trauma his body has undergone can only be imagined....

"What Wile E. Coyote lacked was a little help from South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation. Once he got this aid, he achieved his dream and finally caught that damn road runner."



In Murray's sculpture no Acme equipment powers the coyote. Instead, he modified the coyote's wheelchair.

"Wile E. represents us clients," Murray said. "His SCVR atomic-powered rocket engine represents this wonderful facility and the rocket fuel pellets are the various departments. This is what y'all do for us.

"With all this help, Wile E. has powered himself on an uphill battle, broken down barriers and achieved his goal."

Murray creatively used small items from each depart-

Continued next page

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Sculptor creates tribute...

ment to build his sculpture. He incorporated plastic pegs from vocational evaluation, a catheter and tongue depressor from the nurses' station, a pencil from physical therapy, a beater blade and beads from occupational therapy, foam from rehabilitation engineering, straps from aquatic therapy, and odds and ends from the psychologist, maintenance, dietary, and adjustment areas.

"It represents what vocational rehabilitation does for people, finding whatever it takes to help them overcome their obstacles and achieve their goals," said Murray.

Sculptor Marty Murray

The former construction estimator, whose legs were paralyzed in a fall twelve years ago, recently left the construction business to sculpt full time.

"The seed for his newfound talent began to grow when he came to the Evaluation Center several years ago," said Lucerne W. Iseman, supervisor at the center. "He has since been an inspiration to other clients—not only because of his ability to establish a goal based on his talents and interests but also due to his tremendous effort to reach that goal and his focus on improving his physical strength to have the stamina to be successful."

Every Christmas season Murray regularly sculpts unique Santa-like figures called Nicholas of Charleston. He carefully sculpts and hand-paints these. A North Carolina company transfers them to cold-cast porcelain.

Trademarks and registrations are all to be respected but are omitted for ease of reading.

Sculptor Marty Murray, a former SCVRD Evaluation Center client, puts the finishing touches on his tribute to the center's staff, a sculpture showing Wile E. Coyote in a wheelchair catching The Road Runner. The Evaluation Center's employees, clients and guests will continue to enjoy Murray's talent for years to come, thanks to his generous gift.

SCVRD gets pats on the back

Two totally different projects of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department recently attracted exactly the right kind of attention.

The first project involves the strides the department is making in customer service. The second involves the department's efficiency and effectiveness standards.

Customer driven

The Budget and Control Board's Office of Human Resources works to maximize staff productivity in state government.

It develops statewide policies, programs and consulting services designed to promote the highest quality performance by state employees. It also administers a variety of personnel service programs for state employees, and offers short- and long-term human resource management planning for top state executives.

Last year the legislature passed a *proviso* which funds quality improvement and/or training linked to total quality management, strategic planning, leadership, supervisory and management training, or customer service.

About the same time, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department began looking into customer service training.

In fact, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Houston McMillion, director of staff development, applied for and won a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration in Washington, D.C. (part of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the U.S. Department of Education), to fund customer service training. The department plans to train much of its management staff on how to teach the employees they supervise to become more customer driven.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department's direction coincided with the purpose and direction of the legislature as outlined in their *proviso*.

With the support of the Office of Human Resources and help from the funds provided by the *proviso* and the grant from RSA, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department plans to train 47 facilitators and, as a result, reach over 800 employees in 1995.

Efficiency and effectiveness

Every year, each agency of state government prepares an annual accountability report and submits that report to the General Assembly.

The report contains the agency's mission, the objectives it plans to use to accomplish that mission and the performance measures it plans to use to show how the agency will meet its objectives.

Recently, the Ways and Means Committee, a standing committee of the S.C. House of Representatives, informed the Vocational Rehabilitation Department that they planned to use the department's efficiency and effectiveness standards as a model for training and other demonstration purposes.

SCRA annual meeting challenges attende

The South Carolina chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association recently held an information-filled annual meeting at the Sheraton Columbia Hotel.

Three impressive speakers — Nelson R. Otto, PH.D., Joseph H. Owens and Ronald D. Lackey, PH.D. — addressed the group.

Otto, president of Visionary Management in Minneapolis, Minnesota, spoke about "Shaping the Future of Vocational Rehabilitation in South Carolina."

Owens spoke about "Future Trends in Vocational Rehabilitation." He is the executive director of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Lackey, Professor *Emeritus* at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, gave a moving keynote speech at the meeting in which he challenged those in attendance to see the gifts that can come from suffering.

Lackey said, "... I want to suggest to you that suffering is what creates a compassionate spirit within us to relate to our fellow human beings. If we have suffered, then we are no longer impatient with another's pain. We become more sensitive to their despair, their anger over their loss, their depression and, at times, their utter hopelessness. We understand for we have been there and we can share the depths of their discomfort."

Nelson R. Otto, PH.D., president of Visionary Management, challenges his audience to examine the ways their world has changed and continues to change.

Business and Industry Partnership Awards

The South Carolina Rehabilitation Association presented its Business and Industry Partnership awards to 19 employers who provide contract work for the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's 21 community-based work training centers. During this past year, more than 500 South Carolina businesses and industries provided $10.6 million of contract work for the work training centers.

The following companies received Business and Industry Partnership awards: Air Products and Chemicals Inc. in Langley, Orian Rugs Incorporated in Anderson, Southeastern Fibers Incorporated in Beaufort, the Gates Rubber Company in Moncks Corner, Oak-Mitsui in Camden, the Robert Bosch Corporation in Charleston, Southern Plastics Company in Columbia, Allied Signal Incorporated in Conway, Palmetto Packaging Corporation in Florence, South Carolina Box Incorporated in Greenville, Cutler-Hammer in Greenwood, Springs Industries Incorporated's Riverlawn Plant in Lancaster, Marley Electric Heating Company in Bennettsville, the Maxfli Golf Division in Seneca, Westminster and Greenville; the Albemarle Corporation in Orangeburg, Ostrow Textiles in Rock Hill, Beverage-Air in Spartanburg, Diebold Incorporated in Sumter and CCX Fiberglass Products in Walterboro.

Exemplary Employer Awards

Business and industry are the keys to the success of vocational rehabilitation.

The South Carolina Rehabilitation Association recognizes this and proudly singled out 19 employers for their outstanding records of and commitment to providing employment opportunities for South Carolinians with disabilities.

In addition, many of these employers offer special Employee Intervention Programs where they provide confidential help to their employees.

In short, these employers value their employees and recognize that people with disabilities are a valuable source of employees.

The association honored Help Incorporated in Aiken, ISS Services Cleaning Group Incorporated in Sandy Springs, Hilton Head Laboratories Incorporated, Bi-Lo #284 in Moncks Corner, the JPM Company in Winnsboro, the Yancy Company in Charleston, Taco Bell in the greater Columbia area, the ServiceMaster Company at Georgetown Memorial Hospital, Southern Weaving in Greenville, Reelco Incorporated in Abbeville, Southern Rose in Lancaster, Magnolia Packaging Corporation in Clinton, Southern Packaging Corporation in Bennetts-

dees with dynamic speakers

ville, Ryobi in Pickens, Seacord Corporation in Orangeburg, CAPabilities in Rock Hill, the Torrington Company in Union, V-B/Williams Furniture Company Incorporated in Sumter and Captain D's in Walterboro.

Case of the Year

The association honored the winners of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's statewide case of the year competition.

Counselors in each area office submitted detailed case histories to a local panel of judges. The judges then reviewed each nominated case and chose a winner based on the client's disability, the choice of services used to serve the client and the suitability of job placement.

Then the local area case of the year award winners competed with each other. Another panel of rehabilitation professionals chose the state winner.

Overall State Winners

The overall Case of the Year award went to Sheila G. Hunter, PHARM.D., of Winnsboro and her former counselor, G. Gary Simpkins of SCVRD's Rock Hill area office.

Born with cerebral palsy, Hunter went on to earn her doctorate and now works as a clinical pharmacist at Martin Primary Health Care Center in Winnsboro.

Gordon M. McRae of Columbia, a contract draftsman at South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, and his former counselor, Patricia J. Sloan of the Columbia area SCVRD office, received the Runner-up Case of the Year award.

McRae, a native of Guyana, came to South Carolina and received vocational rehabilitation services after an accident resulted in the amputation of his right arm and his left leg.

Joanie H. Huffman and Alan J. Billings celebrate her Secretary of the Year Award at SCRA's reception. Huffman works as executive support specialist for the SCVRD's Computer Training Program which Billings supervises.

During the meeting, Ronald D. Lackey, PH.D., Professor Emeritus at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, moves his audience as he speaks about life's demands on us.

Local Winners

★ Leon A. Brunson, counselor, received the Aiken area award.

★ Ronald E. Cox, special services coordinator, received the Anderson area award.

★ Loy L. Heuer, counselor, received the Beaufort area award.

★ Daniel A. Mendini, project supervisor, received the Berkeley-Dorchester area award.

★ Mary C. "Tina" Dillard, counse-

SCRA annual meeting challenges attendees

lor, received the Camden area award.

★ Cassandra L. Townsend, special services coordinator, received the Charleston area award.

★ Robert C. McIntyre Jr., counselor, received the Conway area award.

★ Annette Richardson, counselor, received the Florence area award.

★ William F. Jordan, counselor, received the Greenville area award.

★ John R. McKinney Jr., counselor, received the Greenwood area award.

★ Janet T. Catoe, counselor, received the Lancaster area award.

★ Billy Ray Hester, counselor, received the Laurens area award.

★ Frances T. Whaley, counselor, received the Marlboro area award.

★ Kathleen W. Hane, counselor, received the Oconee-Pickens area award.

★ M. Onnie Wood, project supervisor, received the Orangeburg area award.

★ William D. Johnson, counselor, received the Spartanburg area award.

★ Darlene F. Townsend, counselor at the G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital in Columbia, received the department's Statewide Facilities award.

★ Carolyn D. Bishop-McLeod, counselor, received the Sumter area award.

★ Kathy W. Shider, counselor, received the Walterboro area award.

Division Awards

Divisions of the SCRA also presented their annual awards at the meeting.

Administrator of the Year

Johnny Dewese, supervisor of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Lancaster Area Office, received the S.C. Rehabilitation Administration Association's (SCRAA) Administrator of the Year award.

Members of the SCRAA voted for the one member they felt best demonstrated leadership skills at work and in the community, a solid commitment to the National Rehabilitation Association, and high ethical and moral standards.

Counselor of the Year

Charles R. Milam, counselor in the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Laurens Area Office, received the South Carolina Rehabilitation Counseling Association's (SCRCA) Counselor of the Year award.

SCRCA members were nominated for the award based on professionalism, outstanding work with clients and involvement in community activities.

Professional of the Year

Richard S. Cobb, adjustment specialist in the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Laurens Area Office, received the Professional of the Year Award.

The Professional Staff Association honored Cobb for his dedication to serving individuals with disabilities, ability to command the respect of co-workers, commitment to the association and community involvement.

Secretary of the Year

Joanie H. Huffman, executive support specialist at SCVRD's Computer Training Program in West Columbia, received the Secretary of the Year award from the South Carolina Association of Rehabilitation Secretaries (SCARS).

The award recognizes the secretary who best promotes public interest and confidence in rehabilitation, performs duties conscientiously, shows initiative, assumes added responsibilities and demonstrates a good working relationship with supervisors, co-workers and the public.

Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment

Janet C. French, counselor at South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Columbia Area Office in West Columbia, received the Voca-

Sheila G. Hunter, PHARM.D., works as a clinical pharmacist at Martin Primary Health Care Center in Winnsboro.

Hunter and her counselor, G. Gary Simpkins of SCVRD's Rock Hill area office, received SCVRD's highest honor, its Case of the Year award.

tional Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA) award.

South Carolina VEWAA chapter members were nominated for the award based on exceptional skills in providing evaluation and job training for individuals with disabilities. A committee selected by the chapter's board of directors chose the winner.

Citation for Individual Contributions

The association honored Evelyn Evans of Columbia, Samuel L. Jones Jr. of Columbia, Derle Lowder of Sumter and Bobbie Robinson of Lancaster for their work on behalf of South Carolina's citizens with disabilities.

Evans serves as director of the Legislative Committee for People with Disabilities, which has sponsored numerous bills passed by state legislature to help the state's citizens with disabilities.

Jones, assistant director of the Budget and Control Board's Office of Human Resources, serves as chairman of the Business Advisory Council of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Computer Training Program. The program trains people with disabilities for careers in programming, computer aided drafting and automated office occupations.

Lowder serves as co-chairman of the Sumter Vocational Rehabilitation Work Training Center advisory board and chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Lowder also helped Sumter area businesses and organizations improve accessibility for citizens with disabilities.

Through local and state involvement, Robinson actively promotes the vocational rehabilitation program, which helps prepare people with disabilities for employment.

Gordon M. McRae of Columbia and Patricia J. Sloan, supervisor of the Columbia Vocational Rehabilitation Work Training Center, receive the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Runner-up Case of the Year award from Harry W. Findley, SCVRD agency board member.

Gary Watson (center), scheduler/planner in the customer service center for Springs Industries Incorporated's Riverlawn Plant in Lancaster, receives a Business and Industry Partnership award.

P. Charles LaRosa Jr. (left), SCVRD commissioner, presents the award while Johnny Dewese, supervisor of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Lancaster Area Office, watches.

VR dedicates building to Campbell

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department dedicated the Carroll A. Campbell Jr. Building on Monday, December 12, 1994.

The building is located on U.S. 17-A, halfway between Moncks Corner and Summerville, eight miles from each town.

Throughout Campbell's political career as a state representative and senator, United States congressman, and governor; he has actively promoted legislation creating employment opportunities for citizens with disabilities and has supported the efforts of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

"I can't think of anything else that I would be more pleased with than to have a vocational rehabilitation center named after me, primarily because I have been very interested in this aspect of what I consider a public/private partnership that produces results," said Campbell.

Since its origin, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department planned for easily accessible rehabilitation services for all South Carolinians with physical or mental disabilities which kept them from working.

Today the department continues to work toward this dream by using a network of 21 community-based work training centers located throughout the state. As part of that network, the Carroll A. Campbell Jr. Building houses the Berkeley-Dorchester Area Office and Work Training Center.

There the department's staff members prepare persons with disabilities for employment by providing evaluation services; personal, social, and work adjustment services; counseling and guidance services; psychological testing; and job placement services.

Clients learn to deal with a real work environment by performing contract work for businesses and industries through the work training center.

In fiscal year 1993–1994 the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served 1,836 individuals with disabilities from Berkeley and Dorchester counties and 41,643 people statewide.

Former Governor Carroll A. Campbell Jr. (center) shares a moment with E. Roy Stone Jr. (left), chairman of the State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation, and agency member J. Hewlette Wasson at the dedication ceremony.

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