



NEWS

PR 041 December 3, 2009

THE ARTFUL USE OF WORDS

Deptford Twp. – The adage “a picture is worth a 1,000 words” could not be truer, especially if the artwork is that of Gloucester County College student Matt Williams.

Williams, a second-year computer graphic arts major, was not at a loss for words when he delved into a class assignment reproducing an image of his favorite actor Morgan Freeman. Four months and 150+ hours later, Williams’ project “A Man of His Word” has netted the Pitman resident the top honor in a national art contest. The portrait of Morgan Porterfield Freeman Jr.—from his pupils to hair tendrils—has been created entirely with text in Adobe Illustrator. Using the actor’s name, movies and shows, film characters, movie quotes and awards, Williams’ artwork has received platinum status from deviantART’s Artist Draw Actors contest.

“This has been a long, tedious process but it was definitely worth it in the end,” said Williams. “I have never dedicated this much time to anything and have it turn out so magnificently. I believe artwork as a whole is less about a skill and more about the amount of work and heart you put into something.”

Williams, who thought the class project would take about 10 hours to complete, originally started at GCC interested in engineering. Coming from a family of artists and musicians, it wasn’t a big surprise to anyone when he decided to switch to computer graphic arts. In December, Williams will graduate from GCC with plans to transfer to a local four-year school before finishing his education at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

At a GCC board of trustees meeting on November 4, Williams presented a print of his winning entry to President Russell A. Davis for the College’s Permanent Art Gallery. He hopes to one day have the opportunity to provide Freeman with a copy of his likeness as well.

“Morgan Freeman has done so many great things. I thought why not repay him a little bit by doing a portrait of him in his own words,” said Williams “This project has gotten far more attention than I ever imagined.”

“Matt’s attention to detail is truly amazing, even the eyelashes are formed from words,” said Davis. “The amount of time and patience required to create a portrait of this quality is impressive. He is a very talented young artist who I am sure one day will have his work hanging in galleries.”

The GCC campus is located on Tanyard Road in Deptford Township, just off Exit 56 of Route 55. For more GCC information, visit www.gccnj.edu / www.facebook.com/gccnj.