

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dana Trevas  
Office of Public Affairs  
615/372-6328**COMMUNITY JOINS UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE ART SCHOLARSHIPS**

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (September 20, 1995) – A funny thing happened on the way to the office, according to Sally Crain-Jager, associate professor of art at Tennessee Technological University. While picking up her lunch, Crain-Jager chatted with Jon "J. J." Josephson, owner of Spankies Restaurant. Josephson was considering sponsoring a fundraising event.

"He asked me if I knew any good causes," says Crain-Jager. "Of course, I immediately replied, 'I have a cause!'"

Crain-Jager has long pushed for a scholarship program for university art majors. Until this year, the university had no scholarship funds available to such students.

Josephson, a Tennessee Tech alumni, readily agreed to the idea. "Spankies has been in business for over 20 years, and even in the lean years the university faculty, staff and students supported me and kept me alive," says Josephson. "Now that we're well-established, I felt it was time to give something meaningful back to the university."

Josephson's interest and Crain-Jager's enthusiasm have resulted in the Autumn Bacchanal, a celebration of wine, food and art. The event, scheduled for 2-6 p.m. Sunday, October 8, at Spankies, includes a live art auction, wine tasting and cocktail buffet. The money raised will fund a scholarship for junior level Tennessee Tech art students.

Along the way, Josephson enlisted the support of others in the community. Averitt Express, Inc., agreed to underwrite the event, and further sponsorship is provided by B&G Wholesalers, Inc., Jesse Kaufman Associates, Lipman Brothers, Inc. and the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce.

Tennessee Tech administrators and faculty who have assisted Crain-Jager in the planning and coordination of the event include Greg Danner, chairperson of the Department of Music and Art; Ward Doubet, director of the Appalachian Center for Crafts; Monica Greppin, assistant director of University Development; and Paul Isbell, director of University Advancement.

"Spankies is an ideal place for this event because its casual atmosphere will allow people to walk around and view the artwork that will be sold while they sample various wines and enjoy the cocktail buffet," says Crain-Jager. "The additional support from other local merchants has been a tremendous help, as well!"

Crain-Jager says she's pleased that she finally has a positive answer for high school art teachers and parents who ask her about financial assistance for prospective students. Crain-Jager notes, "We have 75 art majors at Tennessee Tech right now in our fine arts and art education programs. Art students need scholarships as much or more than students in other

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majors because, in addition to books and materials for classes, they also need costly art supplies."

Many Tennessee Tech students, including art students, come from Middle Tennessee, and 70 to 80 percent of the university's students receive financial aid.

Earlier this year, Cookeville's TransFinancial Bank held its first annual Celebration of the Arts. A portion of the sales from the open exhibition were used to establish the university's first scholarship for art majors.

The university's art faculty, including faculty of the Appalachian Center for Crafts, will provide the works to be auctioned at the event. For a preview of the Autumn Bacchanal's participating artists and their work, turn to WCTE television's "Upper Cumberland Camera," from 7-8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28, or from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30.

Tickets for the Autumn Bacchanal are \$25, and each guest will receive a commemorative wine glass. The auction begins at 4 p.m. Spankies Restaurant is located at 203 East 9th Street in Cookeville, near the university campus. For more information or to make reservations, call 372-3206.