

Saturday Seminar on Student Photography and Service Learning



“Ruth” from *Time Well Spent* Exhibit

On Saturday, June 28, from 10:00 to 3:00, photographer John Miller and Johnson State College advanced photography and digital media students will join forces in a seminar presentation with photographer Carley Stevens-McLaughlin and Spaulding High School students who participated in a Barre after-school photography project. The seminar will include presentations by both project leaders and student photographers, offering an opportunity to hear how their photo-documentary projects—*Time Well Spent* and *Across the Generations*—were structured and to see examples of student work. The sessions will also explore the long-term impact of service learning projects such as these and the ways in which student photo-documentary work can be both deeply personal and self-enriching.

This program has been organized in conjunction with the opening of the exhibit [*Time Well Spent: Portraits of Elders by Student Photographers*](#) in the Vermont Folklife Center’s [*Vision & Voice Documentary Workspace*](#). Created by Johnson State College photography students in John Miller’s photography program, the images of *Time Well Spent* document both people and process. Central to the exhibit are intimate, personal portraits of residents of the Craftsbury Community Care Center where the project was staged. But the exhibit also captures the evolving relationships that developed between photographers and their subjects through weekly visits over the course of a semester.

[*Across the Generations: The Barre Portrait and Oral History Project*](#) paired Spaulding High School students with area seniors to conduct interviews and create black and white photographic portraits. Among those who participated in the project were sculptor Frank Gaylord, author Katherine Paterson, music teacher Arthur Zorn, and poet Diane Swan, as well as relatives, neighbors, and others. Project leader Carley Stevens-McLaughlin is both a portrait photographer and photography educator. Her objective as an educator is to enable young people to express their own dreams and understandings about the world through photography. Photos and text created by the students were exhibited at the Vermont History Center, Studio Place Arts, the Berlin Mall, and the Vermont Statehouse.

For information about the *Time Well Spent* exhibit or to register for the free Saturday seminar, visit the Vermont Folklife Center's Web site www.vermontfolklifecenter.org or call (802) 388-4964. The *Vision & Voice Documentary Workspace* at the Vermont Folklife Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM.