

Congratulations to Richard S. McWherter of Derry for taking First Prize in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts 17th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition, currently on view through Feb. 10 at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) at Ligonier Valley.

The exhibition features 73 works in a variety of media created by 73 of the area's most acclaimed and talented artists.

Rick, also familiar to Derry folks as a visual arts instructor and art department chair at Derry Area High School, won the honor for his photographic print, "Carolina Morning."

"The exhibition includes work in media such as oil, acrylic, pastel, wood, clay and photography, among others. Artists from throughout the group's 19-county service region —Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland counties — contributed to make this one of the council's strongest showings to date," SAMA announced.

The museum is located at One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. The museum, which is handicapped-accessible facility, is open to the public free of charge 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. For more information, call the museum, 724-238-6015 or visit www.sama-art.org.

