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Dedication Ceremony for Two Murals Outside Dinand

Jack Godar
Chief News Editor

This Wednesday, members of the Holy Cross community came together like tesserae for the dedication and rededication ceremony for a pair of murals installed outside Dinand.

The two murals are Civitas Branching and Lungs of the Planet. Civitas Branching is a mural that was created in 2004 as a way to increase community relations between Holy Cross and the College Hill neighborhood. The mural was originally located at the former College Hill Civic Association Building, on 12 Kendig. However, when the building was repurposed to become a home for a veteran and his family. The mural was then moved to Dinand Plaza. The mural was designed by Hillary Chisolm Sloate, a mosaicist who was a College Hill resident at the time. Sloate gave a short message to those attending the dedicating via video from Washington D.C., after an introduction by Vice President of Student Affairs Jacqueline Peterson. After Sloate’s video, Digital Scholarship Librarian Lisa Villa, ’90, spoke. Villa brought the unique perspective of being a Holy Cross alum, employee, and a resident of College Hill at the time of the mural. Villa talked about the history of the mural and the positive effect it had on the community at a time when tensions between Holy Cross students and College Hill residents were very high.

After Villa’s talk, focus shifted to the Lungs of the Planet mosaic on the Dinand patio. This mosaic was a project by the Natural World cluster for Montserrat. Caroline Fleming, ’18, ran through the process of creating the mural, from the conception to the design, to the execution. Sarah Valente, ’16, then gave a presentation about two mural projects she spearheaded. The two projects are the Magafan Mural Project and the Figge Mural. The Magafan Mural project is dedicated to the restoration of two murals at Worcester East Middle School by famous Works Progress Administration painter Jenne Magafan, which are about the founder and first settler of Worcester, Jonas Rice. The Figge Mural project was a project to install a mural in Figge, where Valente is Head RA. The mural was designed by Michael Allen, ’16, and titled Collegiate Kaleidoscope.

At the end of the program, those in attendance were able to view the mosaics and mingle and enjoy light refreshments.