

New program will offer students different look at art history

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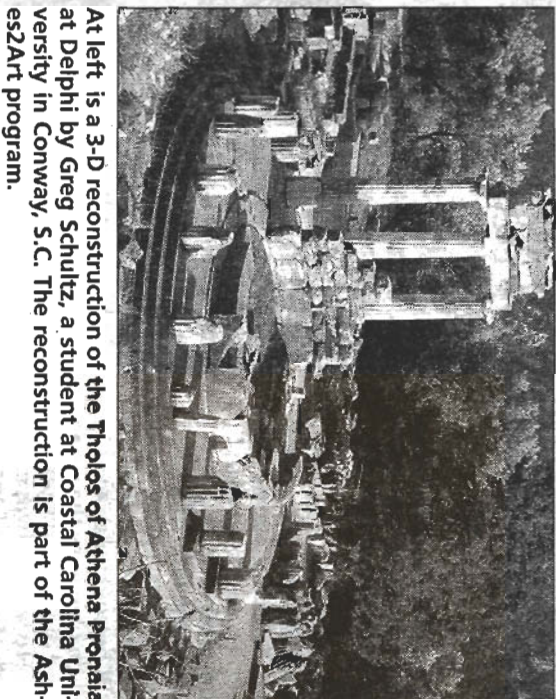
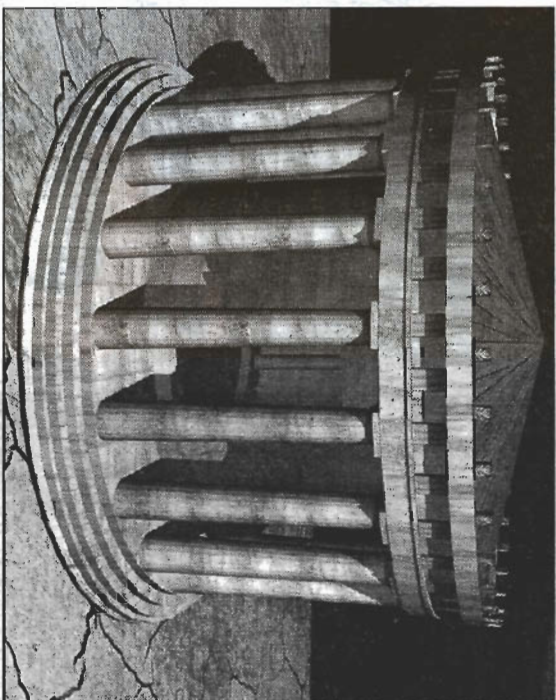
JONESBORO — Students at Arkansas State University have a new way to look at art history, according to Dr. Alyson Gill, assistant professor of art history at the university.

The students are participating in Virtual Delphi, a collaborative effort with the Ashes2Art program at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

"I think these collaborative relationships are becoming more and more important, especially when we're in a department where we have limited resources of our own," Gill said. "With these collaborations it's like having additional faculty that they're working with."

Virtual Delphi and Ashes2Art combine cutting edge digital technologies, art history, graphic and Web design and digital photography to recreate monuments of the ancient past.

"One of the challenges with looking at ancient art for many students is trying to imagine what the buildings



At left is a 3-D reconstruction of the Tholos of Athena Pronaia at Delphi by Greg Schultz, a student at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C. The reconstruction is part of the Ashes2Art program.

would have looked like when they were completely in their original state and this is one of the beauties of this kind of program," Gill said.

The Ashes2Art project began in 2005 by Dr. Arne Flaten, assistant professor of art history at CCU. Flaten will be in Jonesboro Thursday to discuss the program.

Gill met Flaten this summer at a National Endowment for Humanities Institute at the University of California at Los

Angeles.

"We were doing 3-D constructions of ancient Rome and figuring out how to use those models in our classroom," she said. "I thought wouldn't it be neat if I could take his Ashes2Art project and do something similar with ASU students."

Gill had planned to begin the project next spring.

"I was a little bit worried about students being able to actually finish this in one sin-

gle semester, so I decided to go ahead and start it this semester," she said, adding that 12 students are participating in the project.

The ASU project will focus on Delphi, which is a classical Greek sanctuary. Students will use programs like Adobe Photoshop, Google Earth, SketchUp, Panoweaver, Tourweaver, Studio Max, Dreamweaver and Macromedia Flash animation to virtual-

reconstruct a temple, gym-

nasium and a treasury for the project.

"It's completely unlike anything the College of Fine Arts has done yet, but also, something very new for the university," Gill said. "For art history students it's very exciting too because these students can use their graphic design skills. ... It's making art history a completely new experience for them."

Brenon Hensley, a sophomore graphic design major at

ASU, agrees.

"I've learned so much more already by doing this project than sitting at my desk striving to keep up with notes and listening. You pay more attention to the fine points of the architecture when creating it," Hensley said. "When you just look at the architecture as a 2-D image in class, the architecture loses so much life that it's hard to grasp the greatness of it. I can safely say that I will remember more about the Treasury of the Athenians years from now by this project, than reading about it in class or looking at a picture once."

Once completed, people can visit the Web site at www.coastal.edu/ashes2art to take a virtual tour of the reconstructed buildings.

"That's one of the great things about 3-D reconstructions is you can see these sightlines that you wouldn't necessarily have seen before. You would get an idea of space," Gill said.

Flaten's presentation will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Jazzman's Hardwired Cafe on the ASU campus. The event is free.