



Brooke Shockey, Master

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Why I Chose Lana Luther and John Bordner

Lana Luther is a dedicated senior art student who transferred into our school this year and has a strong desire to pursue an art career post-graduation. Due to this strong interest, her willingness to be stretched, and her growth as a young artist this year, I chose her to participate in this show to experience collegiate portfolio-level artwork and competition. My own secondary senior portfolio benefitted from a similar experience, so I am more than happy to give my most dedicated art students the same opportunity. I chose John Bordner for this show because I wanted to help him realize his potential as a young artist who has grown tremendously in these three years, I have known him by building great creative, diligent, and mature habits. It is very important to be teachable, creative, and flexible while also dedicated to improvement as an adult in general, but artists have to master these qualities even more. I am sure that both Lana and John will be successful in whatever specific fields they choose to pursue, but I believe their greatest strengths and enjoyment will lie in creative endeavors, and I look forward to guiding them further toward those ends.

Artist Statement

“The Mighty Vulnerable Hellbender” is a conservation advocacy illustration that I created when I learned (from friends who are Susquehanna River Keepers) that this elusive native species to the streams I love to fish in is endangered. Hellbender salamanders grow to mature lengths of 12-29 inches long, the largest amphibians in North America (fourth-largest salamander in the world), and fill a unique niche in our ecosystems as the only extant species in their genus. Despite their ferocious-sounding name given for their odd appearance and unique ability to breathe through their wrinkly skin, they are harmless to humans and, like many native species to Pennsylvania streams and rivers, in need of protection from habitat loss. I enjoy spending time preserving, working, playing, and making in the natural environment and teaching my students to appreciate the same.