ILWACO

UW students present ideas for Jefferson monument

By Robert Brake
FOR THE DAILY NEWS

ILWACO — Thirteen University of Washington public art students unveiled eight designs for a commemorative monument to President Thomas Jefferson at the Heritage Museum on Friday.

The monument will be constructed at one of three sites at Fort Canby State Park in recognition of Jefferson’s vision that resulted in the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-06.

Seventy-five audience members were introduced to monument models featuring octagons, spirals, columns, mounds, prisms and amphitheaters. A panel of five judges will select one of the eight proposals and State Parks will seek funding for construction at Waikiki Beach, North Head or the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center sites.

John Young, professor in the UW fine arts department, said the collaborative experiment among students, Washington State Parks, the Chinook Tribe, and the Pacific County Friends of Lewis and Clark is “making academic history.”

Daniel Winterbottom, professor of landscape architecture, added that the 40 students in the “Art in the Landscape” class had just 10 weeks to brainstorm “some very exciting projects.”

The UW public art class is a new concept, blending fine arts, landscape architecture and industrial arts design into one class. The Jefferson project was an

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awesome and a very challenging project,” Winterbottom said.

Monument models will be on display at the Heritage Museum, 115 Lake Street, for several days, then will be displayed at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Fort Canby through June.

The Fort Canby Commemorative monument will be the first

West Coast recognition of Jefferson’s westward vision. In addition to commemorating Jefferson, the designs explore the Native American perspective on the expedition.

The panel of judges making the final decision includes area residents Gary Johnson, Chinook Tribal Chairman, and Eric Weigardt, nationally acclaimed watercolorist and Ocean Park resident.