

MEDIA RELEASE



2222 Laguna Canyon Road • Laguna Beach, California 92651

www.lagunacollege.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2011

CONTACT

Jennifer Daniels (949) 376-6000 x233
jdaniels@lagunacollege.edu

Illustrator Educates Children of Multi-Cultural Families

Laguna College of Art & Design Alumnus Adolph Soliz achieved his dream of illustrating a children's book with the added benefit of conveying a deeply personal message to children of bi-racial parents. The book, *I am Flippish!*, is written by local author Leslie Ryan, whose love for books began when she started reading at a young age. Recently, her passion for reading books turned into a newfound love of writing them.

Growing up as a bi-racial child, Adolph considered himself "Indixican" which is short for Native American Indian and Mexican. It was a coincidence that the author used that terminology as well in her book. "I have never read nor seen a children's book about being bi-racial. There were stories based on animals, but as far as touching upon multi-cultural families, there were no books that I was aware of," said Soliz. When he and the author met for the first time, he felt that this was a project that he strongly related to. Leslie's story is based on her own family, being that she is Filipino and her husband is Irish. Therefore, the author wanted the protagonist to resemble her Filipino-Irish or "Flippish" son Sean. Adolph and Leslie shared the same vision of what the illustrations would look like, and the collaboration worked well.

"Working on *I am Flippish* actually helped me to accomplish one of my goals as artist," remarked Adolph. "I've always wanted to illustrate a children's book. It's ironic that I didn't realize I was accomplishing something I truly wanted to do until much later. It was a great sense of accomplishment bringing Leslie's story to life."

Adolph Soliz received his bachelor's degree in animation from Laguna College of Art & Design in 2009. He brings charming and endearing characters to life in all media, which means you'll never find him without his sketchbook, observing the world and people around him. Over the years he has done work for Disney and other companies. Along with illustrating children's books he also teaches young aspiring artists.

Images:

I am Flippish cover art

Leslie Ryan and Adolph Soliz at a book signing

Founded on Classical Drawing Skills, Fueled by Creative Energy, and Dedicated to Excellence

Laguna College of Art & Design is a private, nonprofit college where outstanding artist-educators, visual arts programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and year-round exhibitions give fresh vision to Laguna's extraordinary legacy in the visual arts. Founded in 1961, the college educates artists at all stages of their creative careers, offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Drawing & Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Game Art and Animation, and Master of Fine Arts degrees in Painting and Drawing.

###