

Sculpture Garden Enhances WSSU's Campus

by Angela M. Corbett

What is unique, creative and sometimes utterly baffling? It's a great work of art!

Maybe you haven't noticed, but the WSSU campus is becoming flattered by various types of sculpture. Unfortunately, too many students are discouraged by the fact they don't understand sculpture, so they ignore it.

Like Martin Luther King, WSSU had a dream to enhance the culture of the students and community in Winston-Salem. That dream began to materialize in 1981 when Gordon Hanes, a former trustee of the university and chairman of the Board at the North Carolina Museum of Art proposed to fund a national competition, which was conducted by the WSSU Art Department.

At this point the 9 month process of contacting sculptors, advertising, and selecting jurors for the competition began. However, the Art Department was seeking specifically those artists in minority groups, who had not received a lot of recognition. Prospective participants were then sent information concerning the purpose of the competition, a picture of the garden site and a calendar of events. The Art Department then began waiting for entries. While the hardest part was up to the jury.

In May 1982, the jury met in Winston-Salem to select three sculptors from about 2,000 slides. The jurors for the first competition were: Selma Burke, an artist from Bucks County, Pennsylvania; David Driskell, former chairman of Art Department at the University of Maryland and Richard Hunt, who has won honorary degrees at the University of Michigan. They decided on Mel Edwards, of New York, with his sculpture "Southern Sunrise."

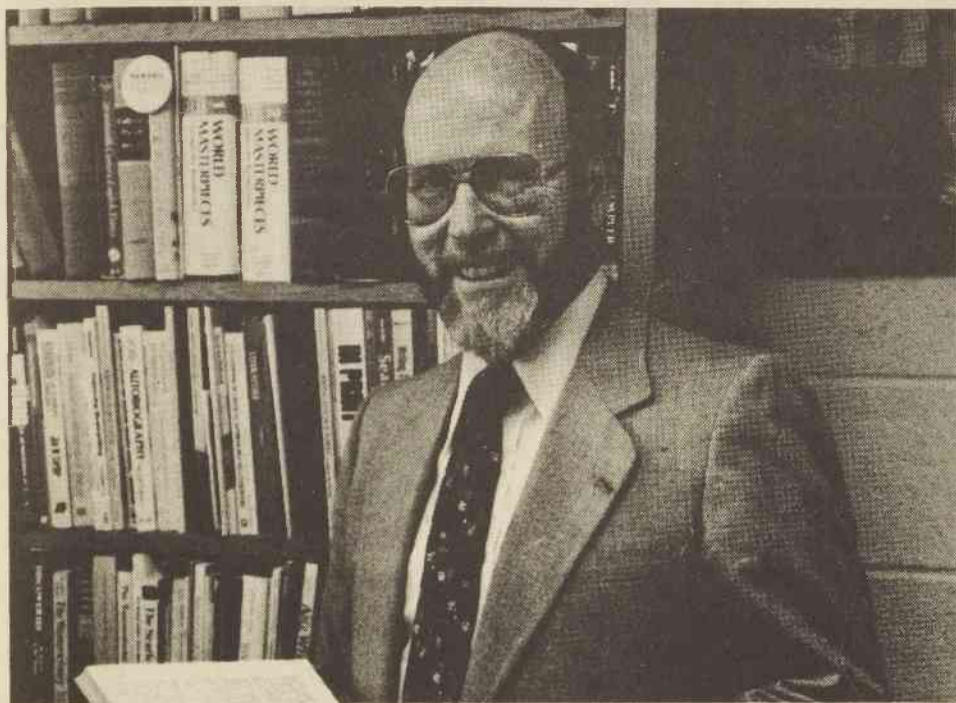
The first competition was such a great success that Gordon Hanes funded a second competition in which three sculptors were selected. The winners were Beverly Buchanan of Georgia; Roberto Bertioia and Tyrone Mitchell both of New York.

The competition consisted of the same format, except they had different jurors. Lowery Sims, assistant curator at Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; David Collens, director of Storm King and Jean Feinberg, assistant curator at Zilkha Gallery at Wesleyan University were the jurors for the second competition.

According to Mrs. Mitzi Shewmake, a member of the WSSU Art Department, who worked closely with the competition "This project has been very beneficial. It is a long term thing in which the more sculpture we get, the more people will come on campus to see it. We're contributing something unique to the city because for so long we had to go off campus to see art, but now WSSU is no longer a stepchild."

Of course this type of competition becomes more expensive along the way, but with the help of sponsors it was a success. The overall estimated expense for the first competition was \$48,521. Jurors received \$500 each time they came to Winston-Salem; artists were paid \$1,000 for each model; and winners receive \$7,500 for overseeing and installation of the work. Each work also had an estimated price, Tyrone Mitchell, \$50,000 Beverly Buchanan, \$20,000; Mel Edwards, \$50,000 and Roberto Bertio, \$15,000.

In the future WSSU looks forward to placing sculptures at various sites around campus, but their next exhibition will be in front of the new RJR building. Look for it to be finished by next year!



Dr. James A. Dervin

Photo by Benita Perry

Dr. James A. Dervin Receives Excellence In Teaching Award

by Rebecca Jones

Dr. James Allen Dervin was recently presented the Excellence in Teaching Award by Wachovia Bank and Trust Company at the Honor's Day ceremonies conducted in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium.

Dr. Dervin is an associate professor of English at Winston-Salem State University, and has been so since 1976.

Dervin's involvement in the department has been many faceted. He currently serves as Director of the Writing Program and also served as acting chairman of the department.

Dervin's formal education began at St. Louis University where he was granted a B.A. degree in 1956 in Philosophy and Classics. He continued his studies in this area, until 1957 when he received his Ph.L. In 1959, Dervin concluded his work at St. Louis upon the completion of his M.A. in English.

Dervin's formal education then took him to St. Mary's where he earned an S.T.L. degree in Theology in 1964. And as a conclusion to his many years of study, he received his Ph.D. in English in 1974 at the UNC-Chapel Hill.

Dr. Dervin hails from Omaha, Nebraska, but moved to North Carolina in 1965 to attend UNC-Chapel Hill. As a professor at WSSU, he teaches many of the English Composition courses, as well as American Studies and The Novel. One course which he enjoys teaching the most is Literary Aspects of the Bible. His educational

background exemplifies, this particular class involves both of his true intellectual loves, English and Theology.

When asked about his choice of teaching as a career, Dervin responded saying, "I love to work with and to help people, and besides my interest lies in my true love for the intellectual life."

He feels that student motivation and participation in class is utmost in establishing a learning environment.

His philosophy of learning as he states, "...it is a give and take situation..."

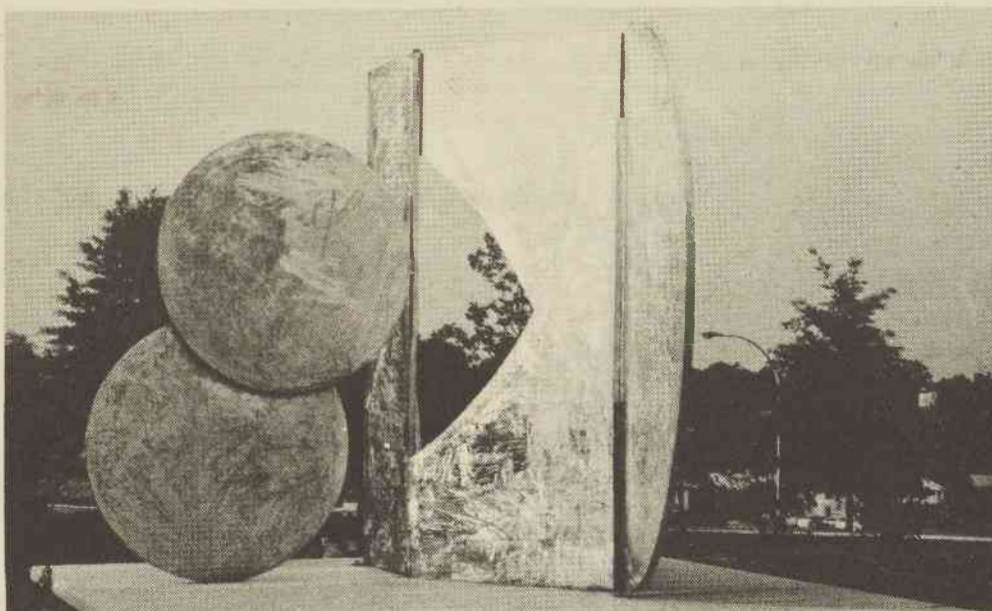
One way in which he enhances his classes is by using a collection of slides which he has developed over the years. The slides are used to relate outside knowledge to the area of concentration so the students may be more enlightened.

For his own motivation, he accredits several past professors, one of which is Walter Jackson Ong. Ong is both a national and international scholar at St. Louis University who inspired Dr. Dervin in his learning.

Dervin continued by saying, "Ong was demanding of himself and his students." As one can see from Dr. Dervin's accomplishments, he seems to have followed this manner rather closely.

When I asked Dr. Dervin what he thought ascribes him for this award of excellence, he replied "I'm a good teacher, I guess... I hope, and I do a lot of work for my classes."

As he continued his career he has found that the art of teaching is to "...adjust one's own ideals to the ideals of the students and to keep spreading my joy for the intellectual life."



Campus Sculpture

Photo by Benita Perry

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