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# New public sculptures installed at Georgia Southern University

*FEBRUARY 29, 2008*

*Ascend*, a pair of interacting 20-foot stainless steel sculptures permanently placed in front of the new Centre for Art and Theatre at Georgia Southern University, will distinguish the facility as a major cultural center in southeastern Georgia. The project was funded in 2001 by former Georgia Governor Carl Sanders to celebrate the anniversary of his marriage to renowned Georgia artist Betty Foy Sanders, and will stand as a monument to Mrs. Sander's commitment and continued support of the fine arts in southeastern Georgia.

Throughout her life, Betty Foy Sanders has been an exceptional leader in politics, education, and the arts. At many of her public speaking engagements, Mrs. Sanders has included a touching stanza from an unknown poet: *My life shall touch a dozen lives before this day is done*. This line denotes the demonstrated impact her generous spirit and phenomenal support has had on the people of Georgia, regardless of their constituency. Her inspirational legacy provides the core spirit of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, where a community of artists both students and professionals thrive. Keeping with Mrs. Sanders' spirit, the department provides a quality formal visual arts education with an emphasis on social consciousness.

Georgia Southern University's Professor of Sculpture Marc Moulton was selected from a pool of Georgia-connected artists to design and create the sculptures. Moulton has experience creating large-scale public commissions and working with stainless steel, and he has exhibited extensively throughout the United States. He is represented by several professional galleries in Ohio, Utah, Illinois and Iowa.

While creating *Ascend*, Moulton drew inspiration from native southern Georgia forms including the long-leafed pine, the magnolia, and the ocean waves along the coast. *Ascend* incorporates the idea of the flight of an eagle, a symbol and mascot for Georgia Southern University, and it catches the sense of uplift, or flight, that visual arts and education can provide.

*Ascend* was fabricated of stainless steel at the Ceramics and Sculpture Studio at Georgia Southern University. The pieces were created through a process of computer modeling, automated laser-cutting, and MIG/TIG welding. Moulton included several of his advanced students in the sculpture-making process, providing them with valuable knowledge of and experience with a professional commission.

The sculpture is designed to fit and enhance the entrance for the University's new Centre for Art and Theatre. It will serve as the aesthetic focal point for the building and celebrate the activities held there. Night lighting will enable *Ascend* to act as a physical locator for this contemporary visual arts exhibition center on campus. The lighting also conceptually represents the enlightened ideals of visual arts in society.

– See more at: <http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/pressrelease.php?id=1085#sthash.QLVFa4JK.dpuf>