



Students shape futures in sculpture

13 February 2011 By Jeremy Bauer-Wolf, Arts & Life Editor



CFA Sculptures - Alan Dovell/ The Towerlight - Seven-foot, stainless steel marlin for Marlin Steel Wire Products LLC

Every day, students who pass the loading dock of the Center for the Arts pass the work of senior sculpture major David Redfern. His works, intricately formed of wood, steel and vinyl, have become a permanent fixture of the CFA landscape.

“I like working with lines,” Redfern said. “I’m trying to draw the viewer’s eye and create an even flow.”

Redfern’s work covers only a small part of what Jim Paulsen, a professor in the department of art and the area

coordinator of sculpture, refers to as “Sculpture Road,” a walkway outside of the CFA where students can view various works that the University has amassed over the years.

Sculpture Road, which loops around both entrances of the CFA not only features student works, but also the work of sculptors who have previously collaborated with the University.

Paulsen said the department has plans to erect another concrete slab similar to the one Redfern’s work sits upon in order to decorate the scenery and give drivers a pleasant view from Cross Campus Drive.

“We’re trying to create a sculpture park,” Paulsen said. “The whole idea of putting work out is to send a message to the community that this is an art facility.”

But the sculpture department doesn’t just share its talents with the university.

This past semester, Paulsen taught a course called “Sculpture In the Real World,” where he and 10 students began to build sculptures for several Baltimore-based businesses.

Paulsen and his students are still in the process of building a seven-foot, [stainless steel marlin](#) for **Marlin Steel Wire Products LLC**, as well as a monument for a new assisted living home that will be built in the former location of Memorial Stadium.

“We collaborated with [the company] over the course of the semester and finally arrived at the design of the work, which is a tall, vertical, 10 to 12 foot high work that spells ‘home,’” he said. “They want it to mean home to the residents.”

Paulsen said that these works are completely funded by the businesses, and often times they have made additional monetary and material donations to the university.

The sculpture department’s work even extends outside the United States. For three years, Paulsen taught in a small German town, and for the better part of a year, he and former students completed sculptures for the town, totaling costs of around \$20,000.

The sculpture department doesn’t just work with steel, but also wood, plastics, clay, plaster, and synthetics.

Each graduate student has his or her own studio where they work to develop a unique style.

Graduate student Rob Guevara works as an installation artist, meaning his works span from floor to ceiling, often times incorporating them into the work.



“Often times, these kinds of works are dismantled,” Paulsen said. “And we throw parts of the work away completely.”

Graduate student Vincent Valerio comes from a theater background and thus bases his works off of the performing arts. Valerio’s pieces have direct roots to original costuming ideas that can be worn, not just observed.

“And we definitely have the facilities for these projects,” Paulsen said. “We have all the tools for melting down large amounts of steel and smelting steel. Other facilities have some amazing works, but we’re one of the best kept secrets.”

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