

Campus Grounds Art Collection

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About the Sculptor: Jon Hair

Walk anywhere on High Point University's campus and you will see the beautiful bronze sculptures of Jon Hair, North Carolina artist. Hair began his artistic career as a fine arts major at Ohio State University and the Columbus College of Art and Design. From there, he went on to teach art at the University of Akron and became a renowned art director and designer with clients like IBM, General Electric, and many others. Also a talented musician, Hair has performed with such notables as Jimi Hendrix and Simon and Garfunkel. Hair began his sculpting career in 1999, and since then, he has been commissioned all over the United States for major public art pieces.

Perhaps his most famous piece was a 35 foot sculpture he created for the US Olympic Training Center, entitled "Olympic Strength," sculpted from bronze and showing four Olympic athletes lifting an enormous globe on their shoulders. Numerous other businesses, universities, and individuals have commissioned sculptures for their campuses.

Jon Hair currently works in his 7,000 square foot studio in Cornelius, NC. At present, you can view twenty-three of Jon Hair's impressive sculptures on the High Point University Campus.

Pieces

American Eagle - Victory



Title: *American Eagle - Victory*

Location: Smith Library Plaza

This bronze eagle has a wingspan of seven feet and symbolizes American vision, strength, and determination. He was installed in 2006, donated by alum and trustee, Dick Vert, and his wife, Peggy, also an alumna.

The Human Link



Title: *The Human Link*

Location: David Hayworth University Park

This piece weighs one ton, and measures twenty-four feet tall. It is cast from bronze and steel. The bronze figures represent three HPU students helping each other achieve extraordinary feats as they climb a helix structure. It speaks to the importance of cooperation and the need for human interaction in order to better oneself and the community.

Olympic Strength



Title: *Olympic Strength*

Location: Wrenn Hall

The largest Jon Hair sculpture on campus, in *Olympic Strength*, Atlas holds an Olympic globe, which rises thirty-five feet in the air. The entire sculpture weighs over seven tons. The original Olympic globe was sculpted for the US Olympic committee by Hair. This sculpture was donated to HPU by Elizabeth Aldridge.

On the Prowl Panther



Title: *On the Prowl Panther*

Locations: Millis Gym and Steele Center

This fierce panther guards the entrance to the two main athletic facilities on campus, and were donated by Charlotte businessman, Ike Belk.

Sculptures (Human)

Abraham Lincoln



Title: *Abraham Lincoln*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth president of the United States, who steered the nation through the Civil War, promoted the abolition of slavery, and helped to preserve the Union. Born in rural Kentucky in 1809, he worked hard on a succession of small homesteads that his family farmed. The long hours of farm work, meant that Lincoln received very little formal schooling. But he loved to read, and enjoyed debating and making speeches. In 1834, he was elected to the Illinois general assembly, and while serving his first term he became a lawyer. During the mid-1840s, he steadily built his law practice, elected to the US House of Representatives in 1846, and later to the Illinois legislature. He lost the 1858 race to Stephen A. Douglas for a US Senate seat, but came to the nationwide attention of voters, over their debates over slavery.

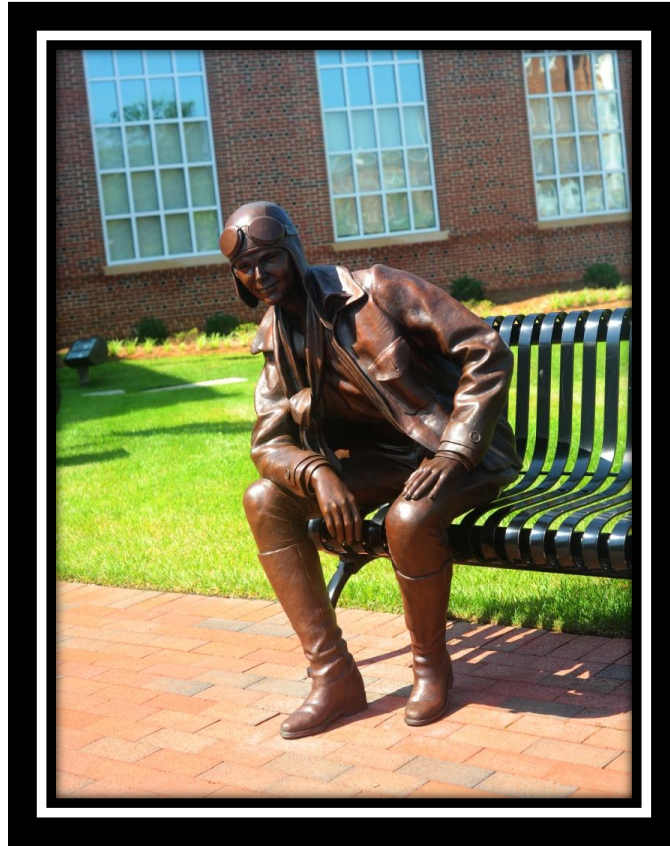
In 1860, Lincoln was elected as the 16th president of the US. However, before he took the oath of office, South Carolina had seceded from the Union, in opposition to Lincoln's position on slavery. The bloody civil war that followed defined his first term. In 1863, Lincoln issued the

Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves in the Confederacy. Lincoln used all his legislative and oratorical skills to pass the Thirteenth Amendment, outlawing slavery throughout the United States. Initially, the war went badly for Lincoln as Commander-in-chief, and for Union cause. But the victory for the Union at the battle of Gettysburg was a major turning point in the war. Lincoln's 1863 "Gettysburg Address", is considered one of the finest in the English language, succinctly demonstrating his belief that a better nation could be born out of the war.

On March 4, 1865, Lincoln was sworn in as president for his second term. In his inaugural address, he outlined his hopes that the South should not be punished, that reconciliation, not revenge, should be the way forward. Six days after Confederate general, Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, President Lincoln died, shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC. President Lincoln will perhaps be best remembered for holding the Union together, and proving that a democracy can work, even when one element of a nation disagrees violently with another.

Information about Abraham Lincoln including his presidential papers, several biographies, and his writings are available at Smith Library. Also, many electronic books about Abraham Lincoln can be accessed through the library catalog.

Amelia Earhart



Title: *Amelia Earhart*
Location: Wilson School of Commerce

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean, and one of the most celebrated aviators of all time. Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas in 1897 and learned to fly against the advice of her family in 1920. Her famous flight across the Atlantic took place in the record time of 14 hours 56 minutes on May 20-21, 1932. During her lifetime, Earhart contributed to the development of commercial aviation as well as being a major advocate for women in the field of aviation. Earhart also claims the distinction of being the first pilot to fly successfully from California to Hawaii. In July, 1937, Earhart set off to fly around the world. Although she completed two-thirds of her journey, tragically, her plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean. Her exact fate remains one of the great mysteries of our time. Earhart wrote several books of her travels, including *20 Hrs., 40 Min.*, *The Fun of It*, and *Last Flight*.

Last Flight by Amelia Earhart and many biographies are available for checkout from Smith Library.

Aristotle



Title: *Aristotle*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Aristotle was a great philosopher and scholar in ancient Greece and many of his concepts remain relevant to intellectuals today. He created a system for formal logic, and established the field of zoology. The philosophy of Aristotle in the areas of ethics, political theory, metaphysics, and general science remains fundamental today. Students of literature are indebted to his *Poetics* for the first literary criticism and the concepts of the “tragic flaw” and “hubris” in the tragic hero. Born in Macedonia in 384 BC, Aristotle joined the Academy of Plato, where he remained a student and colleague to Plato for many years. Later, he served as personal tutor to Alexander the Great and founded his own school, The Lyceum. It is said that Alexander, as he went conquering the world, would send specimens of unusual animals to his old tutor. Aristotle died in 322 BC, leaving behind only about one-fifth of his original works.

Aristotle’s surviving works as well as biographies of the philosopher can be located in Smith Library.

Dr. Martin Luther King



Title: *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

Location: Qubein School of Communications

King was born in 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia to a loving, educated, middle class African-American family. As a young man, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps to become a Baptist minister. In 1953, he married Coretta Scott and they had four children. While pastoring in Alabama, he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott that finally desegregated that city's transit system. After that success, he formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and began promoting civil rights through nonviolent protests like sit-ins and protest marches, including the huge March on Washington in 1963. It was there that he delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech. King was an eloquent and compelling speaker and brought civil rights issues, especially in the South, to the center of the nation's attention. Despite setbacks, his efforts helped lead to the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Before he was assassinated in 1968, he turned his attention to addressing the needs of all poverty stricken people.

In 1964, he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Numerous schools and roads have been named in his honor. The United States Congress established a national holiday bearing his name on the third Monday in January. Studies of King's life and work, as well as his writings, are available at Smith Library.

Galileo



Title: *Galileo*

Location: Wilson School of Commerce

Often called the “Father of Modern Science,” Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, Italy in 1564 and died in 1642. During his lifetime, Galileo developed the scientific method, and made essential contributions to the sciences of astronomy and motion. He was also a great natural philosopher, who changed the study of nature from mere description to the use of experimentation. Galileo is perhaps best known for his development of the telescope, and his discoveries of heavenly bodies, such as the four moons of Jupiter and the phases of Venus, which gave indirect support for the Copernican theory. The Inquisition provided problems for Galileo, as the Copernican theory was denounced as heresy. He was convicted of heresy in 1633, and carried out the rest of his life under house arrest, during which time he continued to work on his theories of motion and the strength of materials. To avoid death he recanted his beliefs, though he is said to have muttered under his breath (when asked to deny that the earth revolves around the sun) “It still moves.”

Dialogues Concerning Two New Sciences and other writings of Galileo may be found in Smith Library.

George Washington



Title: *George Washington*

Location: Qubein School of Communications

George Washington was born in 1732 in colonial Virginia. Always fond of the outdoors, and a hard worker, Washington began his adult life as a surveyor before becoming an attentive and innovative gentleman farmer, and serving with distinction as an officer in the French and Indian War. In the 1760s and early 1770s he became more and more upset about England's treatment of the colonies, eventually declaring himself ready to lead troops. As a delegate to both the First and Second Continental Congress, he proved himself invaluable knowledgeable on military matters, and he was unanimously elected commander in chief of the colonial military forces. The fighting was extremely hard, and while he made some significant mistakes, it was mainly Washington's sense and dedication that brought the final American victory. After many difficult years at war, he returned to his estate, Mount Vernon, where he focused on farming and hosting guests with his wife Martha. He returned to political life to campaign for constitutional ratification, and he was then unanimously elected as the first president of the United States, which he reluctantly accepted. Washington acted cautiously and with neutrality during his presidency, but refused a third term after his first 8 years in office. He died in 1799 and is remembered as the father of his country. The new capital was named for him; later a state was named in his honor.

John Coltrane



Title: *John Coltrane*

Location: Kester International Promenade

John Coltrane was an American jazz musician and artist who had a great influence on jazz music. He was born in Hamlet, North Carolina but grew up in High Point, North Carolina. He worked on over fifty albums and also encountered many other famous jazz musicians of the day such as Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk. He played many instruments but is best known for his work on the saxophone.

This statue was added to campus in early 2014. Biographies, books and interviews about John Coltrane may be found in Smith Library.

John Wesley



Title: *John Wesley*

Location: Kester International Promenade

The founder of the modern Methodist church, John Wesley was born in 1703 in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England. He attended Oxford University and became an ordained priest in the Church of England in 1728. In 1729, he began working with a group called The Holy Club that became known as “Methodists” because of their disciplined study and piety. Although this first group disbanded, Wesley developed a new mission through studying Martin Luther’s commentary on The Letter of Paul to the Galatians as well as his relationship with the Moravian Church. Wesley’s new mission was that of declaring the good news of salvation through belief. He was so enthusiastic, however, that the Church of England rejected him. Wesley, however, continued his work, especially ministering to the poor who were at that time neglected by the Church of England. Throughout the rest of his life, Wesley travelled widely, preaching to many different groups and publishing, in 1743, the Rules for Methodism. Wesley died in 1791 in London, leaving behind many new Methodist societies in England as well as in the New World.

The Works of John Wesley can be found in Smith Library.

Leonardo da Vinci



Title: *Leonardo da Vinci*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Leonardo da Vinci, the Italian painter, sculptor, architect and engineer/inventor, was born in northern Italy in 1452. Italy at that time was composed of a series of small states that were constantly feuding with one another. As a teenager, he worked in the studio of Andrea del Verrocchio. When he was thirty Leonardo settled in Milan, under the protection of the warlord Lodovico Sforza. While in Milan, he painted *The Last Supper* on the end wall of a refectory of a convent. It is a masterful display of the use of perspective, and his characterization of Christ and the disciples sat at their last meal together, is dazzling. Other commissions included bravura portraits of two of Sforza's mistresses. Not content with being a highly accomplished artist, Leonardo also worked on a hydraulic irrigation system for his patron.

In 1500, Leonardo moved to Florence, and entered the service of Cesare Borgia, working as an architect and engineer. In 1504, he completed arguably one of the most recognized portraits in the world, *The Mona Lisa*. It hangs in the Louvre Museum in Paris, visited by millions of admiring fans every year. There are no surviving sculptures directly attributable to Leonardo. However, he had a wide variety of interests, that went far beyond his own times, including an in-depth knowledge of biology, physiology, hydrodynamics and aeronautics. His surviving notebooks, recording his original comments, amply demonstrate that he had a wide understanding and appreciation of all these disciplines. Leonardo died in 1519, truly deserving the title of "renaissance man."

Biographies of Leonardo da Vinci can be found in Smith Library.

Madame Curie



Title: *Madame Curie*

Location: Kester International Promenade

The first woman to win a Nobel Prize, Marie Curie won *two* of them in different fields. Born in Poland 1867, Marie Sklodowska moved to France in 1891 to attend school at the Sorbonne. Fascinated by and excelling in her studies, Sklodowska met and married the chemist, Pierre Curie, forming the partnership that would achieve significant results. Together, the Curies discovered the elements, radium and polonium and won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903. After the sudden death of her husband, Madame Curie devoted herself solely to her work, becoming the first woman to teach in the Sorbonne. In 1911, her efforts paid off a second time when she was presented the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for the isolation of pure radium. Later, Curie went on to contribute significantly to developing use of X-rays. The Curie Foundation in Paris and the Radium Institute in Warsaw were founded during her lifetime. Today, both are known as The Curie Institute. Although, Marie Curie died in 1934, her research lives on today in the work of nuclear physicists and chemists the world over.

Biographies of Marie Curie may be found in Smith Library.

Mahatma Gandhi



Title: *Mahatma Gandhi*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Also known as Mahatma (“great-souled”) Gandhi, he is considered to be the father of his country for his leadership of the Indian movement against British rule. He was born in 1869 to a local government minister and a deeply religious mother. After earning a law degree in England, he went to South Africa and encountered prejudice against Indians that stirred his political abilities. He led efforts to protect Indians’ rights and developed [*satyagraha*](#) (“devotion to truth”) a method of nonviolent protest that invited suffering. In 1919, having returned to India, he directed a groundbreaking protest movement against the British authorities there. Facing imprisonments and setbacks along the way, in the 1930s he began his “constructive programme” focusing on education and employment for rural Indians. Finally, in 1947, India achieved freedom, though Gandhi continued to campaign for peace between opposing groups of Indians. He died in 1948 after being shot by a Hindu fanatic.

Books of his writings, as well as many resources about his life and work, are available at Smith Library.

Mark Twain



Title: *Mark Twain*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Mark Twain (pseudonym of Samuel Langhorne Clemens) was the well-known American humorist who authored the enduring novels *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He also wrote travel narratives such as *The Innocents Abroad* and *Following the Equator* and humorous or satirical works like *The Gilded Age* and *The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg*. Born in 1835 and raised in Missouri along the Mississippi river, as a young man he worked a series of odd jobs around the country which would later influence his writing. It was not until age 37 that Twain pursued writing as his vocation. He is now remembered and studied for his mastery of spoken language, his treatment of race and prejudice, “his ability to swiftly and convincingly create a variety of fictional characters,” and his uniquely American point of view.

Twain’s autobiography, several biographies, and his writings are available at Smith Library.

Mother Teresa



Title: *Mother Teresa*

Location: Kester International Promenade

The Roman Catholic religious leader known as Mother Teresa, was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in 1910 in Skopje, Albania (now Macedonia). She was the founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women, dedicated to helping the poor and destitute of any faith. After her father died, she was drawn to helping the poor and needy in Albania. She decided at the age of 12 to become a nun, and moved to Ireland six years later, to study with a group of Catholic nuns, the Sisters of Loreto. She moved to Darjeeling in northeast India, where the Sisters of Loreto had a mission. After taking her vows as a nun, she took the name of Sister Teresa. She moved to Calcutta, becoming a teacher, and eventually a school principal.

In 1948, she had a second calling from God, and left the Sisters of Loreto, to found in 1950, the Missionaries of Charity. Her mission was simple; to help the poorest and weakest in India. Her community took in the sick and the destitute that society shunned. Supplicants with diseases such as tuberculosis, AIDS or leprosy were cared for. Mother Teresa went on to establish special homes for alcoholics, battered and abused women and drug addicts.

Mother Teresa would go on to acquire a worldwide reputation, receiving visits (and donations) from Presidents, Monarchs and political and business leaders. She received many awards during her lifetime, including the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded in 1979. When she died of a heart

attack in 1997, aged 87, there were over 4,500 Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity worldwide, serving the poor and needy in over 500 missions in 120 countries. After her death, the process began to declare her a saint, and she was beautified by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

A Simple Path and *No Greater Love*, and *Mother Teresa: In My Own Words* by Mother Teresa as well as biographies about her life may be found in Smith Library.

Rosa Parks



Title: *Rosa Parks*

Location: KesterInternational Promenade

"Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it." Rosa Parks was born in Tuskegee Alabama in 1913 and died in 2005. She is remembered as the seamstress who would not give up her bus seat to a white man. Her bravery was championed by the civil rights movement and notably Martin Luther King. Her action provided the catalyst for the Montgomery Alabama bus boycott; one of the first salvos in the American civil rights movement. Honored in many ways, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. Her autobiography is called *Rosa Parks: My Story* and is available at Smith Library.

Sacajawea



Title: *Sacajawea*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Sacajawea (also spelled Sacagawea), born circa 1788, was the Shoshone interpreter and guide who accompanied Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their epic two-year journey across the continental United States. Setting out in 1804, their mission was to cross the interior of the continent, and find out what lay between the known and settled areas of the east and west coasts. Sacajawea was born near the present-day border of Idaho and Montana. There is much uncertainty about her early life, but she was taken as a slave, and was eventually bought by a French-Canadian fur trader called Toussaint Charbonneau. In circa 1804, she became one of Charbonneau's wives. Lewis and Clark hired Charbonneau and Sacajawea during the winter of 1804-05, to act as guides, and to translate English into Shoshone. Lewis and Clark needed her language skills to translate with the Shoshone tribal leaders, in order to buy horses en-route to the Pacific Northwest.

The journey across the center of the continent was physically very arduous. On the trail, in early 1805 Sacajawea gave birth to a son, Jean Baptiste. She was a valuable member of the party, because she understood which plants were edible, as well as making moccasins and clothing. Most significantly, whenever the expedition would encounter new and potentially hostile tribes, Sacajawea and Jean Baptiste would go forward, to demonstrate the peaceful intentions of the party. Fortuitously, Sacajawea was re-united with her Shoshone brother, Cameahwait, thus ensuring that Lewis and Clark would buy the much-needed horses. Without the horses, and the guides that the Shoshone provided, the expedition would probably never have crossed the Rockies, to arrive in the Pacific Northwest in 1806.

After the expedition was over, Sacajawea went to live among the Comanches, and she died in 1812. Sacajawea has been memorialized on many statues, postage stamps and monuments. In the early 20th century, she was widely adopted as a symbol of women's worth and independence. In 2000, the US Mint struck a gold-tinted one dollar coin, featuring her likeness.

Biographies of Sacajawea and *The Journal of Lewis and Clark* can be found in Smith Library.

Sir Issac Newton



Title: *Sir Isaac Newton*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the greatest scientists of his era and of all time. He was an English physicist and mathematician and a key figure in the scientific revolution. He was born in Woolsthorpe England in 1643 and was later educated at Cambridge University. Sir Isaac Newton was best known for his work the *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy) which laid out the foundations of classical mechanics and was published in 1687. His principles on the laws of motion and universal gravitation would influence science for years to come.

This statue, along with the statue of John Coltrane, was added to the High Point University campus in early 2014. Biographies, books, e-resources about Sir Isaac Newton may be found in the Smith Library catalog.

Thomas Jefferson



Title: *Thomas Jefferson*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Born in Virginia in 1743, Thomas Jefferson was a central political figure during the early years of the United States of America, and is remembered especially for penning these words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” He was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence, first Secretary of State, second Vice President, and third President. Jefferson strongly supported separation of church and state. In his other ideals, Jefferson was a man of contradictions; he wrote of equality, but was a slave owner; he advocated freedom of expression, but sought punishment for attacks on him by the press; he argued for limited executive powers, but as president conducted the Louisiana Purchase. Education was as important to him as politics, and he founded the University of Virginia in 1819. He died at Monticello, the home he designed, in 1826.

William Shakespeare



Title: *William Shakespeare*

Location: Kester International Promenade

Considered by many to be the greatest writer of all time in the English language, William Shakespeare will forever be remembered through his thirty-seven plays, 154 sonnets, and other poems. ‘The Bard,’ as he is known today, was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564 and died in 1616, leaving a body of work that would transcend languages and cultures in the centuries to come. The most famous of his works, the plays, were written for the small repertory theatre company that Shakespeare was part of, The King’s Men, who performed at the Globe Theatre. Shakespeare’s works have survived so long because of the immense wit of the playwright and his ability to reproduce humanity on the stage.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare may be found in Smith Library.