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### Information About the Fountain

Fort Hays State University

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*and Gary Coulter Chair of the Art Department*

About the fountain

*and Gary Coulter*

~~Dr.~~ Placido Arturo Hoernicke, director of professional services in the FHSU College of Education, conceptualized the fountain and area middle school children helped generate the ideas for the sculpture, which is entitled "Pieces of Our World."

*Created art pieces*

(more info here about the fountain itself.....)

The inspiration for the sculpture originated from the feeling that children's thoughts about the sciences are important and can be expressed through the arts. The ideas expressed in the children's work include concepts of the solar system, tornadoes, lightening, various animal forms, beakers, flowers, and a myriad of other subject matter.

The individual art pieces, cast in bronze, range from the realistic to the abstract, from the delicate to the strong, and from the serious to the frivolous. It captures the children's sense of imagination and wonder as well as their perspective on the world.

The completion of this sculpture required the cooperative efforts of hundreds of people and stands as a demonstration of what children and adults can accomplish when working towards a common goal. The people involved directly with the sculpture included middle school children and teachers from the Hays area and art students and faculty from FHSU.

It seems fitting that this piece of sculpture created by young people from the community be placed in the fountain honoring two men who have served thousands of young people during their long tenure at FHSU.

*Coulter*

~~Dr.~~ Hoernicke, and members of the department of art and campus construction crews assembled and erected the sculpture and built the reflective pool.

The fountain project was funded through a grant from the Stouffer Fund which is housed at the university. When Jean Stouffer, associate dean of students for more than 20 years, died in 1976, she left the university a sizeable estate. In her will, she suggested that funds from her estate be used to improve the beauty of the campus at the discretion of the university president.