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Faculty Art Highlights Dedication



DALE FICKEN and JIM HINKHOUSE work in early stage of bust production.

By John C. Thorns, Jr.

Chairman, Department of Art

Much ado has been made concerning the building and dedication of the new Cunningham Hall and the Gross Coliseum—and rightfully so. At times, however, we tend to overlook some of the behind the scenes that add up to the total monumentality of the new sports complex.

The Department of Art was pleased to contribute to the success of the dedication by the unveiling of two bronze commemorative plaques, one bearing a likeness of Dr. M. C. Cunningham and the second, Paul B. Gross. The cast bronze reliefs were done by two members of the Art Department faculty: Dale Ficken and James Hinkhouse, both assistant profes-

sors of art.

The life-size bronze head studies are mounted on stained oak panels along with cast lettering giving the subject's name, dates of service to Fort Hays State and a brief inscription written by Mrs. Katherine L. Rogers, Assistant Professor of Journalism. The Cunningham relief describes him in this manner: "He dedicated twenty years to building Fort Hays Kansas State College and a lifetime to the service of his fellow man." —Morton C. Cunningham, President, 1949-1969. The second panel dedicated to Paul B. Gross, Director of Athletics, 1930-1964, states: "His devotion to building sportsmanship left an indelible mark on the lives of students and friends."

It would be impossible to esti-

mate the number of hours devoted to the project by the two art professors. As a joint creative project, the sculptors were involved in many steps developing from clay models through the making of the latex mold, working with wax to the final pouring of the molten bronze. As Hinkhouse stated: "The whole process is a long and fairly chancy one. Models and patterns can crack, bronze can leak through the plaster mold and gases can jeopardize the final project."

The project was started the first of August and completed the day before the dedication. As indicated, hours of work made the commemorative reliefs possible reflecting in another way the selfless dedication on the part of two members of the Fort Hays faculty.