September 11 commemorated with statue.

By CHRISTINE GALT
News Editor

Six years after the World Trade Center tragedy on Sept. 11, Creighton students and faculty joined citizens in Omaha and throughout the nation and remembered the lives lost and the heroes who fought to save them. Sculpture professor Littleton Alston used this memory to inspire his new sculpture, "On the Wings of Angels," which was dedicated Tuesday during a ceremony at the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center.

The sculpture was partially funded by the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society and includes two steel wings erected from the ground with a large sphere of bronze hands in the middle, meant to represent the earth. The 16-foot-high sculpture will remain on display at the southeast corner of 19th and Harman Streets.

"This memorial sculpture has taken a very long time to make, but it is worth the wait," Alston said. "I'm very proud of it. The piece is titled 'On the Wings of Angels' and, as you can see, the structure aspires to the heavens."

The Woodmen of the World has held a tribute to the victims and heroes of Sept. 11 every year since the attack.

"We are also here to salute the men and women who protect our community everyday," said James Bridges, Woodmen executive vice president. "Its strength and scale remind us that we are a strong and resilient nation, and no amount of evil will bring us to our knees."

Omaha Fire Department Chief Robert Dahliquist also spoke at the gathering. Though most Omaha citizens have never been put in a situation like 9/11, the public can relate to the tragedy, Dahliquist said.

"You don't have to be a firefighter to relate to the pain," Dahliquist said. "Now six years removed, the pain may not be sharp, but it still lives with us today. I want to compliment Littleton Alston for his great talent and vision."

Alston donated all of his time to create the statue.

Photo by Miguel Cedillo

"On the Wings of Angels," a statue by Sculpture professor Littleton Alston, was dedicated Sept. 11, 2007 outside the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center. The bronze hands were fused into a sphere to represent unity on Earth.

Alston's other familiar sculptures in Omaha

- 9 ft. bronze sculpture of Martin Luther King, Jr., located in Memorial Plaza
- 4 ft. bronze bust of Columbia Astronaut Michael Anderson in Creighton's Hixson-Lied Science Building
- 7 ft. bronze sculpture of St. Ignatius, located in front of Creighton's Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library
- Bronze sculptures of a life-size jazz trio located at Dreamland Park on North 24th Street