

Statue honors fallen soldiers

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A solitary man stands motionless, gazing at the Purple Heart in his cupped hands, remembering his child, a fallen soldier.

That's the scene of the new sculpture, "Purple Heart," located next to the Ruth Towne Museum and Visitor Center, honoring fallen military Truman State alumni.

Mark Gambiana, University Advancement vice president, said the sculpture has been in the works for about three years, since an anonymous donor gave \$35,000 to improve art on campus. Gambiana said the University worked with local sculptor Brandon Crandall, who saw the memorial plaques outside the Ruth Towne Museum and wanted to do an accompanying sculpture.

"I was like, 'It would be nice to have something that is interacting with those plaques a little bit,'" Crandall said. "That's how [the sculpture] was born, as if he's a person there mourning his son's or his daughter's

death, and all he has left is a purple heart."

Crandall took his inspiration and worked for nine months to sculpt the piece with waxy clay, he said. He then took it to a foundry in Kansas City, for it to be cast in bronze, which took about a year.

He said he hopes people take a pause when they see his sculpture.

"I hope that they have some emotion about it because if they do that, then I've done my job pretty well," he said. "If they look at it and it doesn't do anything at all, then obviously I failed in that regard."

The sculpture was dedicated during November on Veterans Day, Gambiana said, and drew more than 175 people in attendance, including local American Legion members.

Gambiana said he learned about Jedh Barker, a Truman alumnus who enlisted in the Marine Corps, after studying at the University for a year. Killed in combat in Vietnam in 1967, Barker was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1969, and remains the only Truman alumnus to have received the prestigious award.

Gambiani invited Barker's family to the event, and his brother spoke at the dedication ceremony.

Admissions Director Melody Chambers works in the Ruth Towne Museum and attended the dedication ceremony. She said she was moved by both the ceremony and the statue's meaning.

"It really is a reminder of the sacrifices military families make for all of us," she said. "The fact that I walk past it multiple times a day — it does cause me to reflect on that more than I had previously."

Chambers said that because the statue is life-size and so realistic, some people might mistake it for a real person, but she said she and her coworkers have become used to it. The Ruth Towne Museum also houses a similar life-size Harry S. Truman statue, so the workers are acclimated with having the figures nearby.

"Our staff is honored to be in a location where we have access to this wonderful facility and be the keepers of some pretty amazing art, too," she said.



Andrea Hewitt/Index

"Purple Heart," a statue by Brandon Crandall honoring fallen soldiers, stands outside the Ruth Towne Museum and Visitor Center.

Professor presents new book



Grace Stojeba/Index

History professor Huping Ling presents her newly published book "Chinese Chicago: Race, Transnational Migration, and Community since 1870" on Monday in the SUB Alumni Room. Ling is an award-winning author of 11 books.



Lyceum series brings Russian ballet

BY KATE LINMANN
Staff Reporter

In the middle of a four-month, coast-to-coast tour of the United States, the Moscow Festival Ballet will be stopping at Truman State on Saturday for the Kohlenberg-Lyceum.

The Moscow Festival ballet will perform "Sleeping Beauty," which they have been performing since the creation of the dance company in 1989, said Elena Radchenko, Artistic Director and company co-founder.

Radchenko, along with her husband Sergey, who was a legendary principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, began the company striving to keep Classical Ballet alive in its purest form, she said.

Marius Petipa originally choreographed "Sleeping Beauty," according to the synopsis of "Sleeping Beauty" on the Moscow Festival Ballet's page of Columbia Artists Management Inc.'s website. The music was arranged by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and originally premiered in 1890 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Radchenko said "Sleeping Beauty" is one of the jewels of the Classical Ballet Repertoire and a timeless fairy tale the

audience will be able to recognize and enjoy through its portrayal of characters through dance.

"We feel the spirit and emotions expressed in Classical Ballet are timeless and we find our audiences enjoy our performances tremendously," Radchenko said.

The Moscow Festival Ballet began its U.S. tour Jan. 4, and has toured throughout the world including Europe and Asia, according to the website. Most of the company's 40 dancers are about 20 years old, Radchenko said.

The company will be performing several different ballets on their current tour including, "Swan Lake," "Don Quixote," "Cinderella" and "Les Sylphides." The Kohlenberg-Lyceum

committee decided which show the Moscow Festival Ballet would perform at Truman.

"We wanted to pick a performance that would be a story that people were familiar with so that all audiences could understand and appreciate what was happening on stage," said Zac Burden, Kohlenberg-Lyceum committee co-chair and Mis-

souri Hall director. "But we also wanted something that was unique, that people could say 'Well, I've never seen 'Sleeping Beauty' performed before.'"

Winston Vanderhoof, Burden's co-chair and Truman's Senior Graphic Designer, said the committee started by sifting through material sent by agencies representing performance groups. They then looked

at each to determine if the performance would fit the series. Burden said that once the committee saw previous performances sent in by the Moscow Festival Ballet, they knew it was the kind of performance they want for the series.

Vanderhoof said Kohlenberg-Lyceum Series' last ballet performance occurred during 2007, and this will be the Moscow Festival Ballet's first trip to Kirksville.

"Bringing in a ballet company from Russia to put on a rather famous ballet will be a great edition to the series," Burden said.

Vanderhoof said one of the reasons the Kohlenberg-Lyceum Series can bring in performances like this is because groups want to fill in dates between their larger performances. Truman also gets a better deal because of this, he said. Vox Lumiere's "The Phantom of the Opera," performed earlier this year, advertises for about \$48,000 a performance, where as Truman paid less than \$16,000 because it is on the way to another venue, Vanderhoof said.

The next Kohlenberg-Lyceum event will be a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by the American Shakespeare Center on March 20.

**"Sleeping Beauty"
performed by
Moscow Festival Ballet**

**7:30 p.m. Saturday
Baldwin Auditorium**

**Tickets free for Truman
students, faculty and staff**

**Community tickets: \$7
purchase online at
lyceum.truman.edu**

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