

These great thinkers include: Aristotle, Madame Curie, Leonardo Da-Vinci, Albert Einstein, Galileo, Thomas Jefferson, John Stuart Mill, Isaac Newton, Plato, William Shakespeare, Socrates, and Germaine de Stael. In the center of the structure stands the SUU Coat of Arms. It was completed by artist Jerry Anderson and took him three years to finish sculpting the twelve statues and the impressive center piece. The Centurium was built to embrace “The Odyssey of the Mind” and when completed was dedicated by President Bush, the 41st President of the United States of America.



FUN FACTS

- If you stand in the center of the Centurium on the Coat of Arms, there is a change in acoustics.
- Jerry Anderson has completed 15 statues for Southern Utah University.
- There is a commemorative book written to explore the ideas that have shaped our culture and is based off of the Centurium monument. Written by the late, Eugene T. Woolf, a Professor of Philosophy and Literature at Southern Utah University, it can be picked up at the bookstore.

NELLIE PUCELL UNTHANK

Nellie, when nine years of age, left her home in England to come with her parents to Utah. Nellie’s parents were among those who died and were laid to rest in snow banks. Survivors of the company were rescued and brought to Salt Lake City. Poor little Nellie, nothing could be done to save her feet. The doctor said her feet must be taken off to save her life. They strapped her to a board and without an anesthetic the surgery was performed. In poverty and pain she reared a family of six children but never asked for favors of pity or charity because of her tragic handicap. According to one friend, “her wrinkled forehead” and “her soft dark eyes” bore witness to the “pain and suffering” she had endured in her life, yet her face bore “no trace of bitterness” at her fate. In “patience and serenity” Nellie touched the lives of all with whom she associated. She died at age 69 in Cedar City.

As a fitting tribute to Nellie’s memory a life-size bronze likeness by noted Utah sculptor Jerry Anderson was dedicated August 13, 1991. The Utah Legislature officially set the day aside as a “day of praise” for Nellie Unthank, and a host of dignitaries paid tribute to her tenacity, sacrifice, and noble pioneering spirit. The dedication was performed by President Gordon B. Hinckley of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The bronze was erected by the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.



SAVAGE ROSE

The first contemporary sculpture to be placed on SUU’s campus, this brushed aluminum creation originally stood next to the old science center, but after that structure was rebuilt, the sculpture was moved to its present location in front of the Centrum. For a time, the statue was nicknamed Sterling Church, after a prominent faculty member. It is rumored that from a bird’s eye view, the sculpture looks like a savage rose, thus giving it its current name.

