

MOMENTUM, a sculptural entrance to Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi.
THE MEANING OF "MOMENTUM" AS DESCRIBED BY THE ARTIST

MOMENTUM is meant to be seen from long distances and is scaled for this purpose. The piece is designed to establish a sight line from anywhere on the campus. There is a magnificent sight line from Ocean Drive where the flow of traffic enters the University. There is a grand expansive space encapsulated between the *Wave Shape* and the *Five Spires*. - a place for the soul to rest and reflect.

The landscaping is to be a simple one, and will be designed in collaboration with the Landscaping Department already in place at the school. It will be a return to the indigenous plantings already in place at Oso Bay thus reinforcing the name, "The Island University". I would encourage the planting of wild flowers mixed with King Ranch Blue Stem Grass. The constant onshore breeze will give wave like motion to the grass. This movement in conjunction with the wall's similarity to a ship's bow will evoke an unmistakable sense of voyages. MOMENTUM occupies an open field at the Northeastern end of Texas A& M Corpus Christi campus. Its foundation is the pre existing hill that I found there over a year ago. I designed three elements to incorporate into this hill

Five Spires. They are thirty-two feet high, twelve feet apart and float eight inches off the earth's surface. They are elegantly lighted and topped with a cobalt blue light. The five spires represent:

1. **Strength & Courage**
2. **Order**
3. **Movement**
4. **Accomplishment.**
5. **Logic**

A 275 *foot Retaining Wall*, that is 19 feet at its highest point. The wall is a ships curve, making an elegant shape facing Ocean Drive and a strong-pointed ships bow running along the face of the hill. Floating 3 inches in front of the wall is a four foot stainless steel banner running across the retaining wall, spelling, "Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi. The wall represents the sweeping movement of time. On top of the wall sits a

A *Wave Shape* approximately 30 feet in diameter and conveys a feeling of movement and possibility. The Wave Shape may offer the viewer the feeling of wind and water and stands in contrast to feeling of stability in the spires.

The Night view of the entrance:

- The Wave shape will be lit with sodium vapor lighting thus creating a blue green light similar to moonlight.
- The signage will be a single band of florescent lighting, creating a three dimensional effect on the floating 4 ft. letters.
- The spires will have an interior light emanating from the slit on the east west side. Light will also pour from beneath giving the illusion that the spires are floating. An exterior ground mounted sodium vapor light will light the north south sides.

The Day view of the entrance:

- The stainless steel components will attract and reflect natural light..

Robert Roesch

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to the following people who donated their time and/or initial sponsorship funds to help make the new entrance and sculpture to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi a reality.

Shirley & Dusty Durrill

Eugene & Ella Boulogney

Georganne Gasaway, KRINIS

A&M-Corpus Christi Fine Arts students who worked on the sculpture:

Autumn S. Flores

W. Curtis Miller

Chris C. Parker

Amy L. Robinson

Christopher A. Stroop

Emil I. Zuniga

A special thanks to the following companies and individuals who contributed funds toward the dedication of

Momentum

Eugene & Ella Boulogney

Buckley & Associates, L. L. P.

Carlisle Insurance

Circle K

CITGO

Cobb-Lundquist Realtors

The Dodge Company

John DuBois & Family

Frost Bank

H.E.B.

Jeannette Holloway

International Bank of Commerce

Law Offices of Thomas J. Henry

Stewart & Geraldine Rice

Sorrell, Anderson, Lehrman & Ridulfo, L.L.P.

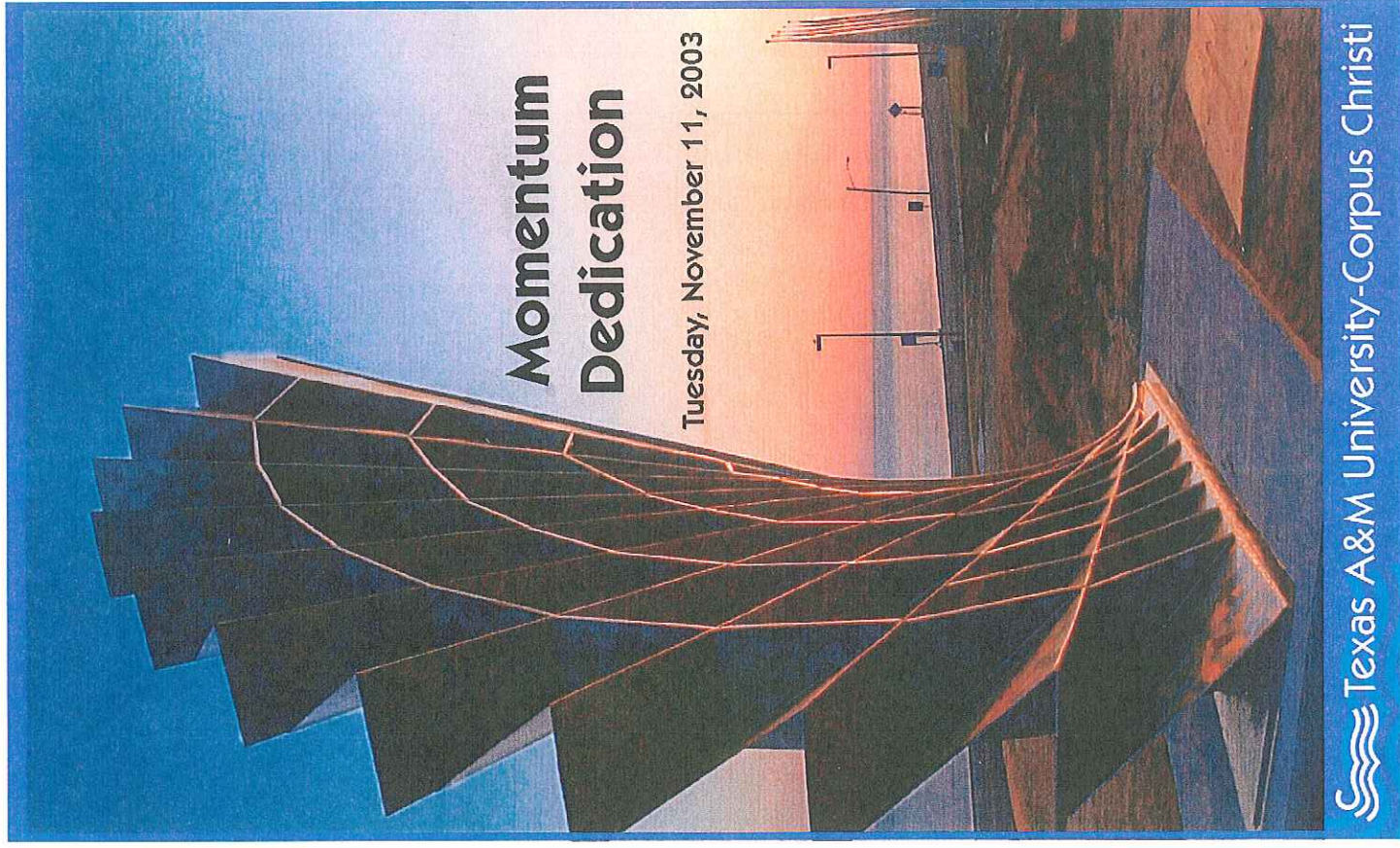
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in



Momentum Dedication

Tuesday, November 11, 2003

 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

AGENDA

Welcome	Trent Hill Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Introduction of Special Guests	Robert R. Furgason President
Background of Project	William Otton Museum Director, South Texas Institute for the Arts
Remarks	Dusty Durrill Durrill Properties
	Robert Roesch Artist and Project Designer
Special Guest Speakers	Representative Eugene Seaman Representative Jaime Capelo Representative Juan Manuel Escobar Deputy Chancellor Dr. Jerry Gaston
Sculpture Lighting	Robert Furgason and Dusty Durrill
Closing	Trent Hill

DONOR FUNDED MOMENTUM ENTRY SCULPTURE

- Designed by Philadelphia artist Robert Roesch; selected from submitted proposals by a juried committee.
- Constructed from Roesch's signature stainless steel medium with a textured surface that reflects light and color.
- Main stainless steel fan shape measures 35 feet across.
- The "Fan" sits on a curved paving block wall which slopes from 16 feet at one end to two feet tall near the entrance.
- Four-foot stainless steel letters spell out the name of the University.
- Approximately 300 feet from the "Fan," five separate 42-foot stainless steel spires appear to float on white light with a narrow white streak coursing up their sides to connect with a blue cobalt light on each peak.
- Stretches almost 300 feet from end to end; sits on 3.2 acres and rises more than 52 feet above ground level.
- Six A&M-Corpus Christi Fine Arts students worked with the artist during phases of construction: Autumn Flores; Curtis Miller; Chris Parker; Amy Robinson; Christopher Stroop; and Emi Zuniga.

MOMENTUM

An educational beacon of light . . .

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi needed an entrance to capture the excitement of our dynamic, growing university, something that could make a statement about the forces here that are moving the Island University forward to greater prominence. The Momentum sculptural entryway makes that statement. The unique sculpture will make an indelible impression upon first-time visitors to our campus and will serve daily to remind faculty, staff and students that they are creating a one-of-a-kind learning environment. Day or night, Momentum will serve as an educational beacon of light for many generations to come.

Dr. Robert R. Furgason,
President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

A vision of the past and the future . . .

I was talking with President Furgason about A&M-Corpus Christi's national recognition, and we discussed the school's need for an entrance that was representative of its accomplishments. A call for proposals was made, seeking an entrance design that would complement the modern university campus.

Robert Roesch's Momentum design was selected by a juried committee as the most inspirational and thought-provoking proposal. When asked why five towers and the wave shape were needed, he replied that this was his vision. When I discovered that five separate educational facilities have occupied this campus over the past 50 years, it seemed to me that the five towers would fittingly represent each of the five institutions while the wave shape depicts the dynamic student energy flowing from each of the academic institutions.

I am proud to have been involved in creating this new entrance to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Dusty Durrill, Donor

A site specific sculpture representing educational elements . . .

I designed MOMENTUM with several different elements that work in harmony to create the new entrance to Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi: *The Five Spires*, a *Retaining Wall*, a *Wave Shape* and indigenous landscaping.

I believe viewers should bring to Momentum their individual interpretation. To me, the artist, *The Five Spires* represent educational elements such as Strength, Order, Courage, Accomplishment and Logic. The *Retaining Wall* is a ship's curve that represents the sweeping movement of time. The *Wave Shape* conveys a feeling of movement and possibility, like the feeling of the wind and water that is so much a part of the Coastal Bend. This movement stands in contrast to the feeling of stability in the spires. *The landscaping* will be a return to the indigenous plantings of the Oso Bay, where the constant onshore breeze will give wavelike motion to the grass. This movement, in conjunction with the wall's similarity to a ship's bow, evokes a sense of "the voyage."

Robert Roesch, Artist, November 2003