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New Panther Statue to Be Unveiled Oct. 28

“The Leap” By Noted Wildlife Sculptor Rosetta, Has Been Installed in the New McCardle Events Plaza and Will Be Unveiled at Homecoming, Oct. 28

ORANGE, Calif. – Chapman University will soon unveil a new statue of its team mascot, the black panther, in a new events plaza that will open on Oct. 28. “The Leap,” by noted wildlife sculptor Rosetta, portraying a life-sized leaping panther, was made possible by a generous gift from Gerard “Bud” Lingelbach. The statue has been installed (and will be unveiled Oct. 28) in the new McCardle Events Plaza on the north end of campus, the area that will serve as the entryway into the just-opened home of the Chapman Panthers, Holly and David Wilson Field (used for football, soccer and lacrosse), and the currently under-construction Ernie Chapman Stadium that will overlook the field.

Rosetta (who uses only one name professionally) will travel to Chapman for the unveiling of “The Leap” during the university’s Homecoming festivities on Saturday, Oct. 28, which will also mark the official dedication of Holly and David Wilson Field. The sculpture unveiling will take place at a private donor reception before the game, and the Wilson Field dedication will occur at halftime of the Chapman vs. Pomona Pitzer football game, which begins at 7 p.m. (game tickets on sale at the gate for \$8 general admission; free to Chapman students with ID).

McCardle Plaza, named in honor of a generous gift from Chapman trustee Randall R. McCardle and his wife Suki, will serve as the north gate of the Chapman campus, and will be a focal point of the university’s new \$20.5 million Erin J. Lastinger Athletics Complex. The distinctive plaza will serve not only as a gateway to the new Ernie Chapman Stadium but also as an entryway to the under-construction Zee Allred Aquatics Center, the Nancy and James Baldwin Family Athletics Pavilion and a walkway honoring Chapman’s Hall of Fame athletes.

This will be Chapman’s second life-sized panther statue by Rosetta. The first, entitled “Panther,” was a gift of the senior class of 1994, and is located on the walkway near the south end zone of Wilson Field. The award-winning Colorado-based sculptor specializes in big cats and other felines, and her works can be found in public places across the United States, including Chicago’s Lincoln Park Zoo and Las Vegas’ MGM Grand Hotel.

“The subject of my sculpture is the life force of the animal, in all its visual splendor,” Rosetta says. “At first glance, the silhouette of my sculpture will suggest realism because it is true to the essence and the spirit of the animal. Yet upon closer examination it is clear that it is the abstraction of forms that creates the art.”