A Park-Like Setting

The 145-acre campus of Salisbury University is a place for the scientific study and public display of various woody and herbaceous plants. The University began its collection of plants in 1885; in 1988, the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta granted the University arboretum status. The arboretum’s mission calls for the collection and display of plants for the purpose of “providing an attractive landscape setting, conducive to learning, which demonstrates the diversity of the plant kingdom.” In keeping with this mission, the campus features over 2,000 species and is strong in many collections of magnolia, rhododendron, viburnum, linden, elm, roses, wisteria, bald cypress, dogwoods, crape myrtles, oaks, and Japanese maples.

The arboretum’s gardens and areas of special interest include: the Pergola, the Perdue School Courtyard, Holloway Hall Courtyard, Fulton Hall Gardens, the Bellavance Honors Center Japanese Garden and the Miller Alumni Garden. These areas are planted with hardy and tender perennials, annuals, tropicals and bulbs and many are accentuated by water features as well.

The Horticulture Department, a division of the Physical Plant, is comprised of 12 full-time staff, up to 20 student staff and one intern. In addition to maintaining the arboretum’s plant database, it is responsible for the design, planting and general maintenance of the campus grounds and athletic fields.

For a garden tour of the campus grounds, use the campus map and key on the reverse side.

A Varied Sculpture Collection

Since 1994 Salisbury University has been developing a collection of figurative sculpture to complement its arboretum. The collection is notably strong in the area of turn-of-the-century Beaux Arts sculpture. This includes works by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, who was responsible for the development of the Beaux Arts style in the United States, Daniel Chester French, who sculpted Lincoln for the Lincoln Memorial, Frederick MacMonnies, who created the doors to the Library of Congress, and Herman Atkins McNeil, best known for his Western sculptures.

Also included in the University’s sculpture collection is the head of Pierre de Wissant by Auguste Rodin. This is one of the original studies for the sculpture the Bûchers of Calais. Two sculptures in the collection were originally made for the American Museum of Natural History: Wounded Comrade, by Carl Akeley, and Timber Wolf Group, by William Turner. J. F. Morgan, the great financier, liked Wounded Comrade so much that he donated the funds for the African Wing of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The African silver-back gorilla Ishmael, by Bart Walter, was commissioned by Salisbury University in 1995, and a large chimpanzee Contemplation, also by Walter, was originally commissioned by Dr. Jane Goodall. Antoine-Louis Barye, acclaimed as one of the finest sculptors of the French Animaliers School, made the Panther of India.

The collection also presents important figurative sculptures from more recent periods. Rocket Throwing, made by Donald De Lue, was the centerpiece for the 1964 World’s Fair. Leonard Baskin, who sculpted relief sculptures for the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C., made Prodigal Son, and Benson Scher made Fallen Angel. The latter sculpture portrays the medieval myth of the Succubus, or the dark angel, who comes down to earth to seduce man’s body and steal his soul.

For a sculpture tour of the campus grounds and buildings, follow the alphabetical listings on the campus map.