



JAROFF DESIGN

MISON CONCEPTS

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## JOSEPH JAROFF COMMISSIONED TO CREATE SCULPTURE FOR ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

### Symbolic Gold Flame Will Tower Atop University's New D'Angelo Center, To Be Unveiled October 4, 2009

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009, Hicksville, NY - St. John's University in Queens, NY has commissioned artist Joseph Jaroff to create a symbolic torch sculpture to crown the top of the new D'Angelo Center, a 5-story, brick and stone, 127,000 square foot building enhancing both the academic and social life of the campus. The iconic flame, which connects metaphorically to both the eternal light of knowledge and Christian theology, honors the University as a beacon of higher learning and its historically Catholic roots. Designed to glint in the sunlight, the twelve and a half foot high sculpture will be gilded with over one hundred square feet of gold-leafing, and rise out of a hammered bronze base similar to a classic Olympic-style caldron. The work will be unveiled as part of a dedication ceremony to be held October 3, 2009.

"This is an exciting commission for me," remarked Mr. Jaroff. "The bell-tower of the D'Angelo Center is visible from across St. John's Queens' campus, and is framed at each approach by these great vistas. When illuminated at night, the sculpture will be a beacon burning in the night sky visible for miles. Thinking in 360-degrees, I worked to create distinct flame peaks that torque around a central core, so that the fire would be readable and dynamic from every angle."

Joseph Jaroff is the lead designer and founder of Jaroff Design & Mison Concepts, Inc., a firm specializing in artistic and architectural metal and glass design and fabrication for over 28 years. He has a degree in metal sculpture from the Rochester Institute of Technology and has produced commissioned artworks for the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and numerous private collectors. His collaborative design and fabrication projects include marquees for Carnegie Hall and the Palace Hotel, doors for the Guggenheim Museum and Le Cirque, and display rooms for Barney's New York, Alexander McQueen and Ralph Lauren. He was recommended for the St. John's commission for his experience creating unique, challenging metal forms and specialized finishes.



The D'Angelo Center (named after St. John's benefactors Peter and Peg D'Angelo and their family) is being designed by world-renowned architectural firm Gensler, and is stylistically inspired by the already existing campus architecture. The tower itself is designed to serve as a beacon both on and off campus.



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The most prominent space in the building is a central seating area, intended to serve as a "living room" for the campus. Soft seating, arched windows and a fireplace provide students with a welcoming respite between and after classes. Adjacent to the central seating area will be a student services center and two new food service venues. To enhance the wide variety of student activities offered at St. John's, the building also features a series of spaces that include office space and activity space for student organizations; meeting rooms for student programs; and a multi-purpose room that can accommodate a lecture for 450, a banquet for 325 or up to three events simultaneously.

The building will also house 14 new classrooms of various sizes equipped with digital media capability. Nine of these classrooms will be furnished to allow flexibility in set-up, from lecture to teaching team style. The largest of the spaces will be a 144-seat lecture space, with tiered seating to allow better sightlines and large-format video projection. Underscoring the University's commitment to global responsibility, the building is being constructed according to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards and includes many energy-saving mechanical/electrical systems.

"The D'Angelo Center will serve as vibrant hub for the over 20,000 dedicated students that study at St. John's each year" noted Brij Anand, Vice President of Facilities at the University. "By enhancing the campus, not only functionally, but aesthetically with original artwork such as Joe's sculpture, this project affirms our commitment to fostering a beautiful, inspiring place to learn. By commissioning a local artist, we demonstrate our continued support for the creative community of New York."

Following the October 4<sup>th</sup> dedication, the sculpture will be a permanent addition to the campus' art collection and a fixture in its carefully planned landscape design. Installed atop the 100-foot tower of the centrally-located building, it will be an icon of the campus for years to come.

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***For further information and images, please contact:***

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