

## Zweygardt's work earns 'best of show' honors

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Glenn Zweygardt, professor of sculpture in the School of Art & Design at Alfred University, received the "best-of-show" award for "Sky Wedge," a piece he entered in the fifth annual Florida Outdoor Sculpture Competition. The competition is a joint project of the City of Lakeland, FL, and the Polk Museum of Art. Sculptures will remain on display on the Lemon Street Promenade in downtown Lakeland until Feb. 10, 2006. The competition drew 117 entries from 61 artists. A committee of community members and the Polk Museum staff selected 10 for inclusion in this year's exhibition. From among those, Zweygardt's work was singled out for honors by Roy Slade, director emeritus of Cranbrook Art Museum and former director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. "Sky Wedge," a nearly 13-foot tall sculpture of self-weathering steel, bronze and cast glass, was created by Zweygardt to mark his 60th birthday. "I wanted to create a sculpture made of steel hexagons, bronze and cast glass. The hexagons represent the six decades that I have lived," wrote Zweygardt in his artist's statement for the exhibition. "Finding one's place in a relationship with nature is the theme of my sculpture," he wrote. "While working with materials such as metal and stone, a relationship between nature and myself is formed. Further, I want to tell stories and comment on my collective life experience and my perception of a collective consciousness." Zweygardt calls "Sky Wedge" a "homage to human survival and creativity." He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Wichita State University in 1967, and an MFA from the Maryland Institute of Art in 1969. He has taught at Alfred University's School of Art & Design for more than 35 years. He also works independently in his own studio, and is a member of the Berman Group, a cooperative of sculptors whose work "spans the entire spectrum of 'modernist' sculpture."