

OEMA DEDICATES ITS GIFT OF SCULPTURE

In April 2003, OEMA held a reception to formally dedicate its marble sculpture, *Profiles*, which was created and donated by psychologist and artist Forrest B. Tyler, PhD, Professor, University of Maryland- College Park, and to honor the life and work of the sculpture's creator. APA's CEO **Norman B. Anderson, PhD** spoke of the man, while APA's OEMA Director, **Bertha G. Holliday, PhD**, spoke of the sculpture. **Henry Tomes, PhD**, Director of the Public Interest Directorate, served as the master of ceremonies.



Forrest B. Tyler, PhD with *Profiles*

STATEMENT OF DEDICATION

by Forrest B. Tyler, PhD

"I have been a psychologist for over 50 years and a sculptor for over 30. I was taught early in life that education provides a way to contribute to people's well being. I also learned that understanding and being of help to others was endlessly rewarding and a fulfilling way I could spend my life. Psychology seemed a natural field to pursue. However, like many children who have attended underfunded schools in poor communities, I had no arts education. I was well into adulthood before it occurred to me that art might be a way for me to express my feelings by creating beautiful objects.

It was in graduate school and beyond that I learned that many psychologists were more concerned with being scientific and respected in the corridors of power than they were with developing and using psychological knowledge to enrich people's lives. Along with many other psychologists, I have disagreed with that emphasis. We have worked in diverse ways to advance psychology as a way to document and support the dignity of all people and the richness of their diverse ways of expressing their integrity and aspirations. Physical scientists speak quite freely of the beauty of their theories and discoveries. Psychologists seem self-conscious about thinking or speaking of the beauty of our psychological understanding of people or of the intrinsic beauty so evident in people living lives of integrity and concern for others as well as themselves.

Profiles for me is a way of combining and expressing my respect for the rigor and discipline underlying science and art and their necessary interrelationship in advancing our contribution to the richness of people's lives. My experience with that piece of black marble began because it struck me as profile-like when I first saw it. I spent perhaps a year working on it as my ideas and skills and the nature of that piece of stone interacted. Eventually it seemed to express that people have many different profiles and they all have a dignity and beauty of their own. I donated *Profiles* to the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs because it is committed to conveying that message to psychologists and to the world. This office seems to me to be the best place I can ever find for conveying that message to others and supporting OEMA's ongoing and future work."