

**Jerry D. Thomas '81 graduated from Southwestern College with a business degree, but became a full-time artist in 1986. The wildlife, trails, and history of the West are an important inspiration for his artwork, and his attention to detail and endless research have become a hallmark of his realistic images. He has twice designed the Kansas Wildlife Habitat Award and has been named Kansas Wildlife Artist of the Year twice. Thomas has dedicated himself to the preservation of our natural and historic heritage and has generated funding for habitat restoration in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The newly established Western Vistas Historic Byway in western Kansas features his designs along its 102-mile historic route.**