

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN:

### *Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Zahnow Library*

Twenty years ago this spring, on April 12, 1987, the dedication of the Melvin J. Zahnow Library took place. The opening of the new library building was eagerly anticipated, as the growing collection (as well as the growing student population) had long since run out of room in the cramped quarters of the library's previous location on the first floor of Wickes Hall.

The dedication ceremony marked the culmination of a major construction project that began with a ground-breaking in November 1983 and produced not only the new library but the adjoining Science Building and Brown Hall. In the Dedication Program, Dr. Jack Ryder, then President of Saginaw Valley State College, noted that "this new instructional complex, with the Melvin J. Zahnow Library as the centerpiece, is the realization of the dreams and aspirations of the campus community."

One of our current staff members, Kirker Kranz, attended the dedication ceremony and now recalls one memorable moment from that day. "On the day of the dedication I was coming back as it neared twilight when I saw a man standing alone by the fountain, facing the freshly inaugurated Zahnow Library. I realized it was Mr. Zahnow. He raised a small camera and snapped off a shot of the place before turning to walk away into the dusk."

Jessie Federspiel, another current library staff member, remembers staff and student assistants staying until 7:00 p.m. to help the moving company workers keep the books in order. Apparently, this was a critical task, as

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## NEW DATABASES AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH

In January 2007 Zahnow Library added several new databases to the collection. Through faculty and librarian suggestions the databases below were identified to meet the current needs of Zahnow Library users. To access these resources visit the library home page <http://www.svsu.edu/library>. Links to the databases are located on the DATABASES A-Z list.

### **OED ONLINE (Oxford English Dictionary)**

Over the past several years the Zahnow Library has had access to the print OED 20 volume set in the Reference Collection as a standard reference source. Now the entire OED is available online to SVSU users. This monumental work contains the meaning, history, and pronunciation of over half a million words currently used in the English language and well as those used in the past. For more information about the OED visit this website <http://dictionary.oed.com/about/>

### **African American Studies Center (Oxford)**

A collection of reference sources and journal literature on the lives and events concerning African American and African history and culture. Included in the database are more than 7,500 articles by top scholars. For more information visit the Oxford AASC home page at <http://www.oxfordaasc.com/public/about.jsp>.

### **Biological Abstracts (Ovid)**

Biological Abstracts directs users to citation information on life science topics from botany to microbiology to pharmacology. Although not a full-text database, users can access critical journal articles using the "Find-Text" link which indicates where the article may be found or take advantage of the ILLiad (interlibrary loan) Service. For more information visit OVID at <http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/24.pdf>

### **Communication Abstracts (CSA)**

Communication abstracts provides access to journal and book literature citations from 160 sources in many areas of communication studies. From 1997 to the present subject coverage includes: general communication, mass communication, advertising, marketing, broadcasting, communication theory, inter and intra-personal communication and much more. With the use of the "Find-Text" link, users of Communication Abstracts can then locate the full-text of the articles in other databases, e-journal packages or ILLiad (interlibrary loan). For a complete description visit <http://www.csa.com/factsheet/commabs-set-c.php>

For a demonstration of how to use these databases, call or visit the Reference Desk (989)964-4242 on the first floor of the library.

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John Mauch can recall stories being told about the movers unpacking books from the old library in Wickes and shelving them in reverse order in the new library!

The movers also took one look at the large CPU's that were housed in the old library to run the Valley Library Consortium computer system and refused to move them, believing they would fall through the raised floor in the computer room of the new library. Thinking back to that time, Louise Dukarski remembers having to move them and the spaghetti-like mass of cables to the new computer room with the aid of a couple of technicians from the computer company.

Much has changed in the library over the past 20 years, just as the university has grown and changed. The library was renovated and expanded in 2003 to include a 60 seat library instruction lab, the Student Technology Center, a vending/cafe area, and the Roberta Allen Reading Room. While change is continuous for us, one thing remains constant over time: the goal of every library staff member to provide the highest quality service and instruction to our students, faculty and staff.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the special 20th Anniversary Celebration events described in this edition of the newsletter!

-- Linda Farynk  
(lfarynk@svsu.edu)

## TO CELEBRATE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY, THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO THREE SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY THIS COMING APRIL

On April 10, writer **Peter Ho Davies** will give a reading in the Roberta Allen Reading Room at 7:30 p.m. Davies is the author of two award-winning short story collections, *The Ugliest House in the World* and *Equal Love*, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year in 2000. He has just published his first novel, *The Welsh Girl*. He is currently on the faculty of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

On April 18, **M.L. Liebler & The Magic Poetry Band** will rock the Roberta Allen Reading Room at 7:30 p.m. Liebler is the author of many books of poetry, including *The Moon a Box*, which received the 2005 Paterson Poetry Award of Excellence. He has taught at Wayne State University since 1980, and has read and performed his poetry extensively in Russia, China, Israel, Europe, Britain, Mexico and most of the United States. The Magic Poetry Band features the internationally acclaimed jazz musicians Faruq Z. Bey, Ron English, Jef Reynolds and Bill Hulet.

On April 25, **Jeanette Walls** will read from and discuss her unforgettable memoir of growing up, *The Glass Castle*, at 1:00 p.m. in the Allen Reading Room. She begins the story of her chaotic, nomadic childhood with one of her earliest memories, cooking hot dogs at age three and catching fire. For two decades, she hid the truth about her past, graduating from Barnard and carving out a successful career as a reporter for *New York magazine*, *Esquire*, *USA Today* and MSNBC.com, where she currently works. *The Glass Castle* is the featured book for the 'One Book, One Community' reading program sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. Throughout the day on April 26, Jeanette Walls will be reading and talking about her book at several locations in Saginaw, concluding with an evening program at the Temple Theatre.

### HAVE WE SENT YOU ANY EMAIL LATELY?

The Library Circulation Department would like to announce that all communications will now be made through email. This includes messages concerning your hold, MeL, or ILLiad requests, courtesy notices reminding you of the impending due date of your currently checked out items, and overdue notices. Emails will be sent to the university account of all students, faculty and staff.

You may change the default email address in ILLiad and CardCat. If messages bounce back to us we will automatically change your address back to your SVSU account.

If you have any questions concerning this expanded policy or if you would like to change to an alternate account please call or email the Circulation Department staff at (989)964-4240 or circadm@library.svsu.edu.

### LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

The Student Technology Center (STC) will be offering digital still and video cameras for students use later in the winter 2007 semester. We hope to have the equipment in stock and ready for checkout following Spring break. Students will be able to check out the equipment for up to three days along with necessary accessories. The student will be required to sign an equipment loan contract and allow enough time upon checkout for a brief equipment overview. Damage and late fees will be imposed for ALL equipment checked out.

Please visit the STC website at [www.svsu.edu/stc](http://www.svsu.edu/stc) and the University news pages for additional details, as they become available. We look forward to providing this additional resource to SVSU students!

### LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

**Beth Johns, Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian**, has been accepted to the Michigan Library Association's Leadership Academy. This multi-year program is an intensive, experiential and focused program to develop the leadership abilities of individuals within Michigan libraries. The program is structured around workshops and state conference programs. Congratulations Beth!