

Former Poet Laureate to receive Roethke Prize during Centennial Celebration

The only writer to serve three terms as United States Poet Laureate has been selected as the winner of the 11th triennial Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize.

Robert Pinsky will receive the award Tuesday, Nov. 11 at SVSU, highlighting a festival celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Roethke's birth.

Pinsky received the honor for his 2007 collection of poems *Gulf Music*, one of eight books of poetry he has authored, as well as five other volumes about poetry.

Publishers Weekly said "the gulf in the title ... is both the large southern body of water that has been the site of so much weather-related misery, and the unavoidable distances between an author's thoughts and feelings and his expression." The award includes a \$3,000 cash prize.

As Poet Laureate, Pinsky started the Favorite Poem Project, in which thousands of Americans of varying backgrounds, all ages, and from every state shared their favorite poems. Recognized

for his regular appearances on the PBS television program *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, he remains active in the field, writing a weekly "Poet's Choice" column for *The Washington Post*.

Named for the late Saginaw poet who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1953 for *The Waking*, The Triennial Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize has been awarded since 1968 to notable poets for a particular collection of poems published in a specific three-year period.

Presenting the award to Pinsky will be Lloyd Schwartz, a Pulitzer Prize winner for criticism, a poet, the Frederick S. Troy Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, and one of the judges for this year's prize. The other two judges are Campbell McGrath, associate professor of creative writing at Florida International University and the author of four volumes of poetry, and Peg Boyers, a poet and editor of a quarterly literary magazine at Skidmore College (N.Y.), where she teaches creative writing.

Theodore Roethke Centennial Celebration



Centennial Poetry Slam

Saturday, Nov. 8 • 7 p.m. • Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum
Adults, college students, high school and middle school students are invited to participate in a poetry slam. Winners chosen by acclamation!

Open House: A Community Celebrates Roethke's Centennial

Monday, Nov. 10 • 7 p.m. • Founders Hall
Sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council
• **William Heyen**, poet-in-residence at SUNY-Brockport, will present "Eternity is Now": Our Essential Roethke
• River Junction Poets program, "Reveling in Roethke" will be performed
• Multi Media Contest Awards will be presented

Roethke Rendezvous and Haunts of Roethke Tour

Tuesday, Nov. 11 • Noon – 3:30 p.m. • Zahnnow Library, First floor
Sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council
• An opportunity to view the Roethke Sculpture and centennial display. Light refreshments will be served
• Buses depart SVSU for a tour of Roethke's Saginaw haunts ending with a wine and cheese reception at the Schuch Hotel. Buses return to SVSU at 3:15 p.m.

Reception and Dinner ~ Celebrating Roethke's Legacy

Tuesday, Nov. 11 • 5 p.m. • Curtis Hall Banquet Room, Second floor
• Tickets: \$30, available through SVSU Box Office at (989) 964-4261
• Reserved seating for the Prize ceremony included with ticket purchase

Triennial Theodore Roethke Memorial Prize Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, Nov. 11 • 7:15 p.m. • Rhea Miller Recital Hall
Sponsored by the Morley Foundation, the Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission, the Saginaw Community Foundation, SVSU, and the Theodore Roethke Memorial Foundation
• **Robert Pinsky**, former U.S. Poet Laureate, receives the Prize for his 2007 collection of poems, *Gulf Music*
• Lloyd Schwartz, poet, critic, and judge will present this year's Prize
• A book signing will follow the ceremony in Groening Commons

Roethke and Me: Conjuring the Garden Master

Wednesday, Nov. 12 • 7 p.m. • Rhea Miller Recital Hall
Sponsored by Citizens Bank and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs
• **Richard Fitzpatrick**, actor, playwright, and author performs his one-man play incorporating poetry, prose and the biography of Roethke

All festival events are open to the public. Admission is free of charge with the exception of the reception and dinner Tuesday, Nov. 11. For updated information as the festival approaches, please visit www.svsu.edu/roethke.



William Heyen



Robert Pinsky



Richard Fitzpatrick

Tamara Migan

Lecturer of English

Are teachers born or made? Opinions vary, but Tamara Migan is convinced her career as an educator was made after giving birth to her daughters Isabel, 5 and Adela, 4.

“I’m a much more empathetic teacher now that I have children,” she said.

Migan expresses that enhanced understanding through her role as coordinator of the College Transitions program, which saw some 34 incoming freshmen (identified based on financial need and/or scores on college entrance exams) get an early start on their SVSU experience last summer.

“I feel strongly about helping anybody who wants to be here,” she said. “The whole point is to bring at-risk students to campus before Fresh Start. We match them with a faculty mentor and a library mentor and introduce them to V-space and to library resources.”

Student mentors are involved, too and provide “mini-tours” of the campus. “The groups were incredibly diverse – from all over the state. To bring them all together and find common ground was really fun.”

While the program is a new opportunity for her, Migan had similar prior experience working in an after-school program teaching computer skills at a public library in Lansing.

Students in College Transitions were asked to research an

environmental topic and “come up with a real project” to complete over the remainder of the summer.

“They turned out really well,” Migan said. Examples included documentaries about recycling and presentations about the economic viability of buying organic products. Overall, the program seemed to have the desired result.

“We did an evaluation after the project. The students said it really did help them get a sense of the campus and they liked being able to meet with faculty.” The group is staying in touch online and through recent pizza parties.

In the classroom, Migan teaches composition and literature classes. “I like them both for different reasons,” she said.

Migan’s scholarly interest rests in 19th century novels, including a few Halloween favorites. “Right now I’m teaching a Gothic novel class, so we’re reading *Jane Eyre*, *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Fall of the House of Usher*.”

Migan enjoys teaching introductory courses, as well, because “freshmen are so eager and excited.” That enthusiasm serves her well in her extracurricular role.

“I love the Transitions program,” she said, “because it gives me a chance to deal with incoming freshmen on a whole different level. I hope they appreciate it too. Programs like this simply make sense to me.”



Mathew Slack

Events Technology Manager • October 2008

When Mathew Slack left Toronto to study at SVSU, he had no idea that he was arriving at his future employer.

After starting in the office six years ago as a student employee, he now manages thousands of non-academic-related events in several venues around campus during a given year.

“The facilities are used every single day of the year for multiple events,” he said.

Slack estimates that 80 percent of his clients are internal, and both they and their corporate counterparts come with increasing technology demands.

The set up and equipment can change considerably from one event to another. Microphones, audio, video, projection, lighting, special effects and even pyrotechnics are among the variables that must be taken into account.

He recalled a Dow Corning presentation that showed a space shuttle launch on video and called for flash pots to go off around the stage “for extra effect.”

“I have to be a little bit of everything, an IT person, an audio/video person, a campus facilities person all wrapped up into one,” he said.

And Slack must get it right on the fly because “I hardly ever get to do a dry run.”

He prepared for “the most complicated set up I’ve ever

done” when the Michigan Supreme Court held a hearing Oct. 22.

In addition to arranging that venue, Slack provided a video feed to an overflow room as well as the Saginaw Intermediate School District, and recorded the event for Michigan Government Television.

Slack appreciates the support he receives from his coworkers. “All of the events are a team effort,” he said, adding SVSU does a good job of staying on the cutting edge of technology.

“The Field Theatre, for instance, has some very high-end microphones and one of the best projectors in this part of Michigan.”

In his spare time, Slack likes to travel and visit new places. He recently made a trip to Hawaii, though he was participating in conference calls because “the job followed me there.”

A self-described audiophile, he also mixes music and tinkers with his home stereo. Golf is a preferred pastime, too.

Slack does not mind working behind the scenes.

“The ideal scenario in this job is not to be noticed, because then you realize you’re doing everything correctly,” he said. “I enjoy when an event goes right. I can tell when people are leaving a venue that they’re happy and have enjoyed themselves.”



Professional Profile

• **Geoffrey Carter**, assistant professor of English, presented at the Seventh Biennial Thomas R. Watson Conference in Rhetoric and Composition at the University of Louisville, Oct. 16-18. His presentation was titled "From Diagrams to Biograms: Synesthesia and the New Work of Digital Composing" and it included a digital movie related to the work of Oliver Sacks by SVSU undergraduate Dustin Mallory.

• **Margaret Flatt**, professor of nursing and acting assistant dean, and Debra Wagner, assistant professor of nursing, received \$124,920 from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth to increase the availability of nurses in the workforce through the project, Partnering Around Capacity Enrichment (PACE).

• **Francis C. Dane**, Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics, presented "The Importance of the Sources of Professional Obligations," the keynote address on Theory of Science, at a conference titled "Philosophy's Relevance in Information Science" in Paderborn, Germany, Oct. 3-4, which was organized by Ruth Hagenruber and was co-sponsored by the University of Paderborn and the Heinz Nixdorf Institute.

• **Said Elfakhani**, Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in Business, published an article titled "Globalization and Investment Opportunities: A Cointegration Study of Arab, U.S., and Emerging Stock Markets," in *Financial Review* (Vol. 43, No. 4, pp. 591-611). This article is co-authored with M. Arayssi and H. Smahta.

• ELP staff **Sahar Al-Masri**, **Yang Liu**, **Jacquie Osborn** and **Judy Youngquist** took part in a panel discussion on "Issues of Cultural Competency in the Classroom" Sept. 20 at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching in Traverse City.

• **Sandra M. Nagel**, associate professor of psychology, presented "Habituation of the Electrodermal Response in Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder" to an international audience at the Society for Psychophysiological Research annual conference Oct. 4 in Austin, Texas, with SVSU student Sarah E. Bauer and SVSU alumna Meaghan K. Carpenter.

• **Monica B. Reyes**, director of continuing education & professional development; **Robert Schooks**, director of the Center for Manufacturing Improvement; and **Monique Owens**, Wired Project coordinator, all recently earned certification as a Certified Business Solutions Professional.

• **James Royle**, associate professor of teacher education, and his wife Tamara, are the first alumni couple to receive Albion College's Distinguished Alumni Award, presented during Albion's Homecoming festivities Sept. 26.

• **Sam Sarkar**, professor of economics, had a paper titled "A Study of the Environmental Issues Associated with the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA)" accepted for publication in the *International Business and Economics Research Journal*.

• **Danilo Sirias**, associate professor of management, attended the International Theory of Constraints for Education Conference in Warsaw, Poland, Oct. 2-5, and presented a paper titled "Using Thinking Skills to Raise Test Scores."

• **Steve Yanca**, professor of social work, has authored a new textbook, *Generalist Social Work Practice with Groups*, published by Allyn and Bacon. His coauthor is Louise C. Johnson, professor emeritus from the University of South Dakota.

Condolences

• To the family of **Bob Becker**, athletic director emeritus, who passed away Sunday, Oct. 19 at age 73. Becker joined SVSU in 1968 as director of business and auxiliary services, and served as men's golf coach from 1969-89 and director of athletics from 1980-98.

Transitions

For office numbers, phone extensions, e-mail addresses and other information, go to www.svsu.edu/lookup/.

New Staff

- **Cynthia Essex** – Administrative Secretary, Diversity Programs
- **Amanda Wright** – Programmer/Analyst – AIS
- **Joseph Zinni** – Assistant Women's Basketball Coach

Promoted/Transferred/Title Change

- **Joseph Rousseau** – Assistant Director, School & University Partnerships

Left/Leaving

- Loyce Brown, Stephen Kazar, Dulcey Simpkins

Open Enrollment

Benefits Open Enrollment is underway and ends Friday, Nov. 7. The following are important dates:

- Monday, Nov. 3 – Open Enrollment Q&A with HR from 10-11 a.m. in 387 Wickes Hall.
- Tuesday, Nov. 4 – Open Enrollment Q&A with HR from 6:30-7:30 a.m. in 373 Wickes Hall.
- Friday, Nov. 7 – Open Enrollment ends at 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 1, 2009 – Benefit changes and new elections become effective

If you plan to use a Flexible Spending Account for Health Care or Dependent Care, you must re-enroll for 2009. This benefit does not automatically rollover to the next plan year. You have until Dec. 17, 2008 to enroll. Contact Ann Miner at ext. 7100, or e-mail aminer@svsu.edu, for further information.

The Interior is published on the last Tuesday of each month for faculty and staff at SVSU. University departments sponsoring activities or events listed in the Interior will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities when contacted at least three days in advance.

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Submission Deadline:

Noon on Wednesday before the publication date.

Please send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.