Conflict and Community the focus of Fall Lecture Series

Conflict and how communities respond to and are shaped by conflicts large and small will be examined by a range of speakers during the 2010 Fall Focus lecture series. Topics such as immigration, community policing, and Iraqi art and poetry are among those to be discussed.

The series includes the 2010 O’Neill Lecture in cooperation with the Field Neurosciences Institute, Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists lectures and the SVSU history department’s Hoffman/Willertz Lecture. Admission to all talks is free of charge.

Art and censorship in Iraq and elsewhere will be examined by Dunya Mikhail, who presents “Diary of a Wave Outside the Sea: Poetry and Stories from Iraq” Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

“Rethinking Immigration in the Era of Global Vertigo” is the title of Marcelo Suarez-Orozco’s remarks Monday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts. His talk is co-sponsored by SVSU’s Office of Multicultural Services and the Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

Michael Roberto will continue the series with “Managing for Conflict & Consensus: Why Great Leaders Don’t Take Yes for an Answer” when he presents the seventh annual James E. O’Neill Jr. Memorial Lecture Thursday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts. The lecture is co-presented by Field Neurosciences Institute.

Prisoner re-entry will be the topic of Dow Visiting Scholar Henrie M. Treadwell’s talk Tuesday, Nov. 2. She will present “Coming Home from Prison: Is the Welcome Mat Rolled Out?” at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Criminal justice scholar Timothy Flanagan will continue the series with “Policing Communities and Community-Centric Policing: An Evidence-Based Assessment” Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Dow Visiting Artist Judy Baca will share her works and the meaning behind them during her presentation, “The Work of Judy Baca: Excavating Land and Memory Through Public Art” Thursday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

The series concludes with the eighth annual Hoffmann/Willertz Lecture presented by a member of the SVSU history faculty. Kenneth Jolly, associate professor of history, will present “By Our Own Strength: William Sherrill and the Politics of Black Self-Determination” Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.
Emily Kelley would love to chat with you about the intricacies of Spanish art during the early modern period that most of us refer to as The Renaissance. She also understands that’s not a conversation she is likely to have with the average undergraduate taking one of her art history or art appreciation courses to fulfill General Education requirements, but she relishes introducing them to the subject matter.

“Art history has a canon,” she said. “You have to know a certain set of images; you have to know a certain amount of information from cave paintings to the 21st century. With art appreciation, its about ‘Let’s educate and interest people in this part of the world.’”

One recent example included a class lecture on the restoration of Michelangelo’s painting of the Sistine Chapel. Kelley discussed the science used by those restoring the original work and how their efforts have revealed that the original colors were much more vibrant than previously thought.

While still a high school student in Flint, Kelly knew she wanted to be an art historian.

“Surprisingly, I never changed my mind,” she chuckled. “I really liked the social side of art. What were these cultures thinking and doing? How were they approaching religion and politics? The history of art is really all about that. It’s about how did these objects function in that world in which they were created.”

While Kelley continues her research interest in the art of 16th century Spain, she realized some time ago that the classroom was her calling.

“I went into graduate school really knowing that I wanted to teach.”

Kelley was unsure where that would be. While completing her Ph.D. at Cornell University in New York, her husband, Aaron, took a job in Michigan. SVSU had an opening. Kelley recalls thinking, “This is the type of school where I’d like to be, and it’s the region where I’d like to be.”

Now in her second year, she is pleased with her decision. “I like the campus environment; I like the student body; I like my job.”

Part of that job involves teaching students from big cities and small towns, with and without much exposure to art. “I find it rewarding to have a variety of experiences with a variety of students.”

For those students initially disinterested, Kelly hopes they will leave her class with “a slight urge” to one day visit an art museum or enroll their children in art classes.

“To be a culturally educated person, it’s important to know something about art.”
Mike Pazdro decided to sign up for an accelerated honors course over the summer. He didn’t return to school, but he did take on the most difficult assignment of his career: renovating Wickes Hall.

“I don’t know if you can put it into words,” he said. “It’s the hardest project I’ve ever been involved with.” Pazdro asked for the job. “It was pretty complicated and I wanted to test myself.”

Pazdro explained it was really two projects in one: renovating office spaces and relocating several departments while also updating the building’s 40-year-old HVAC system. Each had its own challenges.

“This is the hardest building to work in by the function of the building and the nature of the people who work here,” he explained. “You have Admissions and Financial Aid and the amount of students they need to take care of, so there’s no shut down time. It was right down to the wire.”

Installing the new air handler resulted in the widely chronicled roof leak and several preventable instances of the fire alarm being tripped. Despite all the obstacles, nearly everything was in place when fall classes started August 30, and Pazdro attributes that success to effective teamwork.

“Once I’m done with the contractors, everybody else has to get in there,” he explained.

He said the pressure was on a variety of other campus departments, too, including ITS and Instructional Technology; Maintenance and Custodial; Purchasing and University Police, to name a few.

Pazdro also oversaw other summer projects, such as the renovation of Living Center North and the construction of the new Papa John’s outlets. He particularly enjoyed seeing the new tennis courts built. The most difficult part of staying on top of them all simultaneously? “The schedule,” Pazdro said. “Without a doubt, the schedule.”

Pazdro’s personal schedule did not see much of a summer break, either, as he and his family moved into a new house. One of the perks: It has a “cave” where he can spend quiet time with his daughter, Jessa, 4. Another: It is located near the Chippewa Nature Center, making it easy for the family to go kayaking.

Pazdro has enjoyed his five years at SVSU, and he is eager to get started on new projects, such as expanding the Fitness Center and building the new Student Recreation Center.

“I spend enough time over there,” the avid volleyball player quipped. Still, Pazdro is hoping for an extra slice of sanity. “This summer was a little crazy.”
New Cardinals

- **Jocelyn Hall**, head cheerleading coach, announces the birth of her daughter, Emerson Jennifer (7 lbs., 11 oz.) Sept. 9.
- **Mark Potts**, special assistant to the provost, announces the birth of his son, Henry Daniel Scudder (7 lbs., 12 oz., 20 in.) Sept. 1.

Condolences

- To **Janalou Blecke**, professor of health services, whose mother, Meta Farver, passed away Aug. 24.
- To **Michelle Randall**, lecturer of art, whose husband, John J. Randall, passed away Aug. 25.

For extra copies of the 2010-11 Faculty/Staff Directory, contact the mailroom at ext. 4466.

Briefly Speaking

- Portraits of William B. Owsley, Kurt Tintner and Jo Stanley were added recently to the displays in the Emeriti Room and the lounge adjacent to the President’s Office. Owsley and Tintner, two of SVSU’s earliest faculty members, were named “Professor Emeritus” in 1975 and 1987, respectively; however, suitable portraits were not made available to SVSU until very recently. The portrait of Owsley was provided courtesy of Donna J. Baker, head of special collection and archives, Camden-Carroll Library, at Morehead State University in Kentucky. Prior to joining the SVSU faculty, Owsley taught at Morehead State from 1950-1964. Tintner, whose portrait also is on display at the Germania Club in Saginaw, taught German at SVSU and was conductor and musical director of the Germania Symphony Orchestra for 33 years. Plates on the three portrait frames read as follows: William B. Owsley, 1967-1975, Professor Emeritus of Biology; Kurt Tintner, 1967-1987, Professor Emeritus of German; and Jo A. Stanley, 1979-2010, Secretary to the Board of Control Emerita.

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