



Theodore Roethke

POETRY & ARTS FESTIVAL

ON THE CAMPUS OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
AND IN THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION

POETRY SLAM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

7:00 p.m. • Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum (campus of SVSU)

Adults, college students, high school and middle school students are invited to participate in a poetry slam. Winners selected by judges.

RHYME AND WINE: A "TASTING" OF WINE AND ROETHKE POETRY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

3:00 p.m. • Creative 360 (1517 Bayliss, Midland)

\$12.00 C360 members; \$15.00 non-members. Reservations: www.becreative.org, in person or (989) 837-1885.

Join local poets who will read their favorite Roethke poetry and pour their favorite wines in this casual and fun afternoon dedicated to gaining an appreciation of the 'finer things in life.'

FROM A GREENHOUSE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

4:00 p.m. • Dow Gardens (1809 Eastman, Midland)

In celebration of Roethke's family business and love of nature, this special event will feature Triennial Prize Winner David Baker, reading from select poetry.

Sponsored by the Dow Gardens. **This event is free and open to the public.** Light refreshments.

LETTERS FROM HOME

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:00 p.m. • Roberta Allen Reading Room (4th floor, Zahnnow Library; SVSU)

Members of River Junction Poets celebrate Roethke with readings of letters written from and about his Saginaw home.

Free and open to the public.

HAUNTS OF ROETHKE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. • Leaving from Zahnnow Library, SVSU

Before the tour, guests can view the Roethke Sculpture and posters from Bay City Central students (first floor library), then venture to the fourth floor to see a display of Roethke materials. Light refreshments.

Guided tour includes visits to the Roethke House, the riverfront, Oakwood Cemetery and the Schuch Hotel. The tour includes van transportation to sites, admission to the Roethke House, an information booklet, snacks and refreshments at the Schuch.

Price is \$30.00 and the tour is sponsored by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Reservations required: (989) 964-4475, www.svsu.edu/olli or walk-in to OLLI-SVSU, 142 Curtiss Hall.

THE SVSU BOARD OF FELLOWS TRIENNIAL

Theodore Roethke MEMORIAL POETRY PRIZE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

7:00 p.m. • Rhea Miller Recital Hall (SVSU)

Named for the late Saginaw poet who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1954, this distinguished prize has been awarded since 1968. The 2011 winner is David Baker for his 2009 poetry volume, "Never-Ending Birds."

Book signing follows the prize event. **Free and open to the public.**

FESTIVAL OF ROETHKE CONCERT: A TRIBUTE IN FOUR PARTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

7:30 p.m. • First Presbyterian Church (805 Center, Bay City)

A concert that includes music set to Roethke poetry as well as jazz music (a favored musical genre of Roethke). The concert directed by Dr. Eric Nisula features a string quartet, a set of Ned Rorem's "Roethke Songs" featuring soprano Tami Snyder-Knutson, jazz artist Shirlene Zaren-taj Brown and a final ensemble performance. **Free and open to the public.**

Support from the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation, the Saginaw Community Foundation, Dow Gardens, and Saginaw Valley State University.

Kevin Simons

Assistant Professor of Music

Kevin Simons never expected to have his current job. Even after starting as an adjunct music instructor in 2005, he planned to make his living elsewhere.

“I always thought I would be a community choir director or church musician. Teaching was not central to what I did; I was a performer.”

Over time, Simons’ inclinations changed.

“I saw the need from our students; they were really anxious to learn. That, coupled with the fact that I found I enjoyed teaching more than I thought I would.”

Simons also leads the vocal group Cardinal Singers, now in its fourth year.

“The students wanted a laboratory for what they were going to do when they got out to teach. We needed an ensemble we could take to the schools. It was really student-driven, and it still is.”

The group has achieved rapid success and attained national recognition. Cardinal Singers was selected to perform in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on March 4, 2012. It’s a rare opportunity; Simons says the Cathedral invites only five to 10 choirs per year. While proud of them, he didn’t expect to be chosen this year.

“I sent a recording as a lark,” Simons admitted. He was thrilled to share the news.

“They were so excited. The first question was, ‘Do you think we can really go?’ The fact that we are such a young ensemble makes this really quite amazing. It’s really a testament to the students’ willingness to work hard.”

And there will be no letting up over the next few months. “We do not want to sound shabby,” Simons said with a laugh. “We’re putting the pedal to the metal.”

Extra practice is required, as the group already has scheduled performances this semester on campus and with the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. Simons hopes for good attendance from the campus community in advance of their trip.

While music is an academic pursuit for some, it is an extracurricular activity for others. Simons says there is value in each.

“We train our students to think creatively,” he said. “That’s going to benefit them even if they go on to be astrophysicists. Music is a way of learning. It is a way of training the mind. It’s a way of learning discipline.”

Simons appreciates the support music receives at SVSU.

“That’s one of the reasons why it’s great to teach here: we’re in a place that values the arts.”

Simons is on his way to becoming a fixture in that place.

“It’s a great job. It’s one I never thought I would like.”



Judy Youngquist

Senior ESL Specialist • October 2011

Judy Youngquist is often among the first to greet international students who come to SVSU. She is responsible for developing their English proficiency. Some can matriculate into traditional academic course work quickly; others arrive with no English background.

“Some come here and they can’t say a word, so we have a lot of work to do,” she said.

It’s work Youngquist has enjoyed since she began at SVSU in 1999. Before teaching English as a second language full time, she worked as a writing coordinator in the Writing Center.

“That was a period of much professional growth,” she said. “I learned a lot about the different assignments professors are asking students to do, and learned about the issues students are facing as they try to grapple with those assignments.”

That knowledge serves Youngquist well, noting one of her biggest challenges is building students’ academic vocabulary. Another obstacle is teaching students how to use sources properly when writing papers. “We work with the other faculty to get our students to a level where they really can be successful.”

Some hurdles are cultural, such as teaching students to speak up in class. “It’s a huge leap when they realize that’s encouraged,” she explained. Is English a difficult language to learn? “The students say ‘no,’ compared to other languages,” Youngquist said.

Still, some aspects, such as idioms and phrasal verbs – “look up”

or “sit down” – prove particularly difficult for many. Fortunately, tools have improved.

“Dictionaries are getting much better now. There’s been a sea change, really.”

Teaching methods are evolving, as well. “We recently revised the curriculum,” Youngquist explained. “We’re going to be using COMPASS, a standardized test. We’re going to be using that for placement and exit in the future.”

Wherever she is, Youngquist loves music. She regularly attends performances of the Midland Symphony Orchestra and has been known to travel to Cleveland for an appealing concert.

Youngquist is pleased she and her English Language Program colleagues are located in the same office suite as International Programs.

“We have a great staff, and we appreciate our new location. We are the support system for our international students.”

That hit home in a personal way during spring Commencement exercises when a number of the graduates were among the first cohort of Saudi Arabian students to enroll.

“We were so pleased last May when we saw 30 of our students graduate,” Youngquist said. “One student came up to me and gave me a hug. The beam on his face is something that I’ll remember for many years.”



Professional Profile

• **Debra R. Bishop**, professor of management, and **Christopher J. Surfield**, associate professor of economics, published “Hispanic Professionals and Managers: Moving Forward by Looking Back” in *Hispanics at Work: A Collection of Research, Theory and Application*.

• **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, was a featured speaker at the Memorial Library in New York City, Sept. 11. The focus of his talk, “The Chora of the Twin Towers,” for this event sponsored by the Holocaust Educators Network and New York City Writing Project, was also published in *Enculturation: A Journal of Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture*.

• **Drew Hinderer**, Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics, presented “Applying Ethics in Health Care: Problems and Prospects” at the 2nd Annual Tri City Collaboration In Health Care Ethics Conference at SVSU, Sept. 23. **James Hitt**, assistant professor of philosophy, also presented “Case Study: Ethics Consultation at Maimonides Medical Center.” Hinderer and Hitt coordinated the conference, along with Debra Miller, ethics officer at the Aleda Lutz Veterans Administration Medical Center. In addition, Hitt presented on a panel titled “What Works” at the conference. Also, Hitt presented a paper titled “Vegetative State as a Postulate of Medical Knowledge” as part of a one-day conference titled “Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium,” Sept. 10, as well as part of a two-day conference titled “Medical Humanities Conference 2011” at Western Michigan University, Sept. 29-30.

• **Kathy Kalmar**, associate professor of teacher education, had an article titled “Each Day Should Be Father’s Day: The Importance of a Father in His Children’s Lives” published in *TOP: Tips on Parenting*, University of Utah, Summer, 2011.

• **Kaustav Misra**, assistant professor of economics, had a paper titled “Measuring Public School Competition from Private Schools: A Gravity Based Index” (co-authored with Guangqing Chi) accepted for publication in the *Journal of Geographic Information System*. Also, Misra published a paper titled “The Wages of Religion” (co-authored with Joshua D. Pitts and Thomas H. Henry) in the *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 2011. In addition, Misra co-presented “Corporate Governance Provisions Enhancing Controlling Owners’ Voting Rights in Family Firms: A Panel Data Analysis” with E. Memili and J.J. Chrisman at the Southern Management Association meeting in Savannah. This paper was selected as the Best Doctoral Paper in the Entrepreneurship/Information Technology/Innovation track 2011. They also presented another paper titled “Family Involvement and the Use of Corporate Governance Provisions Protecting Controlling versus Non-controlling Owners” at the conference.

• **Mark Potts**, assistant dean of the College of Business & Management, and **George Puia**, associate dean of the College of Business & Management/Dow Chemical Company Centennial Chair in Global Business, published “Entrepreneurship in the European Union: Unified is not Uniform” in the *International Journal of E-Entrepreneurship and Innovation*, July-September 2011. Also, Puia was named a “Fellow” of the Association for Global Business Advancement at its annual conference in Dalian China, Sept. 17. The AGBA Fellow is a distinguished life achievement award given in recognition of a scholar’s total body of work.



Todd Herremans delivers remarks at a dedication ceremony for the Herremans Family Weight Room, Oct. 20 in Ryder Center. A four-year (2001-04) starter on the Cardinal football team, Herremans presently is in his seventh season as a starting tackle for the Philadelphia Eagles in the National Football League. In 2003, he helped lead the Cardinals to the only undefeated regular season in school history. His donation to the Athletic Department made it possible to update the weight room, including adding additional equipment for strength training.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, discovered a new species – an orange and black fly from a western Michigan swamp. The finding will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Southwestern Entomologist* as “A New Species of Docosia Winnertz Fungus Gnat (Diptera; Mycetophilidae).”

Condolences

- To **Ellen Herlache**, assistant professor occupational therapy, whose mother, Jacquelin M. Herlache, a 2010 retiree from SVSU as a math basic skills coordinator, passed away Oct. 7.
- To **Carrie Sorensen**, professor of teacher education, whose mother, Rosemary W. Sorensen, passed away Oct. 19.

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty and staff may present the alumni scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during Commencement at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16; call Suzette Zimmerman at ext. 4384 to make arrangements. Faculty and staff are reminded to place orders for regalia (which is provided free of charge to faculty, adjunct faculty and staff); orders are due by Friday, Nov. 4. To order your regalia go to svsu.edu/webapps/regalia. If you have your own regalia and plan to attend, please go to the above site to confirm that you will be attending. To confirm that your regalia order was received, call the Bookstore at ext. 4277.
- For a listing of grants recently awarded to SVSU faculty and staff, go to blogs.svsu.edu/newsroom.

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: jjboehm@svsu.edu.**