

Extensive collection of Joyce works donated to Melvin J. Zahnow Library

SVSU recently received a donation of more than 350 books, including some first editions, written by or relating to James Joyce, the early 20th century Irish author.

Professor of English James Sullivan has taught two upper division courses on Joyce (Early Joyce Seminar and Ulysses Seminar) and considers him among the leading literary figures of the past century.

“Joyce has long been considered one of our literary giants,” Sullivan said. “Together with Kafka and Proust, Europeans mark his texts among the milestones of modern literature. Three of his four volumes have recently been ranked among the top literary works of the 20th century: *Dubliners*, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and of course, *Ulysses*. These texts and a host of critical

commentary on them make up the bulk of the generous donation.”

The volumes previously belonged to the late George A. Ellis, a Saginaw physician who regularly traveled to Dublin, Ireland, to attend Joyce seminars and who personally acquired the extensive collection. George’s son, Ronan Ellis of El Dorado Hills, Calif., donated the collection on behalf of the

family. A plaque will be placed in a suitable location to thank the family for their generous gift.

Library staff currently are cataloging the books, which should soon be in circulation. Sullivan recently reviewed the collection and came away impressed.

“It is substantial not only in number but also in depth,” he said. “It contains an extensive body of classic Joyce criticism, too broad to mention other than noting the works by William York Tindall, the doyen of Joyce studies at Columbia University as well as those of his successor in the post Mike Seidel.”

Sullivan said the donation will greatly benefit literature majors and others.

“For students, the collection makes available the sort of depth needed to pursue serious study of one of the giants of the modern temper,” he said. “In the future, we can expect a variety of research papers as well as honors theses being generated by this treasure trove. Students will no longer have to travel to distant sources to venture forth on a writer that never fails to surprise, and to reward study.”

For a Joycean devotee such as Sullivan, the collection arrives at a particularly opportune time.

“The next academic year will be the centenary of the publication of *Dubliners* and the appearance of the first installments of *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.”

Carlos Ramet, executive assistant to the president/ executive director of public affairs and professor of English, coordinated the donation from the Ellis family.



Carlos Ramet, executive assistant to the president/executive director of public affairs, Linda Farynk, director of the Melvin J. Zahnow Library, and James Sullivan, professor of English, discuss the collection of books authored by James Joyce that recently was donated to SVSU by the family of George Ellis.

Dow Corning CEO to address SVSU Graduates

The December 2012 graduating class will hear a Commencement address given by Bob Hansen, the president and CEO of Dow Corning. The ceremony will be held Friday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. inside the Ryder Center.

Hansen became president of the Dow Corning Corporation in 2010 and chief executive officer in 2011. He has risen through the ranks of the company, a global innovator and manufacturer headquartered in Midland with nearly 12,000 employees worldwide, and has held a number of positions in the U.S. and abroad.

In all, 549 students are expected to graduate, including 445 who will receive bachelor’s degrees, and 104 who will receive master’s or education specialist degrees.

Catherine Macomber

Assistant Professor of Social Work

If you walk into Catherine Macomber's office and peek at her shelves, you might notice a book with a title that asks, "What Are Old People For?"

"I've always had an affinity toward elders," Macomber said. "They're fascinating people."

That fascination has always fueled Macomber's passions at SVSU. Interested in social work, she first arrived in 2001 pursuing her master's degree. For an internship, Macomber asked faculty members if she could study the department itself, searching for ways to integrate gerontology — the study of the elderly — into the core curriculum. Her proposal was met with an enthused yes.

By 2005, Macomber was working as an adjunct instructor, teaching classes on aging. Within four years, she became the department's field assistant, helping place social work majors in real-world work environments to gain experience. Now she's completing a Ph.D. in social work and a master's degree in public health. And in her first year as an SVSU faculty member, she works as the lead field coordinator.

Catherine's road to her work wasn't easy. Her first job after graduate school was in nursing home social work, which proved from the start to be problematic. "A social worker is supposed to

be a voice," she said. "But it's hard to be a voice for a vulnerable population who's being abused by the people who are paying you."

After four years, she switched professions, becoming a long-term care ombudsman who ensured that residents of 48 Michigan nursing homes were treated well.

"And I spent the first six months of that feeling guilty about all that I had not done in my last job," Catherine said. "That's what motivated me to go back to school. I couldn't just sit there and be ignorant about this anymore."

So, what are old people for? Well, modern Western culture tries to distance itself from the business of growing old.

"But it's not a problem with how we treat aging," she said. "It's a problem with how we view community. We used to be a society that was all about neighborhoods. Today, do we know the people who live within a five-mile radius of our homes very well? That's what I'd like my work to really address."

In fact, if you walk into Macomber's office, you'll notice a framed poster resting on the floor against the wall, titled "How To Build Community." And under a long list of suggestions — from "Know your neighbors" to "Have pot lucks" — there is one final thought.

"Know that no one is silent, though many are not heard. Work to change this."



Kayla Gatzka | Bill Stec

Event Coordinator | AV/Event Specialist • November 2012

For Bill Stec and Kayla Gatzka, work comes with a world of tiny details — along with Post-It notes and a calendar whose breadth can set off panic attacks.

Bill and Kayla are two teammates in the University Conference & Events Center. The 12-person crew, responsible for 8,000 to 10,000 events that go on at the university every year, is a one-stop shop for arranging any kind of get-together, from a meeting of a half-dozen to a conference for a thousand.

“We’re the hub, the go-to people,” Bill said. “People come to us, and then we communicate with Dining Services, Campus Facilities, grounds and maintenance.”

“We handle pretty much everything but classes,” Kayla said. “And sometimes, we handle those, too.”

As partners in planning, Bill and Kayla chime in on each other’s responses; clearly, they’re relaxed in their work.

Sometimes, that work is simply making sure the right door is unlocked. And sometimes it’s disaster response.

A few years ago, for instance, the crew was arranging a wedding reception at SVSU’s Curtiss Hall when the hand of calamity struck. As crew members made final touches, Kayla looked over and saw the wedding cake — the carefully crafted work of the bride’s aunt — had collapsed under its own weight. Cake fragments plastered the

floor. In an immediate response (UCEC handles some 50 weddings a year), a chef tried his best to piece the cake together, as someone else raced to the car to buy more dessert, and Kayla comforted the miserable cake-maker who felt she’d failed her niece.

“In this business, you have to expect the unexpected,” Kayla said. “The clients can be stressed, and you need to be able to work with them and not be stressed, too.”

When she was a student, Kayla worked as an intern for UCEC in 2009, then transitioned into full-time work right out of college. As for Bill, previously he worked at the Dow Event Center, where he was director of hospitality and sales, until he joined SVSU in 2010.

Outside these halls, Kayla loves recreation, enjoying Zumba and her volleyball league. Bill manages a softball team, although he and his wife are busy with their young daughter, Makenzie, whose first birthday will come Christmas Eve.

It’s no stretch to say that, with Bill and Kayla, the feeling is like a cappuccino: it blends a caffeinated vigilance for detail with a pleasant, lighthearted warmth. The pair is frequently laughing.

“Well, that’s what we do to relieve the pressure,” Kayla said.

“You have to,” Bill answered, a reminder-covered Post-It note in hand. “In this business, you’re going to get stressed, so you have to laugh it out.”



Professional Profile

- **Diane Boehm**, director of instructional support program & university writing program, and **Helen Raica-Klotz**, lecturer of English, presented “The Shifting Sands of Self Efficacy: Developing Self Efficacy in Student Writers” at the International Writing Centers Association Conference, held Oct. 24-28 in San Diego, Calif.
- **Julie Foss**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, was elected to a four-year term on the executive board of the Michigan World Language Association, and will serve as president in 2015. Foss presented “Going Beyond Assessment with the Oral Proficiency Interview” at MIWLA’s 48th annual conference in Lansing, Oct. 25-26.
- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, had his rediscovery of a “missing” chapter from Frances Ellen Watkins Harper’s 1876 serialized *Christian Recorder* novel *Sowing and Reaping* discussed in the October 2012 issue of the online journal *Common-place*, available at common-place.org. Gardner found the chapter, previously thought to be lost, while working earlier this year at the American Antiquarian Society.
- **Joseph Jaksa**, associate professor of criminal justice, had a paper titled “Identity Crisis – Teaching the concepts and history of private security to undergraduate criminal justice students: A preliminary study” published in the October 2012 edition of the *Journal of Applied Security Research*.
- **Kerry Segel**, professor of English, along with SVSU TESOL Certificate program graduates Michael Gibson, Eric Moulds, Pam Venema, and Melojeane Zawalinski, presented “Designing Task-based Lesson Plans with Language and Literacy Objectives” at the annual Michigan Conference on the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages, held Oct. 11 at Madonna University.
- **Gladys Zubulake**, professor of modern foreign languages, presented “Frida” at the Michigan World Language Association Conference, Oct. 25-26 in Lansing, with her students: Deyanira Costilla, Grace Olvera and Josh Andres.

Condolences

- To the family of **Mary Jane Gingrich**, who passed away Nov. 3; she had retired from SVSU in December 1991 as a library supervisor in circulation.

FOURTH FRIDAY RECEPTIONS

Join Your Faculty & Staff Colleagues in 2013

Jan. 25 • Feb. 22 • March 22 • April 26

Refreshments served from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
President’s Reception Area & Board of Control Room
Third Floor Wickes Hall

The “Golden Shoe” will remain “at home”

SVSU has won the seventh annual Battle of Valleys Pedometer Challenge. The Human Resources department thanks all the participants that helped keep the Golden Shoe at SVSU for the fifth time in seven years!

2012 Pedometer Challenge Statistics

- SVSU: Average Steps Per Participant – 433,320.
- GVSU: Average Steps Per Participant – 378,154.

SVSU Internal Challenge

- First Place: “Cardio-Cards” – Captain Angela Stepsis, Todd Stepsis, Jill Allardyce and Shelly Reminder. Average Steps Per Participant – 874,822; Prize – \$100 each.
- Second Place: “Kin-E for the Win-E” – Captain Michelle Rzepka, Rebecca Schlaff, Jeremy Knous and Jessica Mospan. Average Steps Per Participant – 813,115; Prize – \$75 each.
- Third Place: “The Unstompables...Reloaded” – Captain Christopher Surfied, Larry Kickham, Wei Wei Liu and Surrender Reddy. Average Steps Per Participant – 797,579; Prize – \$50 each.

- To **Walt Head**, baseball coach, whose mother, Ellen Irene Pellerin, passed away Nov. 2.
- To **Sharon (Elmer) Schumacher**, custodian, whose mother, Hazel P. Nitz, passed away Oct. 24.
- To **Bob Tutsock**, director of environmental health & safety, whose mother-in-law, Charlotte Riley, passed away Nov. 5.

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty and staff may present the diploma cover to graduating members of their immediate family at Commencement, Friday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m., in the Ryder Center. Call Suzette Zimmerman at ext. 4384 to make arrangements.

Prizes awarded to Sims competitors

Demarcus Pringle, a senior communication major from Saginaw, took top honors in the 23rd annual Sims Public Speaking Competition. He won first place for his speech “All In,” and claimed the top prize of \$400 at the event Friday, Nov. 9.

Second place went to Carly Anderson, a senior communication major from Midland, for her speech, “The N Word?” The third place prize went to Rachel Stocki for her piece, “School Uniforms.” She’s a sophomore from St. Clair, majoring in business and political science. In all, 23 students competed at the event.

Endowed by Larry and Linda Sims and co-sponsored by the Department of Communication, the competition is open to students from all disciplines.

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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Please send items by email to: jjboehm@svsu.edu.**