

Book examining the growth of Islam in Detroit wins SVSU literature award

The winner of the 2015-16 SVSU Stuart D. and Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature is an author of a book tracing the roots of Islam in Detroit.

Sally Howell, associate professor of history at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, received the award and its \$1,000 prize.

Her book, "Old Islam in Detroit: Rediscovering the Muslim American Past," looks at the development of Muslim communities in Detroit since the first mosque was established in 1893. It analyzes the conflicts between new and established Muslims of 1970s Detroit over various subjects including manner of worship and the embrace of American identities.

Many Muslims, the book points out, came to Detroit after the invention of the assembly line, making the city their home during the auto industrial boom. In her book, Howell connects the



Sally Howell (second from right) received SVSU's Gross Award for Literature Tuesday, Feb. 16. On hand to present the award were Anita Dey (left), director of Zahnow Library at SVSU; Deb Huntley, SVSU provost; Powell; and Don Bachand, SVSU president.

phenomenon to current events, arguing that the 1970s view of Islam has influenced how many Americans view the religion today.

Howell has been published in multiple journals and was an editor for the book, "Arab Detroit 9/11: Life in the Terror

Decade," and a co-author of the book, "Citizenship and Crisis: Arab Detroit after 9/11." She visited the SVSU campus Tuesday, Feb. 16 to receive her award.

Established by the late Stuart D. Gross and his wife, Vernice, the Gross Award for Literature

is administered by SVSU. Winners are selected by a panel of judges from SVSU's staff and faculty. Judges this year were M. Patricia Cavanaugh, professor of English; Catherine Curtis, reference librarian; Brad Jarvis, associate professor of history; Beth Johns, electronic resources and reference librarian; and Carlos Ramet, associate dean of the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences.

Employed for many years as a journalist with The Saginaw News, Gross joined the SVSU staff in the school's early years and served in a variety of public affairs roles. He was recognized as a regional historian and published several books. Among his writings are, "Saginaw: A History of the Land and City," "When Timber was King," and "Where There is a Will." Following his retirement from SVSU, Gross wrote and produced a play, "Let's Have Lunch Sometime." He died in 1996; Mrs. Gross, in 2001.



More than 100 faculty and staff attended the second annual Teaching and Learning Symposium Friday, Feb. 19, hosted by SVSU's Center for Academic Innovation. "We want to thank our colleagues who attended and participated in the symposium," said Poonam Kumar, director of the CAI. The keynote address was given by Kenn Barron, professor of psychology at James Madison University and co-director of the Motivation Research Institute. "He helped us better understand the various ways motivation can enhance student learning and campus culture," said Bob Lane, professor of political science and faculty liaison for the CAI.

Bradley Herzog

Assistant Professor of Rhetoric & Professional Writing

Bradley Herzog is passionate about the medieval version of search engines: the human memory. He has led research and published journal articles — along with a book chapter — on how particular medieval women used memory arts.

“Today, we have computers, cloud-based storage and USB drives that can store massive amounts of information,” Herzog said. “In the middle ages, people had to find ways to store what they needed, so they would develop memory networks. In monastic communities, a lot of them would memorize scriptures and use that as a framework to develop other things.”

Herzog has researched two women mystics in the late Middle Ages who turned those “memory archives” into English language texts: Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe. Julian of Norwich wrote one of the first books authored by a woman in the English language. Kempe wrote a text some consider the first autobiography by a woman in the English language.

Herzog co-edited and contributed to a collection of essays on memory arts and medieval women, titled “Reading Memory and Identity in the Texts of Medieval European Holy Women.”

His passion for research also extends to World War II-era documents that unjustly authorized establishing internment camps for Japanese-American citizens in the United States. Herzog plans to present on his research in May at a Rhetoric Society of America

conference in Atlanta. He became interested in the subject at a young age when he met neighbors who were forced to live in one of the camps.

“That really astounded me,” Herzog said. “Many of these people were U.S. citizens whose basic rights were violated. This is relevant now because you can see the same kinds of fears and biases used against Muslims and people from Middle Eastern and Arab countries.”

Herzog’s interest in Japanese people extends beyond research. One of his favorite experiences since joining SVSU involved serving as an exchange professor with the university’s sister school in Japan, Shikoku University.

“That was a wonderful time,” Herzog said of his four-month visit in 2014. The experience included trips to the nation’s temples and shrines, as well as a visit to Hiroshima.

Herzog also is enthusiastic about a number of new initiatives underway the Department of Rhetoric & Professional Writing. RPW students are helping to test and improve documents and media featured both in SVSU’s website as well as the websites of external clients. He also is inviting students to present their research in April at an undergraduate conference sponsored by SVSU’s Association of Professional and Technical Writers.

“It’s an exciting time,” Herzog said. “There’s a lot going on.”



Bethany Montgomery

Custodian/Assistant Foreman • February Staff Member of the Month

SVSU never sleeps.

Bethany Montgomery is witness to this. The assistant foreman, since joining SVSU as a custodian in 2002, has worked third shift, making sure the campus looks brand new by the time students, staff and faculty arrive each morning.

“It’s a very busy job,” said Montgomery. “It can be pretty quiet, but it’s always busy.”

The Linwood native arrives for work at 11 p.m. and checks out at 7 a.m.

Sometimes.

“She is the type who we have to basically force her to leave at the end of the shift,” said Doris Wenglikowski, manager of custodial operations. “She always wants to make sure I’m up to speed on everything that’s transpired during the third shift before she leaves for the day.”

Wenglikowski said she often touches base with Montgomery when their shifts overlap in the early morning.

“Beth is very conscientious and detail oriented,” Wenglikowski said. “She is consistently helps follow-up on details and makes sure little things do not fall through the cracks. She is very dependable and has outstanding attendance, often cancelling her personal plans if she knows we are going to be short on staffing on a given night.”

Montgomery said helping colleagues is one of her favorite aspects

of the job. During most shifts, she helps maintain SVSU’s Fieldhouse. When a co-worker needs help — whether that help involves cleaning a carpet or delivering supplies — Montgomery is able to work in another corner of the campus.

“I like the variety,” she said. “I’m not always doing the same thing, and I get to move around a lot.”

Third shift at SVSU offers a different environment than the rest of the day, she said. Fewer students, faculty and staff are present on campus, so any interaction by the custodial crew is among themselves.

“We see each other here and there, but mostly we have our own areas, so a lot of times we’re working alone,” she said. “Some of us are close, though.”

Montgomery said her third-shift schedule often continues during her days off, but she manages to stay active and social in her personal lives.

She lives in nearby Frankenlust Township with her husband, Randy, and their Cocker Spaniel, Bear. After work, she typically goes to sleep until 1 p.m. When she wakes up, she enjoys exercising at the Freeland SportsZone and shopping. Eventually, she takes a nap before waking up and starting the day again.

“Working third makes it hard to sleep sometimes,” she said. “I really enjoy my job though.”



Professional Profile

- **Byungil Ahn**, associate professor of history, published an article titled “The Migration of Ethnic Chinese from Korea to the U.S. and Their Ethnic Identity: A Case Study in Michigan” in the *Journal of Korean Cultural Anthropology*; and a book chapter titled “The Irony of China’s Victory in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir” in Heungnam, the Winter of 1950, published by National Museum of Korean Contemporary History. In January, Ahn presented “Field Research in Northern China: Findings and Further Inquires” at the Meeting Room of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jan. 12 at Incheon National University, China.
- **Emily Beard-Bohn** and **Jason Kahler**, assistant professors of English, each presented papers at the conference of the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association, Feb. 10-13 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, organized and edited a collection on the Rhetoric of Pinball for Itineration: Cross Disciplinary Studies in Rhetoric, Media, and Culture.
- **James M. Hitt**, associate professor of philosophy, published “Habit and Social Institutions” in *William James Studies* (Vol. 11, 2015). Hitt also coordinated and hosted the 6th Annual Great Lakes Bay Collaborative Health Care Ethics Conference, Feb. 12 at SVSU.
- **Peggy Mead-Finizio**, assistant professor of theatre, was a judge of theatrical props for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region III, Jan. 6-10 in Milwaukee.
- **Mike Mosher**, professor of art/communication & multimedia, presented “Aggressive Drawing: A Figurative Foundation” at the 104th Annual Conference of the College Art Association, Feb. 3-6 in Washington, D.C.
- **Stephen Taber**, professor of biology, had a manuscript titled “Two New Nearctic Species of Syntemna Winnertz Fungus Gnats (Diptera: Mycetophilidae)” accepted for publication in *Southwestern Entomologist*.

New Cardinals

- **Bryan Crainer**, associate dean for student life & leadership programs, announced the birth of a son, Elijah Cole Crainer (9 lbs., 1 oz., 19 in.), Feb. 17.
- **Rachel Florence-Spaetzel**, director of orientation programs, announced the birth of a son, Jay Thomas Spaetzel, Feb. 7.
- **Katrina Friedeberg**, associate director of student life, announced the birth of a daughter, Zaralyn Zoey Friedeberg, Jan. 22.
- **Ryan Trevithick**, assistant women’s basketball coach, announced the birth of a daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Trevithick (7 lbs., 9 oz., 19.5 in.), Feb. 12.

Condolences

- To **Mary Aumann**, manager of enterprise applications, whose mother-in-law, Lete Aumann, passed away Feb. 11.
- To the family of **William G. Elliott**, retired professor of law & finance, passed away Jan. 26.

- To **Linda Schmidt**, administrative assistant to the executive director of alumni relations, whose mother-in-law, Shirley Ann Schmidt, passed away Feb. 18.

- To the family of **Leonard Schmidt**, who passed away Feb. 11. Schmidt retired from SVSU in 2002 as a custodian.

- To the family of **Deanna Schultz**, who passed away Jan. 29. Schultz, who was named SVSU’s 1997 Honorary Alumna, retired as a senior secretary in the SVSU Foundation.

Briefly Speaking

- Beginning with the Spring 2016 registration period, SVSU will offer continual registration and multi-term registration. When registration begins March 14, it will remain open until the end of late registration week (Wednesday of the first week of classes). There will be a few days where registration will be temporarily closed for system maintenance. The priority registration system for credit hours/class standing will be in effect at the beginning of the registration period. Beginning April 4, students will be able to register for the fall 2016 and winter 2017 semesters at the same time. Fall and winter registration will also be continuous until the end of late registration week (Friday of the first week of classes for those respective semesters). The entire registration schedule will be posted online in the near future by the Office of the Registrar.
- The SVSU men’s and women’s basketball programs each captured regular-season conference championships. The men finished with an 18-4 GLIAC record, which tied for first overall and was the top finish in the GLIAC North division; the league title is the program’s first since the 1984-85 season. The women posted a 17-5 GLIAC record, finishing in a tie atop the GLIAC North standings; this marked a first for the program in the 20 years the league has crowned division winners.
- The Board of Control on Feb. 15 approved tenure for 17 faculty: **Emily Beard**, English; **James Bowers**, criminal justice; **Colleen D’Arcy**, teacher education; **Sherrin Frances**, English; **Melissa Garmo**, criminal justice; **Dennis Gray**, biology; **Ellen Herlache-Pretzer**, occupational therapy; **Kim Lacey**, English; **Thomas Mahank**, mechanical engineering; **Andrew Miller**, geography; **Rajan Murgan**, physics; **Emmanuel Ncheuguim**, mathematical sciences; **Jean Prast**, occupational therapy; **Sheruni Ratnabalasuriar**, criminal justice; **Jennifer Stinson**, history; **Rebecca Toth**, nursing; and **Charles Weaver**, health sciences.

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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