



THE INTERIOR

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Dean Kerman explores cultural life in Cuba

Judy Kerman's evolving interest in a Cuban poet motivated her to overcome obstacles to travel to the Castro-dominated island. She recently returned from a week-long visit highlighted by a 45-minute interview with Dulce María Loynaz, a 95-year-old poet whose work Kerman has been translating. Kerman also enjoyed more extensive meetings with several of Loynaz' colleagues and friends.

"Dulce María recently had surgery and her activities are limited, so I was pleased to have this conversation with her," Kerman said. "I read poems to her and gave her a book of her poems I have translated, as well as other gifts," she said. Kerman was allowed to take a few photos of Loynaz, and learned that the poet is working on a history of Vedado, the district of Havana where she grew up.

Loynaz elected to remain in Cuba when the revolution put Communist leader Castro in power, though she remained in seclusion until recent years. In 1992 her work was awarded the Cervantes Prize, and since that time she has been encouraged to become more involved and visible.

"Her work is being rediscovered," Kerman said. "There are lots of books about her and books about her work, and her earlier work is reappearing."

Kerman arranged extensive interviews with three people most familiar with Loynaz and her work. The interviews were taped and Kerman captured many photographic images with her 35mm camera. She plans to assemble a presentation from her slides and also is working out arrangements with WUCX for a radio show based on her audio tapes. In addition to the interviews with Loynaz' colleagues, Kerman

recorded comments from a number of Cubans she encountered during her stay.

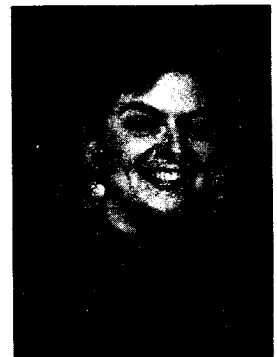
"I was surprised at the openness of the Cubans," Kerman said. "I expected much more visible political context in everyday activities. While I saw bread lines and bus lines and beggars, I found a general openness of people. Life on the street is active, vital," she said. "People seem frank and comfortable. Everybody without exception would talk to me on tape and give permission to use the recorded conversation."

"I found Cubans enthusiastic about art. They are angry about the Helms-Burton bill, but they don't blame individual citizens. They welcome tourists," she said.

In the wake of the Soviet Union collapse, Cuba has suffered economically. Kerman noted that the severe conditions have had an impact on art. "There is a critical shortage of supplies," she said. "Things we take for granted, such as pens, pencils, paper and paint—the materials that fine artists need—are in short supply."

Wood, however, is fairly plentiful, Kerman said. She observed many artists creating wood sculptures and crafts. Music also was very much a part of the Cuban scene.

Kerman's trip indirectly grew out of travel to Mexico two summers ago. She attended a writers' workshop there and was intrigued by Loynaz' work. She began translating short poems and now is completing a book titled *Waterplay* that includes work by the Cuban poet dealing with water in its various expressions. Kerman also plans an anthology of Cuban women poets and collected some materials for this effort during her trip.



Judith Kerman

Hidden Harvest benefits twice from SVSU efforts

Hidden Harvest, a program that rescues prepared and perishable food from restaurants, hospitals and produce markets for distribution to agencies that feed people, received a boost from two SVSU activities during the 1995-96 academic year.

In November, Campus Dining Services allowed students to contribute small amounts from their food debit cards toward a fund for Hidden Harvest. While donations were limited to under \$6, the campaign raised about \$200—enough for John Curry and his staff to prepare a complete meal that was delivered to 85 people April 15. The food was taken to shelters that serve homeless men, battered women and runaway teens, according to Nancy L. Martin, program coordinator for Hidden Harvest.

"When Hidden Harvest is able to provide nutritious meals or supplements to the meals at charitable community service organizations, people get more than full stomachs," Martin said. "Money can be channeled toward other services, strengthening the organization.

"Moreover, we share the knowledge that others care."

SVSU also expanded its participation in the Empty Bowls project in conjunction with the Valley Festival of the Fine Arts held March 16. Students, faculty and staff made ceramic bowls that were sold with soup, bread and water during Valley Fest. The effort generated approximately \$2,000 for Hidden Harvest while creating an awareness of hunger in the community and enhancing appreciation of art.

"Empty Bowls has proven to be a win/win situation," said Michael Panhorst, director of the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Gallery and co-chair of the Empty Bowls project. "It has generated about \$3,500 to fight hunger in the past two years and has stimulated increased art education activity as well as publicizing the power of art and artists to effect positive social change."

SVSU undergraduates receive Recognition Scholarships for 1996-97

The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs announced that Recognition Scholarships will go to 37 undergraduate students who will be attending SVSU next fall.

Recipients met a series of criteria, including at least sophomore standing, a cumulative 3.40

GPA and enrollment in 12 or more credit hours. In addition, each of the students completed an essay on "Educational Goals."

First-time recipients were: Danelle Anscorn, Hollie Denome, Daniel Estrada, Shannon Flippin, Ruthanne Fraiss, Pamela Goddard, Hollie Hart, Theresa Hausler, Gretchen Kaiser, Heather Leppert, Maria McCormack, Matthew Moede, Randall Ott, Ashley Patterson, Melody Traver, Kathleen Turner, Heather Walther and Brian Watson.

Those whose scholarships were renewed were: Stacey Aldrich, Tamburayi Dombo, Jamie Edgerly, Leanne Gauthier, Tom Gribble, Brena Irelan, Kristyn Kurka, Traci Martin, Jennifer McKenna, Sheri Miner, Carolyn Pickard, Roxanne Savage, Pamela Simon, Tonya Smith, Bridget Styers, Karen VanAlstine, Janice Whitmill, Brian Wright and Felicity Zakshesky.

Students earn honors for achieving high marks

Students at SVSU placed heavy emphasis on scholarship during the 1996 winter semester. Overall 966 students made the President's and Deans' Lists this year. A 3.40 GPA is required for the Deans' List, while the requirement for the President's List is a perfect 4.00 GPA for the semester.

Campus power outage planned

Electrical power across campus will be shut down from 9 p.m. to midnight Sunday, June 2 for routine maintenance, according to the Physical Plant Director Bob Tutsock. The power outage will not affect Pine Grove Apartments, but will include all other campus buildings, he said. Persons with questions about how this planned outage might affect their operations should call Tutsock at ext. 4080.

The Saginaw Valley State University Choir and the Bay Chorale will perform in southern Spain during the 1997 spring break. The 10-day trip will include stops in Torremolinos (Costa del Sol) and Seville. Faculty or staff interested in accompanying the group should contact the Office of International Programs at ext. 4473 by Thursday, August 15.



STAFF MEMBER

OF THE MONTH

**Kristine
M. Gay**

**Micro
Computer
Technical
Assistant,
Computer
Services**

June 1996

No problem is too tough for Kris Gay, it seems. Whether it's juggling the demands of work and study while earning a degree, solving a perplexing computer problem or keeping up with three active children, Gay is ready to give it a shot.

And more often than not, she's successful.

Gay's employment at SVSU began as a student worker in the Placement Office in 1988. A year later she moved to Computer Services and continued there until she wrapped up a B.S. in Computer Information Systems in 1991. Then she continued her work as a full-time employee on a temporary basis for two years before being named to her present position in 1993.

Along the way, Gay and her husband became parents to two daughters, now four and six. They also have a one-year-old son.

Gay's duties involve "a whole range of things," she says. "I set up new computers, install software and solve problems," she notes.

She also has acquired the skills to repair computers and is a certified Zenith technician. "SVSU is a service center for Zenith, and I am

authorized to repair their computers and do warranty work," Gay says.

Repair work, however, isn't a big part of her job. "I am becoming more of a trainer on computers," she says. Among her most popular sessions are classes on WordPerfect. Gay has prepared a manual and gathered other materials to help others learn how to get the most from the software.

Classes average about 12 to 15 people, which Gay says is ideal for the hands-on sessions. "I teach use of the menu bar," she comments, "because it prepares people for other programs. While icons may change, the menu items are becoming more standard."

For the past year and a half, Gay has added adjunct faculty responsibilities to her schedule. She teaches CS 160, "Microcomputer Software."

Along with Microcomputer Hardware/Software Technician Mike Holliday, Gay researches new products on the market with an eye to what's useful in the SVSU environment. Recently the emerging interest in color printers has her experimenting with various models. She's ready with advice for those considering an investment in color.

The arrival of new computers for instructional labs creates a round of work. After Gay and Holliday install the new computers, those they replace come to the technical support center to be recycled. That requires loading different software and data into the computers before they go to new users, replacing their previous workstations. Eventually, the oldest and most limited micros become candidates for SVSU's annual "garage sale."

At home, Gay enjoys crafts, especially those that involve her daughters. "They like to color, cut and paste," she says. Recently she has been learning the art of quilting.





INNER VIEW

FEATURING FACULTY OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

On target for change

Some 20 years ago Ricardo Pastor was looking for change and career development. Then an assistant professor in Wittenberg University's foreign language department, Pastor decided to explore an offer at Saginaw Valley State.

"I couldn't find Saginaw on my regional map," he smiles, "but I knew it was close to Saginaw Bay, and it said valley. So I pictured mountains, lakes and scenic views," he says.

To his surprise, Pastor found flat terrain and a campus with few buildings and less landscaping. Despite that, he decided to accept an offer to teach here.

"When I came for the interview, I saw tremendous potential for growth," he says. He notes that now much of the development he visualized in 1977 has been realized.

"There have been unbelievable changes. I used to go to faculty meetings and know everyone by first name. Now we see so many faces that it's hard to know them all."

Born in La Paz, Bolivia, Pastor came to the U.S. on a graduate scholarship at West Virginia University. "I thought I knew English before I came," he laughs. "I had studied it a lot in Bolivia. But then I arrived at Idelwild Airport, asked for directions and grabbed a cab. I couldn't

understand a word the driver was saying."

The experience made Pastor especially sensitive to the needs of other students who come to the U.S., as well as SVSU students who plan to study abroad. He has been actively involved in and supportive of SVSU's international programs for many years.

"Students who travel abroad come back so much more mature than those who stay here," he says.

Pastor stays connected to his Bolivian roots through writing. He has published six books since he began teaching here. "Two went to a second printing and one is going into a third printing," he notes.

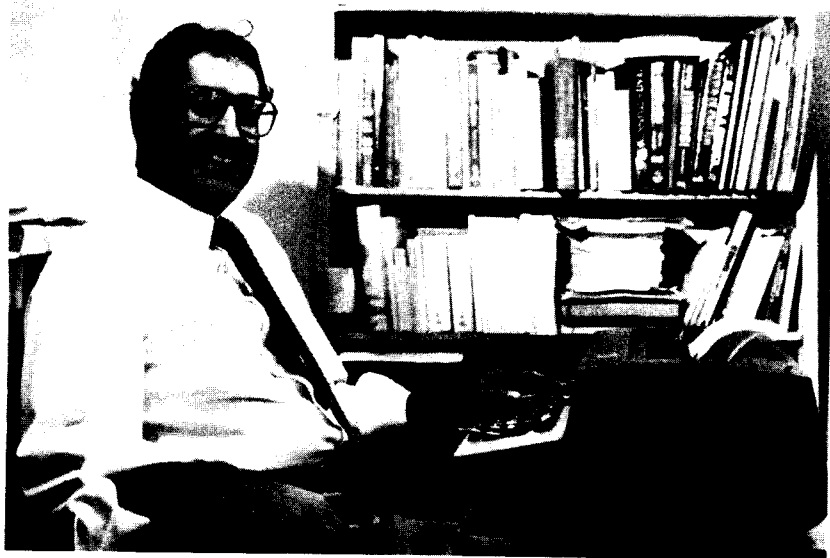
His books are about Bolivian literature. Some include essays he has written, while others are anthologies of other authors' work. "That is a tough job," he says. "It is a lot of work. You have to read everything on a subject so you can determine whether it should be included. It takes about two years to complete an anthology.

"About 90 percent of my job is reading, until I say, 'No more!'," he laughs.

One of his anthologies features short stories dealing with mining. "Mining is basic to the Bolivian economy," Pastor notes. Each story is preceded by an essay and an introduction to the author placing him in Bolivian literature.

When Pastor needs to unwind from reading, writing and teaching tasks, trap or clay bird shooting are among his favorite recreational activities. He is a board member of the Saginaw Gun Club. The club, located on Gratiot Rd. west of Meijer's, offers sport shooting in several disciplines and sponsors competitions. Pastor notes that his son is an excellent marksman and has won several awards.

Pastor attributes his love of the gun sports to his youth in Bolivia. "Hunting was part of everyday life on the farm where I grew up. Wild game was a big part of our food." He says that contrary to what some believe, hunters respect and conserve nature.



Professional Profile

• **Deborah Bishop**, professor of management, presented a paper at the Sixth Michigan Regional Organizational Behavior Teaching Conference, sponsored by Eastern Michigan University May 10. Laura Taggett, an English major who served as a writing associate in Bishop's "Organizational Behavior" (MGT 328) course during the winter 1996 semester, co-presented. "Improving Student Writing Skills and Improving Student Learning: Which Comes First, the Chicken or the Egg?" was based on Bishop's and Taggett's experiences in the Writing Associates Pilot Program administered by Diane Boehm, director of University Writing Programs.

• **Susie Emond**, professor of teacher education, completed two one-year commitments as a consultant to area public schools. The first venture helped teachers at Herig Elementary School in Saginaw develop a writing program for their students. Emond met monthly with Herig teachers for staff development sessions after school and for demonstration lessons in each grade level classroom. Teachers from Herig and teacher consultants from other schools observed her teaching methods.

Emond also worked collaboratively with each classroom teacher to determine needs for specific classrooms. Lesson topics were varied, ranging from helping students identify and write main ideas to how to effectively conference during writing workshops.

The goal of the program, funded by a grant from Saginaw Public Schools, was to instruct teachers in ways of teaching writing as a response to narrative and informational text. The consultation also focused on the development of a writing process program. Using guidelines established through this project, Herig teachers expect to have students produce writing portfolios appropriate for their grade levels during the 1996-97 school year.

In addition to the writing project, a "Goals 2000" grant funded work with Midland and Saginaw county educators in their second year of teaching. Emond provided mentoring to help them improve teaching skills. The group concentrated mainly in the areas of cooperative learning, learning styles and curriculum integration. A total of 15 hours of staff development time was spent with approximately 30 teachers over the course of the school year.

• **David Rayfield**, professor of philosophy, will display works from his "Photo Images:

Portfolio x 3" June 1-29 at the Start Gallery in Birmingham. A reception will take place from 5-10 p.m. Friday, June 7 at the gallery. In addition, Rayfield will lecture at an open house from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 12.

• **Thomas Renna**, professor of history, had an article titled "Jerusalem in Late Medieval Itineraria" published in *Pilgrims and Travelers to the Holy Land*, eds. B. Le Bean, Manachem Mor, Studies in Jewish Civilization, vol. 7 (Omaha: Creighton University Press, 1996), pp. 119-131. The sponsor was The Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization.

• **Elaine Stephens**, professor of teacher education, was invited to serve as a judge for the Middle School Division of the National Writing Contest sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Contest winners were announced May 24.

• **Gail Sype**, associate professor of management, presented a paper at the Sixth Michigan Regional Organizational Behavior Teaching Conference, sponsored May 10 by Eastern Michigan University. Sype's paper was titled "Using Group and Individual Papers as Critical Thinking Devices." She also presented a poster titled "Teaching OB in a Cross-cultural Context: A Report from Taiwan."

• **Jill Wetmore**, professor of finance and assistant dean in the College of Business and Management, was awarded a grant of \$77,658 by the U.S. Department of Education for the preparation of business faculty for internationalization of the curriculum.

Across Campus

• After some 17 years as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Social Work, Edward W. Welz has announced his retirement.

Have You Heard?

• SVSU employees and members of their families must bring tuition bills to the Office of Scholarships and Student Financial Aid to assure crediting of the employee tuition waiver.

• Phase II of the energy conservation project on campus is under way. This stage involves the installation of lighting controls and revised operation of fans that supply and return air throughout Wickes Hall. The lighting controls are automatic occupancy sensors that will turn off lights approximately 15 minutes after the room no longer is occupied. Those experiencing difficulties with the sensors should call Engineering Services at ext. 4074.

The Interior is published bi-weekly when classes are in session fall and winter semesters and periodically through the summer. Items should be submitted to the Office of Information Services, 276 Wickes Hall, 790-4055.

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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