

Dance of the Spider, "Tarantella, Tarantula" at SMC

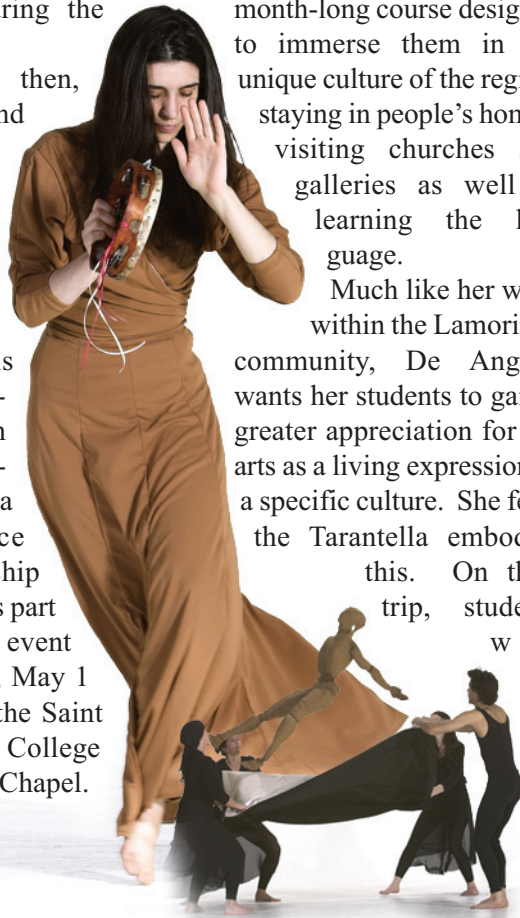
By Jennifer Wake

According to legend, in the Middle Ages an epidemic of tarantula poisonings spread through the town of Taranto, Italy. Victims (tarantata) would dance while villagers played mandolins or tambourines, trying different rhythms while the vigorous dancing ensued until one of the rhythms worked, curing the tarantata.

Since then, the dance and its music have become well-known elements of Italian culture. This centuries-old art form will be celebrated in a performance by the Artship Ensemble as part of a special event on Tuesday, May 1 in front of the Saint Mary's College Chapel.

Italian professor Maria Grazia De Angelis brought "Tarantella, Tarantula" and the "Piazza Santa Maria di Notte" event to Saint Mary's as an entrée for her students to learn the culture of Southern Italy. In June, eleven students will travel to the town of Sorrento, where they will participate in a month-long course designed to immerse them in the unique culture of the region, staying in people's homes, visiting churches and galleries as well as learning the language.

Much like her work within the Lamorinda community, De Angelis wants her students to gain a greater appreciation for the arts as a living expression of a specific culture. She feels the Tarantella embodies this. On their trip, students will



The performance will not only embody the ancient dance, but will weave verbal and non-verbal narratives in which the ensemble's actor/dancers perform many roles.

According to director Slobodan Dan Baich, the performance "is about the age-old yearning to cure 'The Dark Night of the Soul.'"

The free performance will be followed by the "Piazza Santa Maria di Notte" (Square of Santa Maria at Night) – a candle lit European atmosphere where guests can enjoy conversation, music, coffee, and appetizers catered by Amoroma Restaurant, Il Fornaio, and Genova Delicatessen from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Chapel Plaza.

view authentic performances such as the famed "Sorrento Musical" – a unique representation of local Sorrentine customs and way of life – at the Tasso Theatre in Southern Italy.

The event is sponsored by the Saint Mary's Modern Languages Department with professor Maria Grazia De Angelis, Father Sal Ragusa with Campus Ministry, the students of Dante Club, and co-sponsored by the Anthropology/Sociology Department, the Art History Department, the Communications Department, the School of Liberal Arts, and the Academic Advising Office.

Searching for Earthquake Information at SMC

By Jennifer Wake

When the 4.2 magnitude quake hit Lafayette on March 1, delicate instruments began to hum 500 feet below the Earth's surface at Saint Mary's College. Within seconds, seismic data was being transferred from the machinery at Saint Mary's to the USGS at Stanford and the Berkeley Seismology Laboratory.

"When the Lafayette quake happened, people rushed down [to the seismograph station in Galileo Hall] to see what the seismic traces on that one looked like," said Saint Mary's physics and astronomy professor Ron Olowin, Ph.D. "There was a lot of interest on campus for that."



The astronomy observatory located on the hill behind campus
Photos by Jennifer Wake

As part of a geophysical network established by the Berkeley Seismology Lab, a borehole was drilled in the corner of the Moore Hall parking lot at Saint Mary's last summer. The borehole contains accelerometers as well as a satellite-based global positioning system which measures the size, location, direction and magnitude of an earthquake. The instruments measure seismic activity three-dimensionally – transversely, horizontally and vertically – along the Hayward Fault and around the local area.

From an EarthWatch Station located in a wall case in Galileo Hall, the public can learn about the current atmospheric, subterranean and seismic activity from data collected around campus. In addition to the wall case, the entire EarthWatch system includes a weather station, which feeds data to the NBC-KNTV website (<http://gg-weather.com/kntv.htm>), an astronomy platform and observatory behind the cross on the hill, a command center in Galileo Hall where students can remotely access the observatory for their astronomy studies, and now the seismic borehole.

"I discovered that UC Berkeley had a seismology lab, and they were interested in surveying the region in a consortium of observation posts that would look at the surrounding area and its activity, in particular the Hayward

fault," said Olowin. "They developed a scheme to monitor delicate instruments all around the Bay Area in a large number of seismic instruments dedicated to the cause."

As the scheme developed, Berkeley became more interested in looking at more data from the Lamorinda area and proposed drilling the deep borehole on the Moraga campus.

But will the information gleaned from this seismic monitoring help to predict earthquakes in the future?

Interestingly, Olowin says that if it does, the college would more likely want to look at the ethics of predictability first.

"If you had a seismic warning, we're not prepared for that type of information. Warning could cause panic and studies are going on now to see how we should respond to that information," he said. "How should we respond if there was an event in the Los Angeles basin? Would you stop traffic on highways? Would you start up your generators? Would you alert your hospitals and service personnel? Do you have a higher risk of people fleeing out of buildings? We don't know how we'd behave. We bring all of these issues into the discussion."

For now, Olowin is simply interested in what our planet does.

A long-time Lafayette resident who regularly speaks at local service clubs and often brings his telescope to different events to study the moon and stars, Olowin is continually looking for ways to bring data into the community. In addition to the seismic data, weather station and observatory, Olowin hopes to add a solar telescope to the infrastructure, one which can be accessed remotely.

He plans for the telescope to be used by visitors to the new Lafayette Library Learning Center, which will be part of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium scheduled to open spring 2009.

"We're really eager to work with them," he said.



Physics and Astronomy Professor Ron Olowin



Photo by Ken C. Young, Moraga; www.kcyoungfineartimages.com

Go Gaels!

Upcoming Saint Mary's Sports Events

Saturday, April 28

• Women's Lacrosse vs. UC Davis 1 p.m. at Saint Mary's Stadium

We wish all the Saint Mary's student-athletes the best of luck as they enter competition at games away from home this week. For information on all out-of-town games, visit the official Saint Mary's athletics website: www.SMCGaels.com.

Campus Happenings

Special Events:

"East Bay Connection College Fair"

High school students, parents and college counselors will have the opportunity to connect with representatives from more than 150 institutions of higher learning, including private colleges and public universities from across the country. The event will include workshops – some conducted in Spanish – on topics such as financial aid and advice for first-generation college students. (A free shuttle will run between the Orinda BART station and Saint Mary's every 20 minutes between noon and 4 p.m.)

Call the Admissions Office at (925) 631-4224 for information. Saturday, April 28 from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Saint Mary's College

Free

Lectures:

Robert Hass '63

"Study War No More: Kant, Violence and the Literary Imagination" Robert Hass, an English professor at the University of California at Berkeley and the former U.S. poet laureate, will focus on Immanuel Kant's "Perpetual Peace."

To register, contact Saint Mary's Alumni Office at (800) 800-2586. Saturday, April 21 at 5:30 p.m. Soda Activity Center

Ticket price for the lecture is \$30 per person, which benefits the endowment.

Book Review by Liz Dalby

Liza Dalby is the author of "East Wind Melts the Ice," a memoir through the seasons and best selling author of "Geisha." She was recently a Consultant for Rob Marshall's film "Memoirs of a Geisha."

Sponsored by the Saint Mary's College Guild

Thursday, April 25 at 1 p.m. Soda Activity Center

Free

Concerts:

"The Music of Spain"

Dawn Foster-Dodson, cellist and SMC faculty member, in concert with pianist Irene Gregorio, will feature folk songs and folk dances from Spain and the English countryside.

Sunday, April 22 at 3 p.m. Saint Mary's College Chapel

Free

Organist David Briggs

A recital by organist David Briggs features works by Walton, Mahler, Grieg, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Ravel, and a stunning improvisation. David Briggs, improvisator, transcriber, and composer, is Organist Emeritus of Gloucester Cathedral, England, was an organ scholar at Kings College, Cambridge, and studied improvisation with Jean Langlais in Paris.

Saturday, April 28 at 8 p.m. Saint Mary's College Chapel

Free

Art Exhibitions:

"Paper Cuts: The Art of Contemporary Paper"

Continues through April 29

Hearst Art Gallery

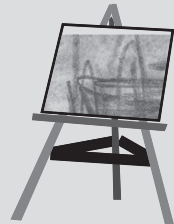
Free

For more information about upcoming events at Saint Mary's College, visit the college website at www.stmarys-ca.edu/news_events/.

Summer 2007 Youth Art Classes

Hearst Art Gallery, Saint Mary's College

June 25 – 29, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.



PRINTMAKING:

Gel, Foamboard, Monoprinting & Silkscreen

Workshop fee: \$110; Materials fee: \$ 95

July 9 – 13, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

DRAWING & PAINTING:

Still Life, Landscape & Portraiture



Workshop fee: \$110; Materials Fee: \$80

Both courses are team-taught by returning Hearst summer arts program instructors and OUSD art teachers, Hillery Patterson and Susan Zib.

Each workshop is limited to 15 students; recommended ages are 9 - 14.

FAMILY DAY: PAPER ARTS WORKSHOP

Sunday, April 15, Noon - 3 p.m.

Soda Activity Center



On view in the Gallery through April 29 - "Paper Cuts: The Art of Contemporary Paper" "William Keith: The 1870s Paintings"

Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: 631-4379

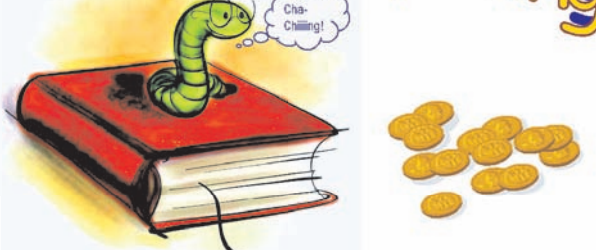
Web site: <http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu>

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