

COMMON DIALOGUE DAY...

is a traditional day for discussion and debate at Siena Heights University. This day is designed to engage students, faculty and staff as well as the local community. There are several presentations scheduled around the topic of "Creativity and Innovation," which is SHU's academic theme for 2018-19. Breakout sessions are scheduled throughout the day around campus. For more information about the breakout schedule, check the daily announcements.

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 | **Performing Arts Center**
9:30am - 3:00pm

KEYNOTE

Bill Zahn 9:30am



At the age of nineteen, he packed his bags, and with sixty bucks to his name, moved to Los Angeles to chase his dream. Even though he was completely self-taught and only had a modest portfolio, he quickly made his way into the world of live action creature and make-up effects, working as a lead artist on projects like Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey, Men in Black, Godzilla and the creation of the Budweiser Frogs.

Then two films came along that changed everything: Jurassic Park and Toy Story. Bill quickly realized the digital revolution was beginning, and the film industry was changing. After successfully working 10 years in LA on the practical end of the industry, he bought a modest computer, got his hands on some rudimentary 3D software, and taught himself computer animation.

Within a few years, he was recruited by George Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic. There he worked on the Star Wars prequels and Pirates of the Caribbean. While Jurassic Park was pure visual magic, Toy Story was pure emotional magic, and Bill knew the animation studio that created Woody and Buzz was his ultimate goal.

Only a couple of years later, he got the call he had been waiting for – from Pixar Animation Studios, and that's where he's been working as a character artist and designer for the past 15 years. Bill has contributed as a character artist and designer on Ratatouille, Cars, Cars 2, Wall-E, Toy Story 3, The Good Dinosaur and Coco. He is currently working on Toy Story 4.

Bill's lively, fun and fascinating talks share the process of creating some of the big screen's most memorable characters, as well as the painstaking details and hard work required by dozens of artists to bring them to life; a process that can bring heartbreak as well as sheer joy, over an often grueling, several-year-long production.

Bill is a passionate crusader and educator in the belief that we should do for a living whatever makes us smile. Bill says, "stepping out into the unknown and tackling the biggest challenges are what life is all about, and while our inner voice may tremble in terror at what lies ahead, we move forward, because even the smallest chance to bring a smile to someone else's face, is worth the all the risk."

SPEAKERS

Mary E. Vicksta 12:30pm



Mary Ellyn Vicksta specializes in creativity training, creativity workshops, team building, and team development. She is a seasoned facilitator trained in creative problem solving and certified in Edward deBono's thinking tools. In her 27 years at Kimberly Clark, she had many experiences of facilitating small and large groups within a corporate environment. She has trained hundreds of people in corporate and academic settings in creative problem solving, creativity, and innovation. Now, with her own business, Vicksta Innovative Practices LLC, she has conducted workshops and networking events with Fortune 200 companies in a variety of industries including sports, beer, financial services, diapers, and food.

She is also a life-long learner and she has been an attendee and a presenter at creativity conferences in the US and around the world. She recently presented at two conferences: at the Creative Problem Solving Institute in Buffalo NY on virtual collaboration using on-line collaboration platform called Stormz and on Wabi Sabi photography, which combines imagining and creativity, at a lovely YMCA camp outside of Toronto.

Over the years she also been involved in dialoguing, especially using the World Cafe approach with both small and large groups in corporations and with nonprofits groups. Over the years, she has received several awards including the Distinguished Leader Award and the Service award, both from the Creative Problem Solving Institute. She also had the privilege of being on the advisory board for the Front End of Innovation Conference for six years. Her other passion is photography and she looks for every possible opportunity to combine digital media with her workshops in some way!



Question? Contact Elizabeth Davis at edavis1@sienaheights.edu