Peretz Appointed as New Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Last June, Don Bachand, Vice President for Academic Affairs, asked Marc Peretz to fill in temporarily as Acting Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. In December Peretz was asked to assume the post of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs on a permanent basis, which he accepted.

“Marc Peretz is a highly regarded teacher and has a background in administration. His understanding of academic assessment and accreditation issues, combined with his experiences as an administrator make him the right person to serve as the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs,” said Don Bachand.

Peretz is a professor of music who joined SVSU in 1989, and served as the chair of music for 20 years. He has been active as a music education consultant, guest conductor for school ensembles, and served as research chair on the board of the Michigan Music Educators Association.

Peretz completed his D.M.A. in Music Education and M.M. in Music History and Literature at Temple University. He holds a B.M. in Music Education from The New England Conservatory of Music. Prior to joining SVSU, he held posts at Westminster Choir College, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Ball State University.

Events & Schedules

Seminars, Workshops, etc.

2010 Great Lakes Bay Regional MLK Celebration
Keynote speaker: Dr. David Satcher
Wednesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m.
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts
Ticket information (989) 964-4261
Free, ticket is required

Faculty and Staff Development Workshops
www.svsu.edu/workshops Sheri Beattie, x2025

Best Practices in Online Education
Tuesday, January 5, 5:00 p.m.
Macomb Center, Macomb faculty welcome

VSpace Wikis and Blogs
Thursday, January 14, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Streaming the Feedback Process in Online Courses
Tuesday, February 16, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

New Faculty Lunches
Short Course on Grants at SVSU Janet Rentsch, x4296 if attending
Friday, January 29, 12:00 p.m.
Emeriti Room
All first-year faculty are encouraged to attend.

Teaching Table - Room Change - Seminar Room G
x4296 if attending. Lunch will be served. February 2

Visual Arts

University Gallery
Soap Box Prints I & II: A Printshow From The American Print Alliance
January 11 through February 8
Reception: Thursday, January 21, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Graphic Work by Dylan Miner
February 15 through March 6
Reception: TBA
Gallery information www.svsu.edu/artgallery (989) 964-4159

Performing Arts

Theatre
As Bees in Honey Drown
February 26 - February 28 & March 5 - March 7
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts
Ticket information (989) 964-4261

Concerts
Rhea Miller Concert Series
Peter Soave, bandoneón and accordion
Saturday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.
Miller Recital Hall - No admission charge
Library Journal Evaluation Project Update

During the first week of November, librarians who serve as liaisons to academic departments contacted their faculty to inform them of the library’s journal evaluation project and to solicit their input regarding the usefulness of the journals in their discipline. As of the December 4 deadline for responding to the journal survey, approximately 50 were submitted out of a total of 300 full-time faculty members. A better response rate is truly needed in order to get a clearer picture of how well our current journal subscriptions are meeting the teaching and research needs of our faculty and students.

To get started…

• Go to the Library Journal Evaluation Project web page at http://librarysubjectguides.svsu.edu/jrnleval2009, find the tab for your college at the top of the page, and then click on your department in the drop-down list.

• If you have any difficulty accessing the journal spreadsheets, please let your library liaison know. If necessary, print copies of the journal lists can be sent to you.

• If you know of interdisciplinary titles that are not on your lists but should be, let us know and we will revise the lists accordingly.

• If you are unable to rate journals outside your area of specialization or with which you are unfamiliar, the rating D-Not familiar with this title is included for this purpose. Also, a group of faculty members may work together to come up with ratings by consensus. One member of the group can return the survey with a note to that effect.

• Don’t forget – this is also your opportunity to recommend journal titles to add!

What happens next…

• Library liaisons will make personal contact with faculty in an effort to get more surveys returned.

• In early January, library liaisons will compile the faculty ratings and any notes they have added for each title, look at the usage of print titles, current cost, cumulative 4-year price increases and the availability of online access for print titles.

• By around the middle of the winter semester, the Library Journal Evaluation Project web page will be updated with lists of Candidates for Cancellation by college/department, along with the faculty ratings and/or our reason for recommending cancellation of each title. Also listed will be those journals that departments have recommended that we add, pending the acquisitions budget for next fiscal year.

• While that list is up for review, faculty will have the opportunity to support the retention of a given title by making a reasonable case for keeping it.

• By the end of the winter semester, the final list of journals to be canceled and those recommended for addition will be posted on the Library Journal Evaluation Project web page.

For more information, contact Linda Farynk, Library Director, at ext. 4236 or lfarynk@svsu.edu.
Principles for Online and Hybrid Instruction

In 1987, as a result of a study, Art Chickering and Zelda Gamson identified Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education. Their work has been cited numerous times as a hallmark of good on-ground teaching, and my next several articles will spend time discussing how each principle can also be applied to online and hybrid instruction as well.

The first principle encourages contact between students and faculty. One of the most common complaints among online and hybrid students at every institution is that they often do not feel “connected” to their professors in online and hybrid courses and that they do not hear from their professors often enough. We recently conducted a survey at SVSU and many students noted in the comments section that they would like more interaction with their professors. This isn’t to say that a professor has to be online every single day to answer questions and to interact with every student personally, but one of the most frustrating things for any student, on-ground or online, is to feel completely anonymous in a course.

There are several ways to solve this issue. The first is to ensure that every professor works to build some type of community in his or her course from the very beginning, by doing such things as building in an icebreaker at the beginning of the course and using photos in the Discussion Board to connect with students. Much of the research being conducted in online and hybrid courses right now is on the importance of community building on eventual retention in courses. Second, professors can make an effort to ensure that each student is “talked to” through the Discussion Board or private messages, at least once per week. This ensures that no student feels as if he or she is invisible in a course. Lastly, by being available to answer questions and responding promptly to student questions, professors can make students feel as if their concerns are being heard.

Good communication is essential in every course, but particularly necessary in online and hybrid courses where students can’t be reassured by a smile or a head nod. By ensuring that students feel as if they have a connection to the professor through a Discussion Board post or a private message, we can ensure that students know we care by being there, virtually.

Author: Sheri Beattie