The Higher Learning Commission and SVSU

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), is the regional accrediting agency for SVSU. Accreditation of colleges and universities is a voluntary, non-governmental, peer-review process that includes an external review of a school’s ability to provide programs that meet specific criteria. Institutional accreditation is different from the specialized accreditation of specific programs, such as those in engineering, nursing, music, or education, in that the review evaluates overall institutional quality and examines all aspects of a university’s operations, including, administration and business affairs, student affairs, enrollment management, and academic affairs. SVSU was awarded its original accreditation by the NCA in 1970 (masters level programs were first accredited in 1974), and has had continuous accreditation since then. Our last comprehensive site visit was in 2004, and our next scheduled visit will be in the winter semester of 2014.

Retaining our accredited status is important for a number of reasons. The U.S. Department of Education has authorized the regional accrediting agencies to review a school’s academic quality, improvement, and accountability. Accredited status provides public certification of acceptable institutional quality, ensures the transferability of academic credits earned at an accredited institution and permits accredited schools to award federally-backed financial aid.

In order to prepare for the self-study that must be provided to HLC prior to our comprehensive site visit, nine different committees have been formed, each of which will be addressing a specific aspect of the self-study process. Five committees are examining the criteria by which the university will be evaluated, and one will ensure that we are in full compliance with federal regulations and basic institutional requirements for accreditation. The other committees are serving support functions such as communicating about the accreditation process and providing technical support in organizing the numerous documents that will be used as evidence in our self-study. Our HLC committees have already begun their work, which will most likely last through the next academic year. Members of various committees will be contacting faculty, staff, and students to solicit information about the various business, student, enrollment, and academic functions of the university. Your cooperation with committee requests for interviews and/or other information will be most appreciated.

We will continue to provide updates on our self-study process and on specific aspects of HLC accreditation in future issues of Academic Announcements. If you have any questions about HLC accreditation and SVSU, please contact Dr. Marc H. Peretz, Associate Provost, who serves the Accreditation Liaison Officer for HLC and SVSU (x4387, mhp@svsu.edu).
Book Collection Evaluation Update

The lead article in the last issue of Academic Announcements described Zahnow Library’s latest collection evaluation project and encouraged faculty to assist us in reviewing candidates for withdrawal from the general book collection. The criteria for withdrawal were outlined in the previous article, and the other six Michigan academic libraries conducting the same evaluation projects using the same criteria were identified. One of the primary reasons we joined this project was to identify commonly-held but little used titles in order to accommodate the move of approximately 3,500 items from the Regional Education Resource Center (RERC) into our book collection.

In an effort to meet that goal, just over 3,500 candidates that met the criteria for withdrawal were listed in spreadsheets arranged by subject areas, which were then posted on the library’s website for faculty review. The subject areas ranged from American History to Zoology, and affected a number of departments across all five colleges. By the April 20 deadline for faculty review, fewer than 50 titles were recommended for retention and will remain in the library collection. Two departments will wrap up their review by the end of the first week of May.

The evaluation of the library collection – from journals to books – is an important part of our mission to make sure we are providing the resources that are needed to support our current degree programs and are used by our students and faculty, while living within the realities of our budget and our space. We very much appreciate the time and effort of those faculty who participated in our latest collection evaluation project.

Please contact Jennifer Dean, Head of Collection Development & Acquisitions, at ext. 7092 or jdean@svsu.edu with any questions about this project or the titles selected for withdrawal.

Grant Deadlines

College of Business Management


Education

Multiple Agencies - Institute for Education Sciences. Application Deadline: June 21, 2012. For more details, please visit: http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ and then click on the funding area you are interested in to view each opportunity.
Events & Schedules

Sponsored Programs: Spring Workshops

To register for these workshops please call Sponsored Programs at ext. 4295 or visit the website: http://www.svsu.edu/workshops.

“Collaborative Research - Register for IRIS”
- Tuesday, May 15, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.; Z-235; x4295
- Wednesday, May 16, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.; Z-235; x4295

“Ethical Internet Research: Informed Consent Regulations and Realities”
- Wednesday, May 30, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.; SE-213; x4295
- Thursday, May 31, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.; SE-213; x4295

“Using IRBNet and the Basics of Submitting IRB and IACUC Applications”
- Wednesday, June 13, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.; Z-235; x4295
- Thursday, June 14, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.; Z-235; x4295

Visual Arts

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

The Tom Phardel and Sharon Que, A Three Dimensional Perspective exhibition is on display through Saturday, May 26 at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum. Tom Phardel and Sharon Que will give two gallery talks in the Museum on Thursday, April 5, once at 2:00 and again at 4:00 p.m.

Tom Phardel is Chair of the Ceramics Department at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. Using clay as his primary medium of expression, Phardel has been creating and exhibiting his work and teaching contemporary ceramics for more than three decades. A consummate professional, Phardel’s work exhibits extremely well, with its large scale and its dramatic, architectural expression.

Sharon Que works as a sculptor and a violin and viola maker/restorer. Her sculpture is integrally linked to her passion for music and the objects that can create musical expression with the ability to achieve transcendence. There is a significant relationship between Que’s violin work and her sculpture, each informing the other.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is proud to launch this major exhibition by Tom Phardel and Sharon Que, whose work shown together makes a great impact while sacrificing nothing to their independent articulation.

University Gallery

The University Art Gallery is presenting the 7th Annual SVSU Student Art Show from Monday, May 7 to Saturday, June 30, 2012. A reception for the artist’s will be held on Thursday, May 17 from 1 - 3 p.m. This exhibit will feature works from all medium areas of current SVSU Department of Art students. The reception and exhibit are free and open to the public. For more information on this exhibit visit the gallery website at www.svsu.edu/artgallery or call (989) 964-4159.

Theatre

The Duck Variations

Performances will be held Tuesday, May 15 - Friday, May 18, with the shows beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Studio Theatre (Black Box, Curtiss Hall 180)
$10 General Admission, $7 Students, Seniors (ages 60+)
For more information or to order tickets, please contact the SVSU Box Office at 989.964.4261.