Faculty Association recognizes outstanding peers, students

Two faculty and nine students were given recognition at the annual SVSU Faculty Association Fall Banquet, Oct. 27.

David Schneider, professor of communication, was presented the SVSUFA University Service Award. Carlos Ramet, professor and chair of the English Department, received the Award for Scholarship.

In addition, Elizabeth Blumenshine, a senior from Midland majoring in computer information systems, was the recipient of the Chrysalis Scholarship. The scholarship is named for the original SVSU Chrysalis Center, an office that assisted non-traditional students in achieving their educational goals.

Schneider was cited for his extensive contributions to the University community, particularly to the faculty and students in the Department of Communication.

His Faculty Association activities include serving on the Executive Board for 11 consecutive years – three years as president, as well as terms as vice president and secretary. While president, Schneider chaired the Budget and Policy Advisory Committee.

Schneider also chaired the Technology Subcommittee of the President’s Vision 2000 Committee, which set a five-year plan of University goals for 2000 through 2005. Additionally, Schneider was a member of the 1995 goals committee.

New communication faculty often find themselves being mentored by Schneider, who currently is chairing the department. He also is credited with developing the new master’s degree in communication and multimedia. Students entering the program receive academic advising from Schneider, who is the program advisor for the M.A. degree.

In 1996, Schneider was presented the House Teaching Impact Award.

Ramet’s book, Ken Follett: The Transformation of a Writer, was published by Bowling Green State University Popular Press in fall 1999. Follet is a contemporary and widely-read British novelist whose works are in the tradition of the mystery story and international spy thriller.

Extending over a period of 10 years, Ramet presented 10 of his 11 chapters at scholarly conferences, and subsequently published four of these presentations in refereed professional journals.

Two of Ramet’s articles are cited in Richard Turner’s Ken Follett: A Critical Companion.

Ramet also has published a number of short stories and poems. His story, “Shadow Love” (published by The Critic, 1996) was selected as a finalist in that periodical’s annual short story contest.

Along with his literary interests, Ramet’s professional activities include presenting and publishing articles on nonstandard English dialects and on international use of English as a second language.

In 1996, Ramet was an exchange lecturer to the University of Mysore, India. He also was an exchange professor to Shikoku University, Tokushima, Japan, in 1999.

Eight students were recognized at the fall banquet for receiving SVSUFA Endowed Scholarships ($925 each):

• Shah Baquar, pre-occupational therapy; Al Bracciano, mentor
• Sara Furst, nursing; Sandy Mixer, mentor
• Louise Hofer, education; Dee Storey, mentor
• Huzefa Gulamhusein, electrical engineering; Russell Clark, mentor
• Ivalina Kaltcheva, MBA; Jill Wetmore, mentor
• Heather Polak, sociology; Larry Hatcher, mentor
• Lindsay Sobek, pre-elementary education; Gary Thompson, mentor
• Raghuram Venkatram, computer science; Morteza Marzjarani, mentor
SVSU makes smooth transition to R-16

After 10 months of hard work, R-16 was installed in early October.

"It went in on-time, as-planned, and caused minimal disruption when it came up live," said Kenneth Schindler, executive director of Information Technology Services.

"This has been the most successful major conversion I have ever been associated with in my 26 years in IT," Schindler added. "The primary credit for this success goes to the 'I-Team,' as they worked tirelessly in the months before the conversion and put in some long days during the conversion week. Their skill and dedication made this project go!"

Those who Schindler said played an integral role in the conversion process are: Claudia Anderson, lead programmer/analyst; Mary Aumann, lead operations specialist; Brian Gano, associate director of Housing and Residential Life; Kris Gregory, assistant to the vice president of Academic Affairs; Karen Hollenbeck, senior programmer and analyst; Robert Lemuel, associate director of Undergraduate Admissions; Chris Looney, registrar and director of the Academic Advisement Center; Cindy Munger, director of Scholarships and Student Financial Aid; Ron Portwine, accountant; Julie Reinbold, programmer and analyst; Anne Reitenbach, administrative secretary, College of Education; Pat Samolewski, director of Information Technology Services; Joey Skutt, programmer/analyst; and Vicki Stewart, associate registrar.

Yale professor to discuss literature and art

Bryan Jay Wolf, a professor of American Studies and English at Yale University, will discuss "Postmodern Adventures: Art in the Age of Multiculturalism" during a special presentation at 9 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 4 in 100 Curtiss Hall. The discussion is part of the Barstow Excellence in Teaching Humanities Seminar.

Wolf teaches American literature and visual culture at Yale. Wolf enjoys a reputation as a dynamic lecturer and innovative teacher.

Wolf’s lecture will look at the relation between modernism and postmodernism. After arriving at a definition of postmodernism, the lecture then will reconsider 19th-century landscape painting from a postmodern perspective. It will conclude by returning to the late 20th century, examining in detail representative works by contemporary artists of color.

Wolf also will participate in a roundtable discussion from 3:15 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 in 129 Curtiss Hall.

For more information on Wolf’s presentation, or the Barstow Excellence in Teaching Humanities Seminar, contact Trump at 249-1662.

One man, piano, offer unique HIV/AIDS educational experience

In a one-hour program of story and song, Steve Schalchlin presents a positive and uplifting profile of one life with HIV. Schalchlin brings his unique perspective to SVSU at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28 in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Schalchlin’s performance is a preview to World AIDS Day, which is Wednesday, Dec. 1.

Rescued from death by ground-breaking medications, Schalchlin began writing songs about his experiences that became the framework for his award-winning musical The Last Session. Schalchlin and the musical went to play off-Broadway in New York City and in 1998 received the Los Angeles Theatre Critics award for Best Music and Lyrics.

Admission to Schalchlin’s performance is free. His appearance is sponsored by SVSU’s Cardinal CHOICES (Choosing Healthy Options In College and Every Situation). For additional information on Cardinal CHOICES or Schalchlin’s appearance, contact the Office of Personal Counseling Services at 790-5660.

Commemorative license plates will be sold from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the Nov. 4 football game vs. Michigan Tech. Look for the Secretary of State mobile office near Wickes Memorial Stadium.
Erickson to portray Barrymore

Steve Erickson, professor of theatre, will portray John Barrymore in a dinner theatre production in the Performing Arts Theatre.

Shortly before his death in 1942, Barrymore — one of the best-known American stage actors of the ‘20s and ‘30s — tries to resurrect his dying career by reviving his once-honored role as Richard III. He rents a Broadway theatre to run lines, but spends most of his time reminiscing about his life in the theatre.

The play, by William Luce, is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc. Samuel deZeng Lingenfelter will be part of the production as the Prompter.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11 in Curtiss Hall. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which must be reserved or purchased by Thursday, Nov. 2, are $20 for dinner and theatre. Admission for the performance only is $7, and $5 for students and senior citizens.

Tickets are available through the Office of Continuing Education (call 790-4261), or from the following organizations: Alpha Psi Omega, Communication Guild, Covenant HealthCare Foundation, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Pit & Balcony Theatre Company. For more information, call 249-1936.

Music Department schedules concerts

The Department of Music is offering a slate of concerts featuring a variety of performing groups.

The Marching Band will perform its annual indoor concert at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 13 in the Performing Arts Theatre.

“The Fabulous Fifties” will be presented by the Valley Wind Quintet at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15 in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. The concert will feature music by 1950s-era composers, including Malcolm Arnold, Bernard Heiden, Gunther Schuller, Walter Piston and Denes Agay.

Audrey Luna, soprano, will appear on stage as part of the Rhea Miller Concert Series at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18 in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. Admission is free of charge.

Students Yukie Oyabu and Chih-Jung Lin will perform a duo piano recital at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1 in the Recital Hall. Admission is free of charge.

For more information, call 790-4261.

Directory
Revisions

Donna Jenkins —
correct phone number in
the departmental listing
is 790-4235

Jason Wenglikowski —
correct number on the
Directory Update sheet is
791-7747

D. Joseph Shlien —
correct number in both
front and back sections
is 790-4239

Cheryl Brow — correct
number is 791-7749;
E-mail address is
purigos@svsu.edu

Amy Borchard — last
name spelled incorrectly

Bob Sells — correct
number is 790-7023

Heather Hillaker — new
E-mail address is
hillaker@svsu.edu

Connie Schwetzler —
new title is assistant
director of Business and
Auxiliary Services

Crews from Iseler Demolition Inc. of Romeo dismantle SVSU’s red water tower, which for many years served as a campus landmark. Large sections were removed from the tower by crane, then cut into smaller pieces on the ground. Work on the project began Monday, Oct. 30, with the structure cleared away by Tuesday afternoon. Removal of the tower, which no longer served any function for the campus, will save thousands of dollars in future maintenance costs.
Across Campus

- Michael Panhorst, director and curator of the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum, participated in two panels — “The Sculpture Park: A Feature of the Future” and “Arts Advocacy as a Marketing Strategy” — at the Michigan Museums Association annual meeting in October at the Grand Hotel.

Also in early October, the Ella Sharp Museum published Panhorst’s two essays on the outdoor sculpture of Jackson, Mich., on its website (www.ellasharp.org). Panhorst wrote the essays two years ago as part of a pilot project funded by SOS! Save Outdoor Sculpture! that grew out of the Fredericks Museum’s statewide coordination of the SOS!’ inventory, condition assessment and maintenance promotion program.

Have You Heard?

- Health Services is offering free, anonymous HIV Testing from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 7. Testing will be performed by the Saginaw County Public Health Department using the OraSure method (no blood sample is needed). Those tested must return to Health Services for the results from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14. Walk-ins are accepted.

- Nominations of students for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will be accepted from faculty and staff in the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 2. Students must have a 2.75 GPA or higher; junior, senior or graduate student status (62 credit hours completed); and a record of academic excellence, demonstrated leadership and service to the University and/or community. Additional nomination forms are available in 314 Wickes Hall and from all faculty secretary stations.

- The Department of Modern Foreign Languages will host the 25th annual Foreign Language Day for area high school foreign language students and teachers from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 7 in the Performing Arts Theatre, Rhea Miller Recital Hall, Groening Commons and Doan Café. About 460 students from 10 high schools will participate in displays, posters, skits/musicals, songs, dances, cheerleading, and cultural awareness contests. The campus community is invited to watch the students compete.

- Faculty and staff can save the 6 percent sales tax on purchases in Doan Café using the faculty/staff meal plan. Contact Dining Services for details at 790-4252.

Faculty are encouraged to incorporate a visit to the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum into their class syllabi. The Museum is open for public tours Tuesday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., although groups may be scheduled to accommodate class hours. For more information, call Craig or Valeri at 790-5637 or E-mail museumtours@svsu.edu.

- The 2000 Crime Awareness Report is available at the Department of Public Safety or on-line at www.svsu.edu/publicsafety. For more information, or to request a hard copy of the report, call 790-4141.

- Activities and special events to be included in the Winter 2001 Calendar of Events should be sent to the Office of University Communications by Monday, Nov. 6. Include the name/type of event; time, date and location; a brief description of the event or a brief bio of the artist/lecturer; admission information, including ticket prices; and a phone number for more information. As SVSU offers even more activities, the calendar becomes increasingly important. Call Tammy Elliott at 790-4039 or E-mail ucomm@svsu.edu for more details.

High Five

- Men’s Basketball — will play an exhibition game against Basketball Unlimited at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 in O’Neill Arena.

- Football (7-2) — handed a 31-6 loss to the University of Findlay. Receiver Brian Dolph set more records with seven catches for 1,650 yards and two touchdowns. His two TD catches set the GLIAC record of 16, and he became the all-time leading scorer in Cardinal history at 246.

- Tennis — lost in the opening round of the GLIAC Championships to Grand Valley State University, 7-2, and dropped a 5-2 decision to Wayne State University in the first round of the consolation bracket.

- Volleyball (9-17) — defeated Lake Superior State University, 15-11, 15-10, 15-5. Tracy Wenzel had five kills for the Cardinals, while Bree Hickman had 12 kills and 12 digs.
Kathleen Pelkki can smell a rat in the Science Building. In fact, she literally can detect about 60 to 100 of the little critters.

“We use a lot of living organisms in our labs,” said Pelkki, who has worked as a lab technician in the Biology Department since joining the SVSU staff in March 1985.

Among her duties are preparing labs for the department, making solutions, organizing equipment and ordering chemicals. Pelkki also inventories and places orders for live frogs and microscopic organisms. During the year, the department will use approximately 30 frogs for laboratory experiments.

“We try not to go through too many frogs because they do get ‘sacrificed,’” Pelkki said. “We need to have freshly-killed frogs for the lab exercises so that the students can study muscle contractions and heart function.

“It’s really great for the students to see how different drugs – like caffeine – will affect heart rate because many of those drugs have the same effect on the human heart,” she explained.

Pelkki relies on help from six student workers to maintain cages for rodents and snakes.

“We have an ‘animal room’ where everything is kept, and we have to make sure they have food and water and clean cages,” Pelkki said. She noted that the department also maintains a greenhouse that is becoming increasingly functional for botany labs.

In addition to her role as lab technician, Pelkki teaches part time. She offers a fall section of Natural Science and zoology/botany in the winter.

“I love my job because every day provides an opportunity to do something different,” Pelkki said. “I enjoy the variety, from keeping track of supplies, to developing new lab exercises with the professors.

“I’ve written a lab manual that we use in our NS120 courses,” she continued. “I love doing that, and the manual seems to be very useful for the students.

“I’ve co-authored two other lab manuals — one for botany and another for general biology sections,” Pelkki said. Each manual includes some 120 pages of information, exercises, tables and illustrations.

“I enjoy working on developing tools that will help students better understand different concepts in biology,” said Pelkki, who creates illustrations for each of the manuals on her office computer.

Her passion outside of work is quilting, which she uses as another creative outlet.

“I create my own designs, usually free-form pictures of Michigan wild flowers, insects and dragon flies,” she said. “Most of my quilts are small and used as wall hangings. Unfortunately, I don’t have time to create bed quilts.”

Pelkki developed her interest in botany and biology from her high school biology teacher, and from her mother, who was a chemist.

“We often went hiking, and my mother would have us keep notebooks and identify all the wild flowers and birds that we’d see.”

Pelkki also is fond of science fiction, and admits that she is “definitely a ‘trekkie.’”
Roy Coward was sleeping peacefully in his Grand Blanc home when he heard a noise outside his bedroom.

Three men – ages 18, 19 and 20 – had broken into Coward's home under the false notion that he was a millionaire and kept large amounts of cash in his home safe.

The three intruders tortured Coward for 45 minutes before deciding to kill him. They never found the combination to the safe, but left with $150 from Coward's wallet.

Last week, Jude Rariden was lecturing his CJ 381 students at SVSU as the verdicts were handed down on the three men who took Roy Coward's life.

"The leader was convicted on all counts," said Rariden, who served as the detective in charge of the investigation. "They all will be automatically sentenced to life without parole for the felony murder counts."

This semester, Rariden is making the transition from sergeant in charge of detectives at the Grand Blanc police post to assistant professor of criminal justice at SVSU. He is teaching three courses while completing the trial phase of the Coward murder/robbery case.

"Since I was a little boy, I wanted to be a police officer — and I did that for 20 years," Rariden said. "But the opportunity to prepare students to become police officers is very appealing to me.

"In Grand Blanc, I was the supervisor of field training, which required me to act in the role of a teacher," he said. Rariden will draw on his extensive professional experience in law enforcement to provide students with "real life" lessons in police work.

"What people see on television police shows does not accurately portray police work," Rariden said. "TV programs show a lot of the exciting stuff — investigating murders, catching bank robbers, making arrests . . . but most of the time, police work involves talking to people and writing reports.

"And, if you are assigned a big case, often you need to get lucky in order to solve it."

Locating Coward's attackers required the efforts of seven investigators under Rariden's supervision.

"We followed a lead from someone who saw a kid wearing a blood-soaked shirt. We backtracked until we got a name, then basically hunted him down," Rariden said. "We spoke to his associates, and eventually found part of a latex glove that was used during the crime. Within 24 hours, we had a confession from him."

Along with his professional knowledge, Rariden has formal academic training in criminal justice, social work and philosophy. He has a B.A. in political science from the University of Michigan-Flint, an M.A. from the University of Detroit-Mercy, and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

"I tell my students that they'll have to pay their dues before they can become detectives," Rariden said. "Arresting people means taking away their freedom, and you need to document every aspect of that arrest to protect yourself from false accusations."