Saginaw Valley State University dedicated its new Regional Education Center Tuesday, Aug. 19.

The $28 million facility features 130,000 square feet equipped with the latest in education technology, including four computer labs, a telecommunications lab and a science lab. The 18 classrooms are outfitted with “smart podiums” that include computer touch screens for built-in DVD, VCR and other multimedia devices. The Alan W. Ott Auditorium features 250 seats and networked touch pads that allow students or visitors to provide instant interactive feedback to instructors or presenters.

SVSU’s College of Education has moved into the new building, including all faculty and staff. The more than 4,200 students in that college will notice improved amenities, including increased meeting space, study rooms and food service/dining area.

SVSU graduates continue to find their way into local classrooms. As one example, Saginaw Township Community Schools recently hired 42 teachers – 27 are SVSU grads.
Cultural Diversity Initiative Workshops

- “We All Have a Heritage—Exploring and Honoring Our Diversity” by Sandy Lynn Holman
  September 11, 7 to 8 p.m., 122 Regional Education Center
  Holman is an author of children’s books from Sacramento, California. She has presented to thousands of youth and adults on a variety of topics, focusing special attention on the importance of helping people to learn about others who are different from themselves and in helping individuals to learn more about their heritage.

- “Creating the Diary of Sally Hemings” by Sandra Seaton
  September 24, 7 to 8 p.m., Founders Hall
  Seaton’s text was set to music by composer William Bolcom to create a song cycle that uses fictional diary entries to express Hemings’ thoughts and feelings throughout her relationship with Thomas Jefferson. Dr. Seaton is a professor of English at Central Michigan University. She won a Theodore Ward Prize for New African-American Playwrights for her play, “The Bridge Party.”

- “The House of Glass: Comedy and Survival” by William S. Penn
  September 29, 7 to 8 p.m., Founders Hall
  Penn is a professor of English at Michigan State University and a Native American author/essayist and scholar. He is an urban mixed-blood Nez Perce. Dr. Penn was named the Native American Prose Fiction Writer of the Year in 1997, and recently received the Distinguished Faculty Award at MSU.

- “Leadership Action for Building an Inclusive Campus Environment” by Robert Dungey and Diane Gilman of the National Coalition Building Institute
  October 31, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 129 Curtiss Hall
  This workshop by NCBI will assist campus faculty and staff to understand the dynamics of oppression by working through a series of personal and small-group explorations.

The workshops are open to faculty, staff, and students. Please contact the Diversity Office at ext. 4068 for more information.

Celebrating our Differences

A number of SVSU employees contributed to an outstanding effort on Friday, July 25, for the Christmas in July project. The SVSU team partnered with another group to complete updates to a home located at 1002 Lapeer in Saginaw. “It certainly was a big house,” commented James Muladore, vice president for administration and business affairs. “And I now understand why vinyl siding was invented – scraping 100 year-old siding on a two-story house is not much fun!” Ronald Portwine, director of housing and auxiliary operations, and Dan Strasz, director of the academic advisement center, work from a cherry picker while Jodi Hutchison, coordinator of employment and compensation services, paints on a ladder.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Professional Profile

- Russell J. Clark, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, presented a paper titled “Image Identification and the Analysis of Dice Rolls” at the International Conference on Computers, Communications, and Control, sponsored by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics. The conference was July 31 through Aug. 2 in Orlando, Fla.

- Steven C. Erickson, professor of communication and theatre, was elected to the Board of Directors at Pit & Balcony Community Theatre. He was subsequently elected as vice president of production. Erickson’s duties began in July and he is currently working with an SVSU theatre student who is serving as interim technical director.

- Judith Kerman, professor of English, had two of her sculptural bookworks exhibited in the All Area Exhibition at Studio 23 in Bay City, juried by Colin Blakey. The works are titled “Membrane #1: This Woman” and “Membrane #2: Carnival.” The exhibit runs through Aug. 22. Kerman also was named to the Architectural Review Board of Bay City, to serve through 2006.

- Gary M. Lange, associate professor of biology, presented a lecture titled “Mate Interaction and Parental Care Behaviors in the Convict Cichlid (Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum) When Exposed to Methyl-mercury: A Model for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Research.” The talk was given at the 40th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, July 18 in Boise, Idaho.

- Paul Munn, professor of English, just discovered that his solicited response to the question “Does a Reader Need to Know Critical Theory?” was published in Turkish translation in Evrensel K¸lt¸r (Universal Culture) 126: June 2002; available at www.evrenselbasim.com/ek/yazi.asp?id=1429.
Sponsored and Academic Programs Support announces grant awards

The Office of Sponsored and Academic Programs Support recently announced the awarding of the following grants to SVSU faculty and staff:

**Deborah Huntley**, associate professor of chemistry, received $2,500 this summer from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium to support Ryan Czymbor’s student research chemistry project, “Preparation and Characterization of CexZr(1-x)O2 Films,” in an effort to increase an understanding and lower harmful emissions thus reducing air pollution.

**Marcia E. Shannon**, assistant professor of nursing, received $5,980 from the National Education Association. This grant will develop and pilot professional development courses for distance education with nursing faculty using web-based technology to teach hybrid courses. Findings will be shared at the March 2004 NEA Higher Education conference in Seattle, Washington.

**Pamela L. Ross McClain**, assistant professor of education, was awarded $45,000 for SVSU’s Talented Tenth Teen Summer Institute for summer 2003 from the Michigan Department of Community Health: Office of Drug Control Policy. Talented Tenth Teen Summer Institute (TTSI) is a proactive drug and violence prevention program targeted to students in the middle grades. The eight-week institute was operated this summer and included students from Buena Vista and Saginaw school districts.

**Christopher Shilling**, Strosacker Chair, received a $21,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the 2003 Pollution Prevention (P2) Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) Internship Program. Three undergraduate students will benefit from their internship analyzing the environmental and economic performance of the corn-burning furnace at Good Neighbors’ Mission.

**Phyllis Hastings**, professor of English, was awarded $1,190 from the Saginaw Community Enrichment Commission. The Artreach Grant, “Prison Creative Writing and Drawing,” will impact the skills of inmates at the Saginaw Correctional Facility as well as students in the English classes at SVSU through this collaborative project.

**David Karpovich**, associate professor of chemistry, received a $1,125 grant from the American Chemical Society for Project SEED I and II to provide economically disadvantaged high school students an eight-to-10-week summer experience in scientific laboratories that allows them to experience hands-on research under the guidance of research scientists.

**Diane Boehm**, Director of Instructional Support Programs, and **Janet Rentsch**, Director of Sponsored and Academic Programs Support, received a $38,000 writing project award and a $2,500 NCTE CoLEARN award from the National Writing Project. The teacher institutes, along with the year-long supporting activities, support teachers from our partnering districts in their understanding of online learning communities. Fundamental to this project are “teachers teaching teachers” who recognize that writing is fundamental to learning in science, mathematics, history, and the language arts.

**Linda Haas**, administrative secretary for the Center for Manufacturing Improvement, received $98,995 during the past year from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for Economic Development Job Training to strengthen the skills of Michigan’s workforce. The training that is offered as a result of this funding agency serves the following businesses: Landall Packaging System, Ara Cast Inc., Gosen Tool & Machine Inc., Stoney Crest Regrind Service, EJM Ball Screw Inc., Richcraft Design Machine Inc., and Means Industries Inc.

**Walter R. Rathkamp**, professor and executive director for the Center for Mathematics and Science Education, received $314,988 from the Michigan Department of Education for the Mathematics and Science Center Program for 2002-03. The Center is dedicated to provide the leadership and support for systemic change in Mathematics and Science Education throughout the SVSU service area for pre-school through higher education in both public and private institutions. The assessment of needs and resulting collaboration works to improve mathematics and science education.

**SVSU offers new distance learning courses in nursing**

SVSU is offering nursing classes at two new locations this fall. Students can enroll for classes at Central Michigan Community Hospital and Tawas Saint Joseph Hospital. This is a one-time opportunity to join a cohort program, where courses will be taught in succession for a group and will not be repeated once they have been offered.

**SVSU names new vice president for Public Affairs**

SVSU has appointed Lucille Beuthin to the post of vice president for public affairs. Beuthin joined the university full time in 2001 as director of community relations and later became executive director of the SVSU Foundation. Under her leadership, the Foundation raised $9.5 million for campus facilities in the “Creating the Future” campaign.

Beuthin succeeds Dr. Eugene Hamilton, who has accepted a new role as special assistant to the president for government relations. Hamilton intends to retire from full-time service to the university, effective January 1, 2004. He will continue in his new duties on a half-time basis.
SVSU receives grant to encourage entrepreneurship

SVSU has received a grant of $150,000 from the Melvin L. and Hilda J. Zuehlke Foundation of Saginaw to promote, expand and enrich business education programs.

The grant will be used to establish an endowment to create a new program, titled “Venture 21.” The program will provide financial support for faculty in the College of Business and Management to develop courses leading to the creation of a major or minor in entrepreneurship for SVSU students.

“Mel and Hilda were committed to our community and would be proud to have their name associated with Saginaw Valley State University and its ‘Venture 21’ commitment to business development,” said Lloyd Yeo, President of the Zuehlke Foundation.

Venture 21 is intended to develop a future workforce that is more effectively trained to meet the demands of modern business. “Students and area businesses will benefit from the availability of relevant and innovative management training in entrepreneurship,” said Lucille Beuthin, SVSU Vice President for Public Affairs.

The Melvin L. and Hilda J. Zuehlke Foundation was established by the couple in 1994. They were committed to the Saginaw community and active volunteers. Melvin is perhaps best known for establishing the Carousel Maintenance Fund for the Celebration Square Carousel in the Saginaw Children’s Zoo. He helped to raise over $800,000 in the 1950s for construction of the Saginaw YMCA, and was a significant volunteer for the United Way over three decades. Hilda joined her husband as a volunteer in many clubs and organizations.

Melvin Zuehlke worked for Eaton Manufacturing Company, beginning in 1940, and rose to become general manager prior to his retirement in 1972. He passed away in 1998. Hilda passed away three years later.

The Zuehlke Foundation grant will be administered by the SVSU Foundation.

Condolences

The campus community extends condolences to:
- Cynthia Bala, manager of grants and cash management, Office of the Controller, on the loss of her mother, Josephine Mathews, who passed away Aug. 14.
- Irene Bauer, counter/transcript clerk, whose mother, Helene Haggitt, passed away Monday, July 28.
- Diane Boehm, director of instructional support programs, and J.J. Boehm, media relations officer, on the loss of Diane’s father-in-law and J.J.’s grandfather, Joseph Boehm, who passed away Aug. 11.

- The Cashier’s Office is issuing 2003-04 reserved parking permits. Permits for 2002-03 expire Sept. 15. Permits may be purchased via mail by completing the permit applications found on the Public Safety web site at www.svsu.edu/publicsafety/forms/reserveapp.pdf and forwarding the completed application along with a check (made payable to SVSU) for $20 (no cash) to the Cashier’s Office. Permits also can be purchased in person at the Cashier’s Office in Wickes Hall.

- The Polish Students Club is sponsoring a showing of the renowned film “The Pianist,” directed by Roman Polanski. The film will be shown at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 28 in 203 Curtiss Hall. Admission is free. Club president Karen Dekoski will provide an introduction, and historical background will be given by Anna R. Dadlez, professor of modern foreign languages. Discussion and refreshments will follow the showing, and a drawing will be held for free books and Polish artifacts. “The Pianist” is based on the experiences of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a well-known musician, during the German occupation of Warsaw in World War II. The film is rated “R,” and contains scenes that may be unsuitable for children.

- An exhibition of recent artworks by Art Department faculty opens August 25 in the University Art Gallery. The exhibition will feature new works by art faculty in painting, drawing, ceramics, photography, graphic design, digital imaging, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media collage, and more. Participating faculty will include Shaun Bangert, Thomas Canale, Sara Clark, Barron Hirsch, Hideki Kihata, Mike Mosher, David Rayfied, Matt Zivich, Terry Basmadjian, Sanford Buchalter, Sean Gallagher, David Littell, Andrea Ondish, Gary Rocha, and others. The University Art Gallery is located in the Arbury Fine Arts Building. For Gallery hours and further details regarding the exhibition, contact Dave Littell at ext. 4159, or e-mail dlittel@svsu.edu.

- The English Language Program is hosting a short-term language program for Japanese professionals. Four students need to be placed in four different homes for up to two weeks in September. Host families need only include students in “normal” evenings at home. For more information, contact Heidi Vellenga, ELP director, at ext. 4265, or e-mail vellenga@svsu.edu.

- The Student Life Center is accepting information for publication in the Student Happenings newsletter. This newsletter is a compilation of campus events of student interest and is distributed campus wide. This year the newsletter also will be available online at www.svsu.edu/studentlife. Submit information at least two weeks in advance to studenthappenings@svsu.edu.