Saginaw Valley State University is offering a slate of activities during March to raise awareness of the achievements of women, both in society at large and at the University. Among the scheduled events is an award luncheon, Friday, March 26, in honor of Gretchen Mooningham, professor of mathematical sciences.

Mooningham, who has taught in the Department of Mathematical Sciences in 1979 through 1984 and from 1988 through the present, has an outstanding record of scholarly work and service to the University. Along with her course load, Mooningham has given many presentations and invited addresses, and has served on a number of SVSU committees. Her outreach programs in mathematics for area high schools have resulted in students enrolling in mathematics at SVSU. She also serves as faculty advisor for Alpha Chi (see story, Page 3).

Among other events in observation of Women’s History Month at SVSU are:

• An exhibition by local artist Roz Berlin in the University Art Gallery (see story, Page 2).
• A Women’s History Month display case with library materials on women’s history and gender studies, along with posters celebrating Women’s History Month, in Zahnow Library.
• A used cell phone drive to support the Underground Railroad. For more information, contact Audra Forsberg in the Student Life Center at ext. 4297.
Local artist featured for Women’s History Month

In celebration of Women’s History Month, the University Art Gallery will present “Woven Forest,” by Saginaw native Roz Berlin. The environmental exhibition features an installation of multi-colored, tree-like sculptures that are suspended from the ceiling for viewers to walk through. It will be on display March 8 through April 3.

Berlin has traveled and studied fibers extensively throughout the United States and Great Britain, as well as Central and South America. Her woven works are featured in many private and public collections, and have appeared in many shows throughout the Midwest.

The “Woven Forest” installation has been a primary interest of Berlin. It has grown and evolved over the past 30 years. The display is designed to share Berlin’s concerns about the environment. In her words, “Without trees, we do not breathe.”

The exhibition is sponsored in part by the SVSU Women’s History Month committee.

Berlin earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in art education from Michigan State University. She also holds a master’s degree in counseling education from Central Michigan University. Berlin has taught art and weaving to all ages and levels for the last 40 years.

University Art Gallery winter semester hours are 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Mondays; Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. For additional information, contact David Littell in the SVSU Art Department at ext. 4159 or dlittel@svsu.edu.

The Woven Forest, by Roz Berlin, will be on display at SVSU from March 8 through April 3.

Professional Profile

• Chris Schilling, Strosacker Chair of Engineering, and Bing Yang, associate professor of biology, are featured in Research Michigan. The new publication is a joint effort of Crain’s Detroit Business magazine, Gov. Jennifer Granholm’s administration, and the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan. Its purpose is to inform Michigan’s business community about research opportunities at state universities.

Condolences

The campus community extends condolences to:

• Kristine Roethlisberger, nursing lab specialist, whose father-in-law, Robert Roethlisberger, passed away Friday, Feb. 27.

• The family of William F. Smith, professor of English, who passed away Sunday, Feb. 29.

Economics prof becomes president of international economic group

Hong Park, professor of economics, has begun his one-year term as president of the Korea-America Economic Association. As part of his duties, Park will organize joint conferences with the Korean Economic Association, Bank of Korea, Korea Institute of Finance, Korea Development Institute and American Economic Association. Earlier this year, Park served as the moderator of a panel discussion on the issues affecting the Korean economy.

The Korea-Economic Association promotes and facilitates cooperation and participation in research efforts among economics professionals in the academic, government and corporate sectors who share interests in economic relations between North America and Korea and among the Pacific rim nations in general.
Movie-goers offered French classic film

The Valley Film Society will screen *Cousin, Cousine* (French, 1975; Jean-Chales Tachella, 95 min.) at 7 p.m., Friday, March 5, in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. For more information, visit the Valley Film Society web site at www.svsu.edu/vfs or call ext. 4015.

TIAA-CREF offers financial advice

TIAA-CREF will be conducting one-on-one counseling sessions Monday, March 15; Wednesday, April 14; Thursday, April 15; and Tuesday, May 18. The one-on-one sessions will be located in Curtiss Hall, Room C116. Please visit www.tiaa-cref.org/moc or contact Linda Baker at (800) 842-2044 to schedule an individual counseling appointment. For more information, contact ECS at ext. 4108.

Department of Music presents March concerts

The Valley Wind Quintet will present a fall concert at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 16 in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. Tickets are $5 ($3 for students and seniors). Members of this SVSU faculty ensemble are Lauren Rongo, flute; Linda Hargett, clarinet; Jane Bellen, oboe; Drew Hinderer, bassoon; and Bill Wollner, horn.

A concert by Flûtée will feature slides of Impressionist paintings set to new music composed by Nan Faber of Ann Arbor. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 24 in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. Tickets are $5 ($3 for students and seniors). For tickets, call the Box Office at ext. 4261.

Sims Public Speaking Competition set for April 1

The 14th annual Sims Public Speaking Competition will be held Thursday, April 1 from 4 to 9:30 p.m. with the theme “Celebrating Eloquence.” The final round will begin at 8 p.m. in Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Prizes will be awarded for winners of the contest, which is open only to SVSU students. The first place winner will receive $300, $200 will be given for second place and $100 for third place. The fourth, fifth and sixth place finishers will receive plaques. The contest is sponsored by the Department of Communication, and Linda and Lawrence Sims.

SVSU Program Board presents “Another Trip To The Palace”

Watch the Pistons square off with the Indiana Pacers Sunday, April 4 at 6 p.m. Buses will depart from the west side of Curtiss Hall at 4 p.m. (Participants must ride the bus – no exceptions).

A game ticket and round trip bus ride is only $15 per person, or two for $25 (limit two).

Tickets are available to students, faculty and staff for the same price on a first-come – first-served basis. Purchase tickets starting Wednesday, March 10 at the SVSU Box Office, located in Groening Commons. For more information, contact the Student Life Center at ext. 4170.
• The SVSU Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the Outstanding Alumni Award. One graduate of each of SVSU’s five colleges will be presented this award. Recognize alumni whose outstanding achievements reflect so well upon your department and college. Nominations are due by March 5. Complete the online nominations form at www.svsu.edu/alumni/forms/outstandingalumniawardnomin.htm.

• The Office of Orientation is looking for enthusiastic student leaders to assist new students at SVSU. Student leaders will work during the summer in the Student Orientation and Academic Registration programs, as well as the Transfer Registration programs.

Requirements: Possess a GPA of at least 2.50; be currently enrolled in classes; have completed 24 credit hours. Information and sign-up packets are available in the Academic Advisement Center, 117 Wickes Hall. For more information, call ext. 4286. Packet materials are due by 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 19.

• The latest issue of Cardinalis is due out in late March. The University remains committed to sharing this publication with the campus community, and, to help distribute the journal more effectively, those who are interested in receiving a copy should email their name and campus address to the editor at gardner@svsu.edu. In addition to interviews with L. Douglas Wilder, Taylor Branch, Sergei Krushchev, and Chris Fujiwara, this issue features exciting work by SVSU’s own Eric Petersen and Ranjana Dutta, as well as a selection of fiction and poetry.

• A new Marshall Fredericks exhibit is on display in the Roberta Allen Reading Room, located on the fourth floor of Zahnow Library. Appreciation goes out to Charlene Rathburn for lending the library several commemorative sculptures from the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, including: The Spirit of Detroit, Boy and Bear, Siberian Ram, Ann Arbor Eagle, and Pewabic Mouse Sculpture. The display will remain on view for one month.

• Courses at SVSU are now listed online seven days a week, 24 hours a day at www.svsu.edu/courses. Please pay special attention to the time and date stamp that tells when this system was last updated.

• Thursday, March 11 is the deadline for submissions for the 2004 Braun and Tyner Writing Awards. Details for the Braun Award may be found at www.svsu.edu/writingprogram/braun.htm; details for the Tyner Award are at www.svsu.edu/writingprogram/tynernom.htm.

• Information Technology Services has successfully completed upgrading the Cardinal Direct system. Your Cardinal Direct password will be the same as your network/email password. Also, password changes for Cardinal Direct are now only done via the “Change Password” routine at www.svsu.edu/changepassword. This routine will also change one’s password for email, BlackBoard and network/computer lab access.

• A COATT (Consortium for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching with Technology) Technology Workshop is being offered free of charge. The sessions provide hands-on training in using various technologies to undergraduate students in education. The workshop is set for Saturday, March 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. in the Regional Education Center. Students will have access to successful models and demonstration of integrating technology into teaching, instruction in creating a digital portfolio to document your teaching and technology skills, opportunity to network with those in the field of education, and a certificate for participating in the COATT Technology Workshop. The workshops are funded by the U.S. Department of Education, PT3 grant, so participation is free of charge and lunch is provided. There is a limit of 100 registered students because of lab space. To register, contact Dennis Strobel at ext. 4947 (between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.). For more information on the workshop, contact Elizabeth Hansen at ehansen@svsu.edu. Learn more about COATT at www.coatt.org.

• The 14th annual Equity in the Classroom Conference will be held March 14 through 16 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. For more information, contact Tammy Hafner at ext. 4068.

• The Valley Aquatic Program is offering a $5 discount to SVSU faculty, staff, students and their families during the month of March for learn-to-swim lessons. For more information, visit www.svsu.edu/vap. Those interested in the program can take a look at the schedule, choose a class session, and sign up on line. For more information, call ext. 7327. Those who pre-register will receive an additional $5 discount. Payment is required the first night of class.

• Student Association, Student Life, and many other student organizations have initiated a Relay For Life campaign to raise money for the American Cancer Society on behalf of Saginaw Valley State University. Money will be raised throughout the months of March and April. For more information, call the Student Life Center at ext. 4297.

• President Eric Gilbertson will host an Open Forum from 4 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 24 in the Museum Reception Hall. Also, mark your calendar for the final open forum for winter 2004 semester, Thursday, April 15, from 6 to 7 p.m. in Brown Concourse. Stop by to share your concerns and ask questions.

+4 INTERIOR • March 3, 2004+4
At first glance, Cynthia Woiderski may not seem to share much in common with a bulldozer, but her job bears some similarities. She seeks to knock down barriers for disabled students.

Most of those barriers are not physical obstacles. “We have a beautifully accessible campus here,” Woiderski said.

She does not see her role as a demolition expert; rather, she spends much of her time building bridges with faculty and staff to ensure that all students can receive an education. “My job is to help students remove barriers so they have an equal chance to get a degree,” Woiderski said. “It doesn’t guarantee that they’ll pass, but we’re looking for that equal opportunity.”

Many disabled students do complete their education, which can cause Woiderski to become emotional. “I love it when I go to Commencement and watch them go across the stage and receive their degree, because I know how hard they’ve worked,” she said. “That’s really rewarding.”

Communication difficulties are the accommodations most frequently sought.

“Students have the right to receive information effectively,” Woiderski said.

For example, if a student has trouble visually processing information, a written test may be read to him or her aloud. A student with a hearing impairment may be accompanied to class by someone to take notes.

“Electronics and technology have really helped a lot of students with those accommodations,” Woiderski said. No two students are alike. “My job is a different challenge every day,” she said. “Everybody has their own unique story, and so I look at how it affects them in class and figure out a way around it.”

March marks the official start to spring, but Woiderski also enjoys winter activities. “I love the snow,” she said. Woiderski and her husband, Larry, spend time snowshoeing in the woods behind their home outside of Midland.

Woiderski is equally happy when the snow melts. “I like anything with water,” she said. Sailing, swimming and going to the beach are among her favorite summer pleasures.

Perhaps her favorite pastime occurs during the season in between. “I wish I could spend more time gardening,” Woiderski said. “I like to play in the dirt.”

There is no peak season for disability services. “It stays consistent throughout the semester,” Woiderski said. “A lot of students will try it first without assistance and then come in to get help. They have a desire for independence. They want to do it on their own.”

The department’s caseload has increased tenfold during Woiderski’s decade on the job, growing from 15 students when she started to an average of 150 during a current semester.

An active volunteer in her church, Woiderski encourages the same spirit of giving. “I think everyone should volunteer and make a difference,” she said.

The Abler’s Club participates in a community service activity each semester, but on the whole, Woiderski says disabled students are not more apt to become involved. “I think they’re like average students,” she said. “If it’s convenient and fits in their schedule, they’ll do it. They’re students first, disabled second.”