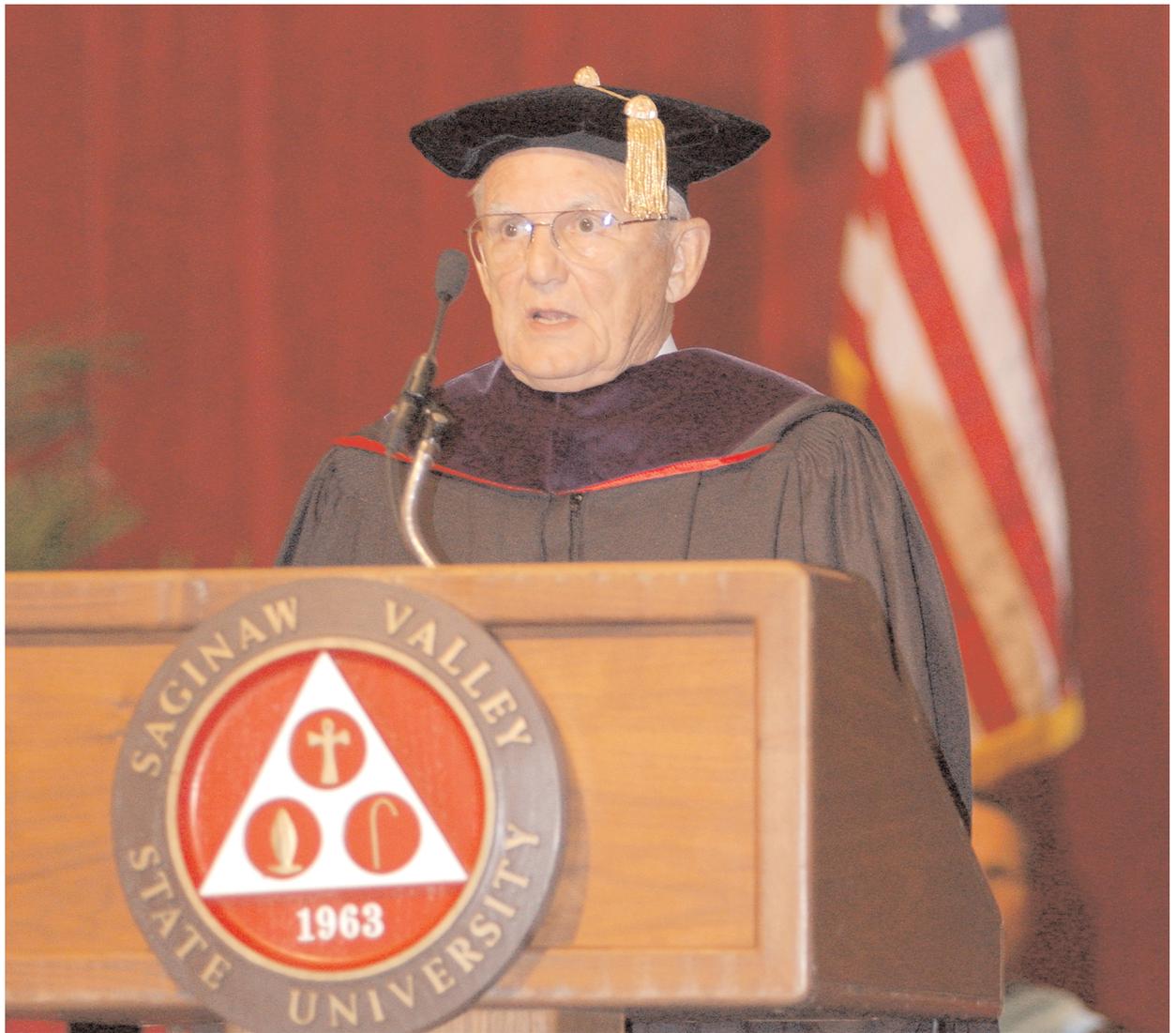


Saginaw Valley State University

INTERIOR

Leading local accountant, community volunteer delivers Commencement address to 270 graduates



August 24, 2004

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Learning focus of faculty workshop**
• Page 2
- **SVSU joins Delphi to develop advanced safety technology**
• Page 3
- **Stay current by logging on to SVSU's campus news Web site**
• Page 4

More than 270 SVSU graduates heard from distinguished businessman and active community volunteer Lloyd J. Yeo during Commencement ceremonies Monday, Aug. 23 in O'Neill Arena.

The graduating class consisted of 450 students who expected to graduate, including 240 who received bachelor's degrees and 210 who received master's degrees or education specialist degrees.

Yeo joined the family accounting business in

1954 and served as the firm's managing partner from 1965 through 1983. Yeo & Yeo P.C. was founded in 1923 by James J. Yeo and W.L. Yeo, Lloyd Yeo's grandfather and father, respectively.

A native of Saginaw, Yeo graduated from Arthur Hill High School, then earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan. He also served in the U.S. Army as an instructor of finance and fiscal policy.



Up Close & Personal

Professional Profile

• **Hamza Ahmad**, associate professor of mathematics, has a research article titled “The Witt Kernels of Purely Inseparable Quartic Extensions” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Linear Algebra and its Application*. Also, his previously accepted article titled “Witt Kernels of Biquadratic Extensions” has now appeared in the *Bulletin of the Austr. Math. Soc.* (Vol. 69, 2004, 433 - 440).

• **Gladys A. Hernández**, associate professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “Latino Women: Raising the Barriers” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese International Conference, July 27 through Aug. 1 in Acapulco, Mexico.

• **Paul Munn**, professor of English, published “Paul Munn on Vestigial Form,” an excerpt from a previously published article, in John Ashbery. Ed. Harold Bloom. Broomhall, PA: Chelsea, 2004. 159-63.

• **Poonam Kumar**, associate professor of teacher education, presented a paper at Ed-Media 2004—World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia and Telecommunications, June 21 through 25, Lugano, Switzerland. “Impact of Instructional Methods and Technology on Student Learning Styles” was published in the conference proceedings.

• **Steve Taber**, assistant professor of biology, has three books in press: *Plants of the Texas Lost Pines* (Texas A&M Press); *Invertebrates of Central Texas Wetlands* (Texas Tech Press); and *Plants of Central Texas Wetlands* (Texas Tech Press). These volumes treat the plants and animals of the two relict ecosystems of central Texas. They are islands of peculiar life left behind by the recession of the last glaciers about 10,000 years ago. Their flora and fauna is more typical of the eastern United States than the central Texas region where they are able to linger on only because they happen to lie upon sandy soil that retains water in a dry and arid part of the country, thus prolonging the environmental conditions of a previous age.

• **Matt Zivich**, professor of art, had two drawings accepted for showing at Studio 23 Gallery’s “All Area Exhibition 2004,” through Aug. 27. As one of the 25 artists selected for this show, Zivich’s two works are *Monitoromachy* (second version), 2003, wallpaper collage, pen and ink, oil pastels and stitchery on tinted paper; and *Damned Civil War* (second version), 2004, wallpaper collage, silver paper and stitchery on tinted paper. The juror was Alisa Henriquez, associate professor of painting at Michigan State University. The exhibition was open to all Michigan residents 18 years and older, and all media were accepted. The gallery is located at 901 North Water Street, Bay City.

Zivich also had one work accepted for showing in the state-wide art competition, “44th Annual Greater Michigan Art Exhibition,” held at the Midland Center for the Arts. The accepted work was a drawing titled *South of the Border*, 2004, wallpaper collage. The juror was Al Gury, head of the painting department at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art. The show will run Aug. 28 through Oct. 10.

Condolences

The campus community extends condolences to:

• The family of **David Gaskill**, assistant professor of English. Gaskill passed away Friday, Aug. 13.

• **Mike Mosher**, assistant professor of art/communication and multimedia, on the loss of his sister Carole J. Mahoney (an accomplished watercolor artist), who died Aug. 4 in Underhill, Vt.

Learning focus of faculty workshop

All faculty are invited to participate in a faculty workshop titled “Applying the Science of Learning,” led by Dr. Milt Hakel, Ohio Board of Regents Eminent Scholar in Psychology at Bowling Green State University. The Friday, Aug. 27 workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Curtiss Hall Seminar Rooms A and B. To register, email dboehm@svsu.edu, or call ext. 7228.

Continuing Education offering trip to Spain

The Office of Continuing Education is offering a seven day/six night trip to Barcelona and Madrid, Spain, coinciding with Spring Break Feb. 26 through March 5.

The trip includes three nights lodging in Barcelona and three nights in Madrid (four star hotels); air transportation from MBS to Barcelona, from Barcelona to Madrid and from Madrid to MBS; all airport transfers; breakfast each morning; motorcoach city tours of Barcelona and Madrid; a full-day tour of Montserrat, the Holy Mountain; half-day tour of the Valley of the Fallen basilica and Escorial monastery; and free time to shop, visit art museums and other local attractions.

Call ext. 4475 for an information packet or to register; or visit www.svsu.edu/oce/programs.htm.

The Interior is published biweekly when classes are in session fall and winter semesters and periodically through the summer. University departments sponsoring activities or events listed in the Interior will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities when contacted at least three days in advance.

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Interior Publication Schedule

• Sept. 7

Submission Deadline:

Noon on the Friday
before the publication date.
Send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.



SVSU administrators and faculty heard from Paulette Granberry Russell, senior advisor to the president for diversity and director of the Office of Affirmative Action, Compliance and Monitoring at Michigan State University. Russell shared effective strategies to advance a diverse university environment during her presentation, "Best Practices for Diversifying the Faculty," Friday, Aug. 6. (Photo by JJ Boehm)

SVSU joins Delphi to develop advanced safety technology

SVSU has teamed with Delphi Steering in Buena Vista Township on a new steering column technology that helps improve driver safety by adapting the column's energy absorption rate during a crash to the crash severity as well as driver weight, size, seat belt usage and speed. The leading edge technology is set to debut on 2005 full size sedans.

The SVSU Independent Testing Laboratory shared its technical resources with Delphi to complete development work on Delphi's next-generation energy absorbing steering column, which is designed to help protect the driver during a forward collision event. During such an event, the driver's body accelerates toward the steering wheel. The active energy absorbing steering column greatly reduces the impact of a

crash on the upper body by absorbing up to 20 percent of the driver's energy. The column acts in conjunction with a dual-stage airbag as part of an integrated safety system to help protect drivers.

"This project is a prime example of the progress that is possible when universities and corporations collaborate," said Bruce Hart, manager of SVSU's Independent Testing Lab.

"We provide technical support for regional businesses and see ourselves as an extension of our partners' facilities," Hart said. "Our students gain valuable experience to prepare themselves for careers in industry, while contributing to the health of the local and state economy."

The SVSU Independent Testing Lab is part of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. Since 1982, the lab has provided regional companies with access to the faculty, staff and modern scientific instrumentation used in SVSU laboratories.

Engineering students display projects/prototypes

SVSU hosted its Mechanical Engineering Summer Showcase Friday, Aug. 20. The showcase featured the work of senior mechanical engineering students who finished the second semester of a senior design curriculum. The students were placed into teams where they conceived, designed, built, tested and refined physical prototypes for the projects' sponsors.



Ramy Tabash, John Buscemi, Pawel Wesolowski, and Steve Pressacco developed a laboratory tool to advance the treatment, technology, and therapy of head injuries.



Karen Hollenbeck, senior AIS programmer/analyst, and Wynn McDonald, assistant director of career planning and placement, each sport a dramatic make-over as a result of their participation in SVSU's "Weight Watchers at Work" program. The two are among 35 SVSU staff who joined the program in January 2004; as a group, the total amount of weight lost adds up to about 900 pounds. Hollenbeck, who hopes to reach her same weight when she was married 17 years ago, already has lost 59 pounds. McDonald, who lost 48 pounds, became a lifetime Weight Watchers member about three weeks ago for reaching his goal. Ann Miner, benefits consultant in the Employment and Compensation Services office, said another opportunity to enroll in SVSU's Weight Watchers at Work program will be offered in late September.

- The **2004-05 All Sports Passes** are now available for all faculty and staff. Each faculty or staff member is allowed two of these passes, which allow you into all home football and basketball games (regular season) free of charge. You must see Shelly in the Athletic Department to pick them up, as you must sign for them.

- **Reserved parking permits** for 2003-04 expire Sept. 15. New permits will be issued by the Cashier's Office beginning Monday, Aug. 16. Permits may be purchased via mail by completing the permit application found online at <http://svsu.edu/universitypolice/forms/reserveapp.pdf> and forwarding the completed application along with a check made payable to SVSU in the amount of \$20 (no cash please) to the Cashier's Office in 166 Wickes Hall. Your permit will then be mailed to you via interoffice mail. You may also purchase a permit in person, but please be advised that there may be long lines due to significant student traffic that normally occurs at this time.

- Join your faculty and staff colleagues on the **Cardinal Express Fan Bus** to the away football games this season. Enjoy a comfortable seat on the bus, beverages and snacks, your ticket to the game and camaraderie with fellow Cardinal fans. Call Shelly Reminder at ext. 7306 for more information.

- Departments and faculty members that offered **General Education** courses during the 2003-2004 academic year should submit 2003-2004 General Education course assessment reports by Monday, Sept. 20. These reports must be submitted by Word e-mail attachments to cdorne@svsu.edu. The GEC website assessment section links to an assessment report form that should be useful in the completion of these summary reports.

Orientation Day Activities

Thursday, Aug. 26

Breakfast (For all new faculty and academic staff only)
8:30 to 10 a.m., Curtiss Hall Seminar Room G

New Faculty Orientation
10 a.m. to Noon, Curtiss Hall - Emeriti Room

Faculty Lunch – “What the Best College Teachers Do” by Ken Bain
Noon to 1:15 p.m., Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms A & B

College Meetings – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Wickes Hall - W115
College of Business and Management, Curtiss Hall - C129
College of Education, Regional Education Center - ES 202
Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Wickes Hall - W226
College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Pioneer Hall - P224

Introduction of New Faculty and Staff and Recognition of Faculty Promotions and Tenure; Remarks by Eric R. Gilbertson
4 to 5 p.m., Performing Arts Theatre

Picnic to Celebrate the New Academic Year

(For all faculty, staff and their families)

5 to 7:30 p.m.

Leaping Gazelle Fountain Courtyard
(In case of rain, festivities will be held in Curtiss Hall)

Stay current by logging on to SVSU's campus news Web site

To enable those at SVSU to remain current, a news and events Web site has been launched that features updated articles of general interest, a comprehensive calendar of events, and other timely messages.

Access the information at
campusnews.svsu.edu.

The Web site contains four sections:

The Literacy Council of Bay County and the Pig Gig promoters want to thank the following SVSU individuals for working the volunteer tent at this year's Labadie Pig Gig: Sharon Carlin, Cheryl David, Jill Gushow, Darlene Kusterer, Harold Leaver, Marie Rabideau and Suzette Zimmerman. These volunteers helped raise \$1,500. Thank you to all of you who helped make this year's Pig Gig a success.

news headlines, student happenings, campus services, and employee news.

“This Web site is improving the way in which we communicate as a University,” said Lucille Beuthin, vice president for public affairs and executive director of the SVSU Foundation. “The site provides easy access to information so faculty and staff can go directly to those items that are important to them.”

Faculty and staff are encouraged to make this site their “home page” so that their Web browser will automatically open to this location.

Those who wish to post items to campusnews.svsu.edu should contact Tim Inman, senior communications coordinator, at ext. 4086, or tmi@svsu.edu, for access and training.

Tom McCann

Director, Math Resource/Support Center • August 2004

A stroll around the Math Resource Center at SVSU will provide you with a some interesting arithmetical insight. From an antique Russian abacus, a four foot long yellow slide rule, and century-old educational posters to computer-generated fractal art, the room is a mini-museum of math history.

Most of the students who walk through the door would prefer to discuss history—or any other subject, for that matter—to mathematics, according to the center’s director, Tom McCann.

“Every first-time student who comes in this room tends to be confused, sometimes depressed, and sometimes angry,” he said.

As a result, McCann tries to create an inviting and soothing environment...math decor aside.

“We try to make this the friendliest place on campus,” he said.

It seems to be working. The center logged nearly 5,000 visits during the past school year. McCann is quick to credit those on the front line.

“My tutors are terrific,” he said. “They do all the hard work.”

McCann and his tutors don’t need a syllabus to know exam dates.

“We always know when there’s a test. We’re really busy,” he said.

The tutors’ work requires more than explanations of trigonometry or chaos theory. It often involves psychology, too, because many visitors are emotional.

“We do a lot more counseling than people realize,” McCann said.

A math teacher for 32 years in Saginaw Public Schools, McCann wishes more students were counseled about math during their formative years.

“Our educational system allows students to be ‘math avoiders,’” he said.

As a result, McCann says many students arrive in college without a solid understanding of algebra, which he describes as “the language of mathematics.”

“In most things in life, people know they need a foundation, but in math, people try to start in the middle,” McCann said.

McCann and his colleagues devote considerable time to testing incoming students and seeing they are placed in the appropriate course. He praises the professors in the math department for incorporating material that students can apply outside the classroom.

“It is nice that SVSU offers math classes in the General Education curriculum that have some practicality,” he said.

McCann tries to be practical in his personal life, where family is at the forefront and visits to children and grandchildren are given priority. His wife, Suzanne, works part time in the SVSU Health Center.

“We’re in a transition in our life,” McCann said. “We knew we were too young to give up what we were doing.”

McCann realizes that his help can sometimes mean the difference between walking across the stage or dropping out of school.

“In the end, if students can get through math, they can get through the University,” he said.

“Math is a break point.”

