Eleven student leaders selected for Roberts Fellowships

Eleven outstanding students have been selected to participate in the Roberts Fellows program for the 2004-05 academic year. They will add a concentrated focus on leadership to their studies, culminating in a trip to Asia in May 2005.

The Roberts Fellows program is among the most prestigious undergraduate programs at SVSU. The fellowships support a select group of students who have demonstrated both scholarship and leadership potential. These students will be supported through a two-semester program of both academic course work and extracurricular activities that is designed to further develop their potential as future political, economic and civic leaders.

To qualify, students must pass a rigorous selection process. Students are chosen based upon their academic accomplishment, a record of University and community service, and other evidence of leadership potential.

Students selected to be Roberts Fellows will be required to complete a three-credit “Leadership Seminar” in the fall and winter semesters within one or more academic departments. During the year, the Fellows will also meet for informal seminars and discussions with various political, business and civic leaders from throughout the Saginaw Valley. Drew Hinderer, professor of philosophy, serves as the group’s faculty advisor.

The program is named in honor of Donna Roberts of Midland, who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to SVSU through her personal generosity and prior service on the Board of Control and the Board of Fellows. A respected attorney, business leader and philanthropist, Roberts retired from The Dow Chemical Company, where she was Secretary and Assistant General Counsel. She is an honorary director on the SVSU Foundation Board.
New Cardinals
The University congratulates the parents of new additions to the SVSU family:
• José Ruiz, custodial specialist, and his wife, Rebecca, welcomed a son, Carver Ruiz, on Aug. 15.
• Tish Yaros, administrative secretary in Information Technology Services, and her husband, Kirk, welcomed a son, Cole Joseph Yaros (8 lbs., 2 oz., 20-3/4 in.), on Aug. 23.

Condolences
The University community expresses condolences to the family of Karen Klemish, retired administrative secretary in athletics, who passed away Friday, Sept. 10.

Across Campus
• Gail Kantak, professor of biology, recently entered four events and won four gold medals in the Michigan Senior Olympics in Lansing. In the 50-54 age group, Kantak won gold in the 100 meters (14.45), the 200 (32.58), the 400 (1:17.99) and the 800 (3:23.71). Her time in the 100 broke her own state record set in 2002. She also won five golds in 2002, and has nine total in her career. Prior to the Olympics, Kantak had not competed in more than a year due to a knee injury.
• Linda L. Sims, SVSU’s Board of Control chair, has been named director of community services for Consumers Energy’s gas and electric divisions. In her new position, Sims is responsible for internal and external communications, local government and community relations across the utility’s Lower Peninsula service territory. Sims was appointed to the SVSU Board of Control in 1998. She is currently serving her second term as chair. Sims has held a series of positions with increasing responsibility during her 22-year career with Consumers Energy, primarily in the areas of public affairs, communications and economic development.
SVSU’s 2004 Edwards Lecture in Philosophy and Religion will feature Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, professor of psychology and philosophy at Eastern University, who will explore how family roles are defined, marital fidelity, and how these and other issues influence modern American society.

Van Leeuwen will discuss whether it is possible to put children first without putting women last, and without putting men on the sidelines of family life. Her talk, “An Agenda for Gender Reconciliation,” also explores if children’s need for stable, nurturing families can be honored without re-embracing the doctrine of separate spheres for men and women.

Van Leeuwen argues that such questions “are fundamentally religious... because any answers will reflect what we most deeply believe humans are made for.”

In addition to being a professor of psychology and philosophy, Van Leeuwen is also a resident scholar for The Hestenes Center for Christian Women in Leadership at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa. She holds a Ph.D. in social and cross-cultural psychology from Northwestern University.

Van Leeuwen has edited and authored numerous books. She is perhaps best known for Gender and Grace: Love, Work and Parenting in a Changing World, now in its 10th printing and translated into Korean, Arabic, and Chinese.

The lecture will be the basis of a roundtable discussion Thursday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. in Curtiss Hall Seminar Room E. Jesse Donahue, associate professor of political science, and Judith Hill, professor of philosophy, will present brief responses to Van Leeuwen’s talk. The discussion will include an extended time for questions from the floor.

Admission is free of charge to both the lecture and roundtable.

2004 Dow Lecturers focus on world events

- **Laurie Garrett:** “Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health”
  Monday, Oct. 11
  7 p.m. Performing Arts Theatre

- **Ray Suarez:** “Making Sense of the Headlines: What Lies Ahead”
  Tuesday, Oct. 5
  7 p.m. Performing Arts Theatre

- **David Suzuki:** “The Challenge of the 21st Century: Setting the Real Bottomline”
  Monday, Oct. 18
  7 p.m. Performing Arts Theatre

- **Cristina Garcia:** “Living Beyond the Hyphen: Identity in the Age of Multi-Culturalism”
  Monday, Oct. 25
  7 p.m. Performing Arts Theatre

- **Paul Zwieten-Rotterdam:** “Aesthetic Ideas on a Global Scale: What is the Contemporary Outlook for Art?”
  Thursday, Nov. 4
  2:30 p.m. Alan Ott Auditorium

- **Concluding Lecture: A Response**
  Second Annual Hoffmann/Willertz Memorial Lecture
  **Robert Braddock:** “Living in an Era of Change: Do We Learn Anything from History?”
  Wednesday, Nov. 10
  7 p.m. Rhea Miller Recital Hall

Admission is free of charge. For further information, call ext. 4261.
• 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 are available through the Cashier’s Office. Permits may be purchased via mail by completing the online permit application, [http://svsu.edu/universitypolice/forms/reserveapp.pdf](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.

• 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 2003-04 academic year should submit 2003-04 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.

• **The Office of Continuing Education** is holding an informational meeting for faculty and staff about the **2005 Spring Break trip to Spain**. The meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 13 from 5 to 6 p.m. This seven day/six night trip will include three nights in Barcelona and three nights in Madrid. Departure is set for Saturday, Feb. 26 from MBS International Airport, with the return scheduled for Saturday, March 5. Please RSVP to Jo Brownlie at ext. 4310 to attend the meeting.

• **The Benefits Open Enrollment** for faculty and staff begins Monday, Sept. 20 and ends Friday, Oct. 15. Open Enrollment packets containing full details about health plan options and how to make enrollment elections will be sent through the mail. Also, a Benefits Fair will be held in the Alumni Lounge Wednesday, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday, Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information about benefits at SVSU, contact Ann Miner at aminer@svsu.edu, or Jennifer Neitzel at jneitzel@svsu.edu.

• **The 2004 annual statistical crime document** is now available online at [www.svsu.edu/universitypolice](http://www.svsu.edu/universitypolice). Click on the 2004 Crime Awareness Report link. The website contains information regarding campus security and personal safety, including topics such as crime prevention and reporting policies, alcohol and drug use, sexual assault, State of Michigan Sex Offender registry, monthly crime reports, and other matters of importance related to security on campus. Campus crime statistics and hate crime statistics for 2001, 2002, and 2003 are also contained in the report. Paper copies of the Crime Awareness Report are available at the University Police Department located on Tower Drive. Please contact the department at ext. 4141 for further information. This information is required by law and is provided by the SVSU Police.

### SVSU enrollment hits all-time high

A record number of students are attending SVSU, with a total of 9,448 students enrolled for the fall 2004 semester. This represents an increase of more than 3 percent from the fall 2003 enrollment of 9,168.

SVSU saw increased enrollment particularly among freshmen and undergraduate transfer students, as well as graduate students.

The 2004 freshman class of 1,239 is the largest in University history, and enters with the highest academic credentials.

Nearly 40 percent of entering freshmen carried a high school grade point average of at least 3.50, up from 37 percent a year ago.

The class includes a record 110 Presidential Scholars, who were valedictorians or salutatorians of their high schools.

“We continue to attract more valedictorians and salutatorians from this region than any other university in Michigan,” said Robert Maurovich, vice president for student services and enrollment management. “At the same time, we are drawing more students from other areas of the state.”

Approximately 67 percent of incoming freshmen hail from outside Saginaw, Bay, Midland and Tuscola counties.

The on-campus population this fall also consists of more students (1,700) than ever before, including a record 61 percent of the freshman class.

SVSU also passed another milestone. Students have registered for 100,724 credit hours. This represents a 6 percent increase over the previous year and marks the first time that figure has exceeded 100,000.
When at home, Janet Rentsch enjoys spending time in the kitchen, particularly if she is baking cakes, cookies, pies or other after-dinner delights.

“I love to cook, especially desserts,” she said.

When at work, Rentsch devotes her talents to finding the right recipes to appeal to grant reviewers.

As director of sponsored and academic support programs, Rentsch oversees the submission of 45 to 50 grant applications per year, seeking funding from federal, state, foundation and other sources. SVSU received $4.3 million in grants during fiscal year 2004. Rentsch and her staff monitor at least seven Web sites on a daily basis, searching for available grants.

“We’re always looking for opportunities,” Retnsch said. “They change all the time.”

The office evaluates potential grants large and small.

“We have proposals for $500 to fund professional development workshops and are two or three pages,” Rentsch said. “Others go up to a $1.8 million budget and require a lot more paperwork. There’s a wide gamut.”

There is also a significant research component to the grant process.

“We research trends of what is being funded, especially federally,” Rentsch said.

Rentsch encourages faculty and staff to investigate the assistance she and her coworkers can provide.

“They aren’t always aware of the infrastructure that’s here,” she said.

That infrastructure includes everything from brainstorming sessions to filing paperwork. The exchange of information often yields dividends.

“My colleagues in academic affairs are very good at sharing information and telling us what their funding needs are,” Rentsch said.

Rentsch regularly monitors the needs of SVSU’s five colleges.

“We’re looking to strengthen undergraduate academic research,” she said.

Rentsch takes pride in every successful grant application, regardless of size.

“Every grant is a good thing,” she said. “I think the smaller grants are just as important.”

Rentsch says grants provide opportunities to build programs and collaborations with other organizations to cement SVSU’s place as one of the region’s leading institutions.

“The education grants we have with K-12 school districts are very symbiotic,” she said.

Technology has radically altered the grant process.

Rentsch says many grants require progress reports to be filed electronically every six months, using sophisticated systems.

“The granting climate has changed dramatically in the last five years,” Rentsch said. “Grantors have gotten much more current in tracking which grants are successful.”

The recent economic downturn has caused more organizations to seek grant dollars, but most grantors have fewer funds available, due to a corresponding drop in investment income.

“It has become much more competitive,” Rentsch said.

“We view every grant that gets funded as a success.”

Outside the office, Rentsch likes to travel in Michigan with her husband, Stefan. The couple also spends much of their time at the athletic events of their four children.

The never-ending cycle of research, filing deadlines, and monitoring reports assures that boredom does not set in for Rentsch.

“There is never a dull day in this office.”