Rush Lecturer to examine human differences and similarities

Joseph Ofori-Dankwa, professor of management and marketing, will deliver the 2004 Rush Distinguished Lecture at 4 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 7 in Founders Hall. Dankwa’s address is titled “Contemplating and Conceptualizing Life’s Paradoxes: A Journey Towards the Beginning.”

Dankwa describes his lecture as humorous yet serious, and highly interactive. He will discuss what he has termed “the diversimilarity paradox,” the coexistence of differences and similarities as representing the basic building blocks upon which human organizing and human organizations are built.

Dankwa joined the SVSU faculty in 1987 and was promoted to professor in 1996. He is recognized for his work in the classroom, having in 2000 received the House Award for Teacher Impact. In 2001, Dankwa organized a study tour for 12 SVSU students to travel to the African nation of Ghana.

“Diversimilarity” is Dankwa’s primary area of research, with particular focus on workforce diversity. His articles and research have been incorporated into the content of courses at several other universities. Dankwa is currently pioneering the concept of diversity and similarity curves to conceptualize other paradoxes such as work and play, and novelty and continuity. He uses the economic model of supply and demand as a heuristic for this research.

Dankwa has had numerous articles published over the years. “The Effect of Accreditation on Business Schools: A Contingency Model,” which he co-authored with associate professor of management and marketing Scott Julian, received the Best Paper award at the 2003 Academy of Management Conference in Seattle, Wash.

Dankwa also has a long record of University and community service. He is a member of the SVSU task force on workforce diversity and the Black History Month committee.

Dankwa helped found the Mid-Michigan Dispute Resolution Center, the Saginaw-based Bridge Center for Racial Harmony, and the Saginaw County Minority Business Development Center.

The Rush Lectureship recognizes and rewards SVSU faculty and staff who, through their creation or development of significant scholarly or artistic work, distinguish themselves and bring recognition to the University.
Journalists and authors highlight 2004 Dow Lecture Series at SVSU

Ray Suarez will open the Dow Lecture Series Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre

In his talk, “Making Sense of the Headlines: What Lies Ahead,” Suarez seeks to help audiences understand the stories behind the headlines and broaden their perspective on a changing world.

One of the most respected news anchors in Washington today with more than 25 years of varied experience in journalism, Suarez continues to make major contributions to the public’s understanding of important events. Currently senior correspondent for the PBS television program The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, he was previously host of the National Public Radio news program Talk of the Nation.

Winner of a number of prestigious awards, including the Ruben Salazar Award from the National Council of La Raza, Current History Magazine’s Global Awareness Award, and a Chicago Emmy Award, Suarez is the author of the recent book The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration.

Michigan Watercolor Society Exhibition on display in University Art Gallery

Watercolors by artists from across Michigan are on display as the University Art Gallery hosts the Michigan Watercolor Society’s 2004 Traveling Exhibition through Saturday, Oct. 30.

The traveling show features 35 works by 35 artists selected from the Society’s 57th annual exhibition. It showcases the beauty and versatility of this extremely popular medium, and painting styles range from finely detailed photorealism to the jewel-like colors of vivid abstracts.

Participating artists in the exhibition hail from Ironwood to Grosse Pointe and many points in between. Award-winning paintings included in the show are “Star-Thrower” by Stanley Rosenthal of Huntington Woods; “Confined Green” by Todd Marsee of Plymouth; “Lost Identity” by Marilyn Blinder of Southfield, and “Disconnected” by Darcy Scott of West Bloomfield.

Scheduled Lectures and Public Discussions

• Monday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre, Laurie Garrett will discuss health care and disease prevention in her lecture, “Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health.”

• Monday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre, Environmental issues will take center stage when geneticist David Suzuki presents “The Challenge of the 21st Century: Setting the Real Bottom Line.”

• Monday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall, Cuban-born author Cristina Garcia will discuss different dimensions of diversity and the complexities of a dual cultural identity in her lecture, “Living Beyond the Hyphen: Identity in the Age of Multi-Culturalism.”

• Thursday, Nov. 4 at 2:30 p.m. in the Alan W. Ott Auditorium, Paul Zwietnig-Rotterdam will examine the future of artistic expression during his lecture, “Aesthetic Ideas on a Global Scale: What is the Contemporary Outlook for Art?”

• Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall, Robert Braddock, professor of history, provides a response to the previous presenters in his lecture, “Living in an Era of Change: Do We Learn Anything from History?”

Community murals the focus of Hispanic Heritage Month lecture

Community murals will be the subject of a colorful slide lecture in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. Timothy W. Drescher will deliver his talk, titled “Identity Politics in Hispanic Murals (& Others)” Thursday, Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Drescher’s lecture will critically examine recent images from the community mural movement in San Francisco. He questions whether painting big, central images of historic political heroes like Cesar Chavez is always the best artistic strategy to express the contemporary political concerns of Hispanic—or other—communities.

The community mural movement has often flowered in Hispanic and African-American neighborhoods around the United States. It has been used to visualize the concerns of industrial and agricultural workers, women, people with disabilities, and many others.

Drescher was on the faculty of San Francisco State University from 1977 to 2002. He is the author of San Francisco Bay Area Murals: Communities Create Their Muses, 1904-1997, as well as numerous publications on community arts.

The lecture is sponsored by the College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences and is open to the public. Admission is free of charge.
Professional Profile


• Thomas Renna, professor of history, presented a paper titled “Giles of Rome and Kingship” at the 29th International Conference on Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies, Sept. 18 at Villanova University. The conference was sponsored by the Augustinian Historical Institute.

New Cardinals

• Lisa Gross, assistant director in the Academic Advisement Center, and her husband, Aaron, welcomed a son, Brady (8 lbs., 9 oz., 19.5 in.), born Sept. 25.

• Erin Mindykowski, assistant director of admissions, and her husband, Dion, welcomed a son, Paul William (8 lbs., 2 oz., 18.5 in.), born Sept. 20.

• Stephanie Sieggreen, director of career planning and placement, and her husband, Ron, welcomed a daughter, Alexa (7 lbs., 8 oz., 18 in.), born Sept. 14.

• Melissa Woodward, senior accounting clerk, and her husband, Marc, welcomed a daughter, Kylee (9 lbs., 14 oz., 20 in.), born Sept. 29.

Condolences

• James G. Muladore, vice president for administration and business affairs, on the loss of his father, Gerald E. Muladore, who passed away Sept. 25.

• Mamie Thorns, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, on the recent passing of her mother-in-law, Annie Thorns.

Administration & Business Affairs Division announces organizational changes

Several organizational changes impacting Employment and Compensation Services have been implemented, and are effective immediately.

ECS, which is responsible for pre-employment functions and fringe benefit administration, will now report to Jill Gushow, director of staff relations. Cindy Bala will assume the duties of assistant director of staff relations. The Payroll Department, managed by Anthony Dizon, will be separated from ECS and will report to Sue Crane, university controller.

The ECS Department was originally established in 2001 with the intent of improving processes related to the interaction of payroll and the more traditional human resources functions.

Much of this work has been accomplished, and it is now appropriate to focus on new initiatives and identifying best practices that will better serve the needs of the campus community.

These organizational changes will support SVSU’s efforts in this regard.

The office location for ECS operations will remain in 373 Wickes Hall.

Workshop examines cultural diversity issues in the classroom

The Office of Diversity Programs has scheduled a cultural diversity initiative workshop.

Frankie Y. Bailey, associate professor of criminal justice at the State University of New York at Albany, will lead a session titled “Infusing Diversity in Teaching and Learning” from 9 a.m. to noon, Friday, Oct. 8 in Seminar Room E.

Bailey’s academic pursuits focus on crime history, gender and crime, minorities and crime, and crime fiction. She is interested in black characters in crime and detective fiction and the images of victims and offenders in popular culture. She is the author of Out of the Woodpile: Black Characters in Crime and Detective Fiction, which was nominated for the Mystery Writers of America 1992 Edgar Award for Criticism and Biography.

Bailey is also the author of Death’s Favorite Child, the first novel in a mystery series featuring crime historian Lizzie Stuart.

The program is sponsored by the KCP Initiative, the Michigan Department of Career Development, the SVSU College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences, and the SVSU Office of Diversity Programs.

To RSVP, call ext. 4068.
Opposing views on education will be aired when Lu Battaglieri and Susan B. Neuman debate at 7 p.m. in the Alan W. Ott Auditorium. Stephen Barbus, dean of the College of Education, will moderate the debate, "K-12 Education and the No Child Left Behind Act."

Opening of "Paul Z. Rotterdam: Drawings," an exhibition that will be on display through Jan. 22, 2005 in the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum. Also, plan to attend a reception for Rotterdam at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3.

Acclaimed cabaret singer Kat’ Taylor will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. The performance marks the opening of the 2004-05 Rhea Miller Concert Series.

The debate "World Affairs: Creating Peace or Creating Problems?" will be held at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre. Panelists Peter Brookes, a senior fellow for national security affairs and director of the Asian Studies Center for the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., and Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and a senior advisor to the Center for Defense Information, will offer competing global perspectives.

Prominent political commentators Tony Blankley and Eleanor Clift will bring their arguments on opposite ends of the political spectrum from the nation’s capital to the SVSU campus at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre.

The President’s Office invites all faculty and staff to the Fourth Friday reception from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on third floor Wickes Hall.

Flûtée will incorporate historic and ethnic flutes into their concert, "Something Old, Something New...,” at 4 p.m. in Founders Hall.

Congressional candidates Dale Kildee and Myrah Kirkwood will debate at SVSU at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre. Flint Journal editor Paul Keep will moderate.

A Faculty Staff Luncheon will take place in the Emeriti Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is $5.