

Interior

June 1, 2005

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Cardinal Racing finishes 8th at world competition

For the second time in four years, the Cardinal Formula Racing team has proven to be among the world's elite collegiate racing teams by placing in the top 10 at the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers Collegiate Design Series. SVSU finished 8th in the international competition that concluded May 22 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

"I'm very pleased and really proud of our team," said project manager Jenny Pettengill, a senior mechanical engineering major from Flint. "The level of competition increases every year, but all of our hard work paid off."

The event, which is comprised of six categories, included 140 collegiate teams. SVSU placed third in

presentation and marketing, sixth in acceleration, sixth in the skid pad, 12th in endurance and fuel economy, 13th in the autocross race, and 53rd in cost. In 2002, SVSU finished 6th overall.

Pettengill led a team of 27 SVSU students that completely designed and built an Indy-style race car for the competition.

The car's frame relies heavily on carbon composites instead of steel tubing, reducing the vehicle's weight to around 470 pounds when race ready, down from 500 pounds last year. The reduced weight was a major reason for the team's success, according to Pettengill.

"In my opinion, this is the most challenging undergraduate

exercise there is, because students must take their ideas from concept to competition, not just concept to completion," said Brooks Byam, associate professor of mechanical engineering and the team's faculty advisor.

The Cardinal Formula Racing team returned home May 23 to race in the second annual SVSU Grand Prix.

The format for the race was an "Australian pursuit," in which two cars begin at opposite corners of a symmetrical track. The races ended after 20 laps or when one car caught the other. It was held in the Ryder Center parking lot.

The field, which included

three of the top 10 from the FSAE competition, consisted of Kettering University, University of Akron, University of Florida, University of Wisconsin, Carleton University, University of Guelph and University of Washington, which placed first in the race.

The top 10 finishers in the 2005 FSAE Collegiate Design Series were Cornell University, University of Western Australia, University of Wisconsin, University of Waterloo (Canada), University of Washington, Pennsylvania State University, North Carolina State University, SVSU, University of Missouri-Rolla, and Ryerson University (Canada).



Jenny Pettengill, a senior mechanical engineering major, drove SVSU's No. 52 race car that placed in the top 10 out of 140 competitors at the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers Collegiate Design Series, May 22. Above, teams prepare to race in the SVSU Grand Prix. SVSU took third place in the May 23 event that was held near Ryder Center. Photos by Tim Inman.



SVSU placed among the top 10 teams at the Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition 2005, Saturday, April 2 at UM-Flint. Twenty-five teams from 12 institutions participated in the competition. Participants in this year's contest from SVSU are: Khai Nguyen, a sophomore mathematics major from Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Michael Volz, a junior electrical engineering major from Lansing; Matt Crawford, a senior mathematics major from Bay City; Jason Lucius, a senior mathematics education major from Burt, and (not pictured) Gonzalo Marulanda, a senior mathematics major from Saginaw. This achievement was made possible through the hard work of the math contestants, mentored by Cyrus Aryana, faculty advisor. The group also received support from Ronald Williams, dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology; and John Mooningham, the chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences. The Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition is a regional undergraduate team competition. Since 1977, students have traveled to a college or university in Michigan where they work on an exam in groups of three or less. Institutions that participated this year were Albion College, Alma College, Aquinas College, Calvin College, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Hope College, Kalamazoo College, Lawrence Tech University, Olivet College, Saginaw Valley State University, and University of Michigan-Flint.

SVSU participates in emergency warning system

SVSU participates in the Saginaw County emergency warning system. Two emergency warning sirens are located on the campus, one immediately south of Pine Grove Apartments, and one north of South Complex. These sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the summer, and at 10 a.m. in the fall and winter months. The test tone lasts for approximately one minute. The sirens will also activate if a tornado warning is issued for Saginaw County. This tone lasts for approximately five minutes.



Wednesday, June 15 • 4:30 to 7 p.m.

SVSU Grounds Building, Pierce & Tower Drive

Enjoy an evening of food, drink and good times with your Friends of SVSU, with the chance to take home some fantastic prizes, including a first prize of two tickets to a Detroit Lions game! Contribution of \$10 per ticket. **For more information, call Gene Hamilton at ext. 4069.**

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Professional Profile

- **Eric Gardner**, associate professor of English, was awarded two fellowships for his study of nineteenth century African-American literature and culture. He received a Summer Stipend Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities and an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Gardner is one of only three Michigan scholars and one of only 114 nationwide who received the NEH award, which will fund two months of research this summer. Gardner's research will focus on the rhetoric of slavery and freedom in the St. Louis freedom suits, a group of almost 300 lawsuits filed by enslaved African-Americans in St. Louis, Mo. who were seeking their freedom. The Mellon fellowship will fund one month of on-site research in Philadelphia. Gardner's research will focus on early African-American fortune-telling and builds from his discovery of Chloe Russel's circa 1820 chapbook, *The Complete Fortune Teller and Dream Book*.

- **Phyllis Hastings**, professor of English, and **C. Vincent Samarco**, associate professor of English, presented papers on their teaching at the Saginaw Correctional Facility at the College English Association 36th annual conference, held March 30 through April 2 in Indianapolis. Hastings' topic was "Looking In, Looking Out: Inmates Reading and Writing Literature," and Samarco discussed "Looking Within and Looking Beyond: A Teaching Stance for Creative Writing."

New Cardinals

- **Todd Pashak**, webmaster, and his wife Jennifer welcomed a girl, Lacey Noelle, May 2.

Condolences

- To **Cheryl Michalski**, senior faculty secretary, on the loss of her mother, Norma Hoard, who passed away May 18.

Those interested in a new portrait for the 2005-06 Faculty/Staff Directory should contact the Office of University Communications at ext. 4086 to make an appointment by June 20.

The Interior is published every three weeks throughout fall and winter semester, and monthly during the spring and 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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Submission Deadline:
Noon on the Friday before the publication date.
Please send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.

Jennifer Pahl

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS • MAY 2005

Jennifer Pahl keeps a valuable reference on the back side of her office door: a map of Saginaw County. As the associate director of Admissions, she travels the county's highways and byways visiting high schools and seeking to recruit students to SVSU.

"Incoming freshmen are our bread and butter," Pahl said.

Pahl has a distinct advantage when making her sales pitch – she is familiar with the area and the decision facing students, having enrolled at SVSU herself after graduating from Frankenmuth High School.

Pahl believes her background helps her relate to high school students.

"They like to hear from a younger person who is from their area," she said.

That philosophy permeates the department, as all of the Admissions counselors are SVSU alumni.

"We have an awesome Admissions team; they make my job fun every day," Pahl said.

On the recruiting trail, Pahl finds SVSU to be an increasingly popular destination.

"More and more students see SVSU as their first choice," she said.

That list includes her husband, Josh, who left his job at The Dow Chemical Company to attend SVSU full time. He wants to earn an education degree and teach kindergarten.

As the days grow longer, so do Pahl's hours. She is the primary contact for potential transfer students.

"I used to think summers were never busy," she said, "but this is the peak season for transfers."

The Admissions Department seeks to add around 1,100 transfer students annually.

"For them, it's not as much about student life or campus activities," Pahl said. "They know what they want, so we talk curriculum and see how many of their credits will transfer."

Some of those students are familiar to Pahl, having considered SVSU coming out of high school.

"I make every effort to encourage students to choose higher education," she said. "A lot of them are the first in their family to go to college."

Pahl says the competition for prospective students begins early.

"The prime time to connect with students is during their freshman and sophomore years in high school," she said. "By their junior year, many of them are already making up their minds."

Pahl made up her mind to apply the management lessons she learned while earning her business degree and MBA. Her duties include overseeing the department's secretaries and student employees.

"Being a manager is something I love to do," she said.

Pahl spends much of her leisure time attending the games and performances of her 13 nieces and nephews.

For her immediate family, Pahl planted red, white and purple petunias at her home in Zilwaukee. They were a "welcome home" sight for her father, Jim, a Navy reservist who returned after spending seven months in Spain on deployment.

To unwind, Pahl likes to curl up in a good book.

"When I read a good book, I can't stop – even if the house is in shambles," she joked.

When reading her future, Pahl sees herself in Cardinal colors for many years to come.

"I'm a Saginaw Valley person through and through."



Nate Garrelts

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

If you happen to see Nate Garrelts walking in the hallway, be prepared for a greeting, because the assistant professor of English is almost certain to say hello.

“I’m not shy about saying ‘Hi,’” he said.

Being a new faculty member and having a youthful appearance have caused Garrelts to occasionally receive some quizzical glances from his colleagues.

“Sometimes they must think, ‘Gosh, this is one of the friendliest students,’” he said with a smile.

Garrelts’ students often are surprised to learn that he is the instructor – though that passes quickly.

“Despite my age, I do have the experience,” he said.

Including his time in graduate school, Garrelts has been teaching in a college setting since 1998.

Age-related issues aside, Garrelts is thoroughly enjoying his SVSU experience.

“What I have found special here, most notably, is the opportunity to develop professionally,” he said.

The guarantee of professional development funds and the faculty summer institute he experienced as a newcomer are two examples Garrelts cited.

The classroom also provides Garrelts with opportunities to grow as a professor.

“I learn a lot from my students on how to be a better teacher,” he said. “I learn as much as my students do.”

In less than a year, Garrelts has already taught seven separate courses, but he enjoys the variety.

“I love to teach new classes,” he said.

Garrelts was hired to teach primarily freshman composition.

“I like teaching writing,” he said. “My interest is in helping students become better writers.”

Noting that some English professors prefer to teach literature, Garrelts quipped, “I’m self-actualized.”

Garrelts is working on a grant to collaborate with English teachers in Saginaw Public Schools.

“I like to contribute to my community,” he said.

While he is a serious scholar, including an interest in the writing content involved in new media, such as video games and the Internet, Garrelts insists he is not always buried in a book.

“There is a side to me that is ‘unacademic,’” he said.

Garrelts spends a fair amount of time remodeling his family’s century-old farmhouse south of Frankenmuth and working in the garden. He enjoys the serenity.

“It’s like a pastoral scene from a William Carlos Williams poem,” he said.

Garrelts and his wife, Beth, are both Michigan natives, which influenced their decision to relocate from New Mexico. Their 11-month-old son, Winton, just learned to crawl.

But even at home, Garrelts can’t stop studying language through his son.

“Because of my connection to words, I’m aware of when he makes new sounds,” Garrelts said. “With difficult words, he gets the first part of the word right. He’s good with ‘uh-oh.’”

When Garrelts leaves his family, he feels as though he is coming to another happy home.

“My colleagues are exceptional; they’re just great people,” he said. “The administrators are great, too. I always feel welcome.”

The kind of friendly place that makes you want to say “Hi.”

