

August 31, 2005

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Interior

Yien announces retirement after 27 years

The 2005-06 academic year will be a special one for Robert S.P. Yien.

The 34 new faculty members who began classes Monday – both permanent and temporary – mark the largest class of incoming scholars in the history of the University. They will be the last group that Yien introduces as Vice President for Academic Affairs.

On Thursday, Aug. 25, Yien announced that this will be his final year in that role.

“I have had a very good run,” he said.

Yien was only 37 years old when he accepted the assignment.

“I have been very blessed,” he said. “Not many people have had the opportunities I have had.”

One of Yien’s first major charges by the Board of

Control when he began his current post in 1978 was to begin an engineering program. To form an academic unit, he decided to move the sciences away from the traditional College of Arts and Sciences. After 18 meetings in nine months, Yien gained approval to start what is now the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

“That is the singular achievement that I’m proudest of,” he said.

Among Yien’s other accomplishments is watching the number of faculty nearly triple from 95 in 1978 to 260 today.

Yien was not a unanimous choice for his position. Only six of eight Board of Control members voted to hire him. Yien held no hard feelings, admitting that he lacked experience, and today, he is grateful, because it led to one of his most memorable encounters.

After three years on the job and successfully starting SVSU’s engineering program, Yien received a knock on his front door one night. Outside

An advisory group has been formed to begin the search process for selecting Yien’s successor. It will be chaired by SVSU President Eric R. Gilbertson and staffed by Carlos Ramet, executive assistant to the president. Other advisory group members include:

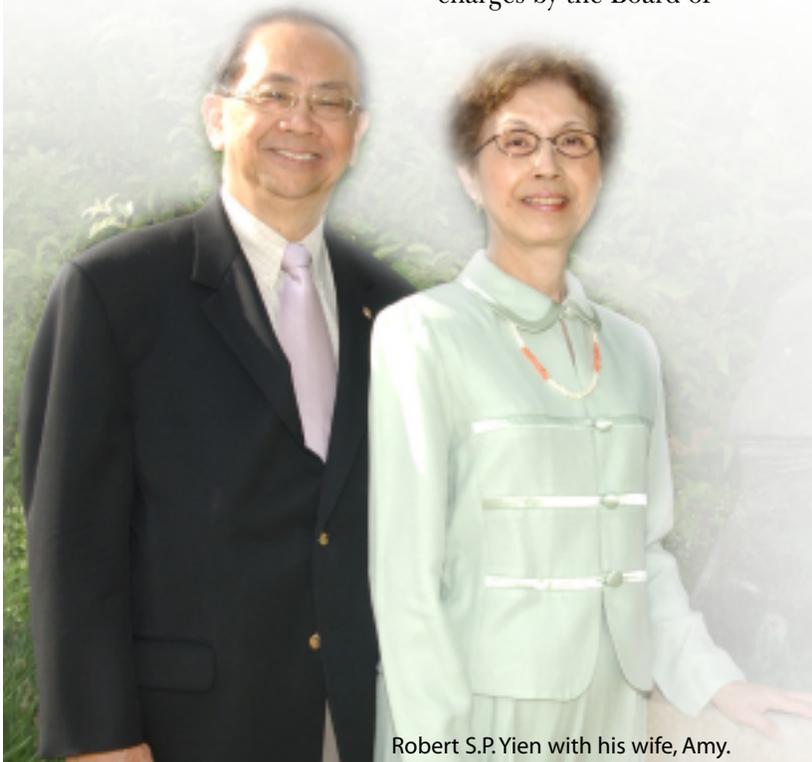
- Paul Ballard
- Steve Barbus
- Lucille Beuthin
- Diane Boehm
- Margaret Flatt
- Mary Harmon
- Yousef Jabbari
- Hong Park
- Marc Peretz
- Dave Swenson
- Mamie Thorns

was Melvin Zahnow, one of the Board members who had voted against hiring Yien.

“He apologized and told me he made a mistake,” Yien recalled. “That meant a lot to me.”

As a boy growing up in Taiwan, Yien dreamed of becoming a college professor in the United States. Next fall, he plans to take a sabbatical and then return to teach sociology for a year or two before beginning full-fledged retirement.

“I want my career to come full circle,” he said. “All of my life I wanted to be a professor. I want to leave as a professor.”



Robert S.P. Yien with his wife, Amy.

Professional Profile

- **Russell Clark**, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, presented Grand Rounds for Field Neurosciences Institute at Saint Mary's Hospital in Saginaw. Clark spoke on the frequency content of the electroencephalogram and how to accurately measure it. He further related this to brain activity during sleep. Clark has been requested to return for a series of talks during the coming academic year.
- **Joseph Ofori-Dankwa**, professor of management and marketing, and **Scott Julian**, associate professor of management and marketing, presented a paper titled "Saying FUI to TO/FU: A Conceptual and Empirical Framework for Exploring the Relationship Between Two Models of the Strategic Issue Diagnosis" at the Academy of Management's 2005 annual conference in Hawaii. Their paper was awarded the Lawrence Erlbaum Best Paper Award for the Management and Cognition Division of the Academy.
- **Eric Gardner**, associate professor of English, edited a book, *Major Voices: The Drama of Slavery*, that was recently published by Toby Press. Available in both hardcover and paperback, the book is the first anthology of early American plays that focus on slavery; it brings together popular drama, rare texts by early African American dramatists, newly-discovered abolitionist plays, and a series of introductory essays by Gardner.
- **Jane Girdham**, professor of music, published an article, "Choosing Baroque Editions: Learning from the Accompaniments," in the May 2005 edition of *American String Teacher*.
- **Gladys A. Hernández**, professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled "Spanish Dialects: A Strong Connection" at The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in New York, July 28 through Aug. 1.
- **Bing Liu**, professor of mathematics, presented a paper titled "Integral Estimates for Solutions of A-Harmonic Tensor" at the Conference on Differential and Difference Equations and Applications in Melbourne, Fla., sponsored by the Florida Institute of Technology, Aug. 5.
- **Danilo Sirias**, associate professor of management, presented a paper titled "A Generalization Process" at the Eighth Theory of Constraints for Education International Conference in Seattle Aug. 11 through 14.
- **Steve Taber**, assistant professor of biology, published his latest book last month. *Invertebrates of Central Texas Wetlands* (Texas Tech University Press) appears in the bookshelf section of the August issue of *The American Naturalist*. In addition, Taber's article titled "The Exoprosopa Bee Flies (*Digtera: Bombyliidae*) of Texas with a Key for Identification" was accepted by the journal *Southwestern Entomologist*.
- **Steve Yanca**, professor of social work, has had the 7th edition of his text, *Social Work Practice: A Generalist Approach*, published in Japanese and Korean. The text is coauthored with the original author, Louise C. Johnson, professor emeriti from the University of South Dakota. It is a classic in social work education, having been originally published in 1983 as the first practice text written specifically for bachelor's-level students.

New Cardinals

- **Jill (Tetloff) Adams**, women's cheerleading coach, welcomed a baby girl, Stella Adams (8 lbs., 7 oz., 20 inches), July 14.
- **Susan Manke**, administrative secretary in scholarships and financial aid, and her husband, John, welcomed a baby boy, Brandon William Boyle Manke (4 lbs., 12 oz., 16-3/4 inches), Aug. 17.
- **José Ruiz**, custodial specialist, and his wife, Rebecca, welcomed a baby boy, Cody Antonio Ruiz (8 lbs., 5 oz., 19 inches), August 15.
- **David Schall**, lecturer of mathematics, and his wife, Christina Slivers-Schall, welcomed a baby boy, Gabriel Schall (8 lbs., 6 oz., 19-1/2 inches), July 18.
- **George Velasquez**, working foreman/custodial specialist, and his wife, Danelle, welcomed a baby boy, Miguel Louis Velasquez (6 lbs., 6 oz., 18 inches), Aug. 14.

Condolences

- To the family of **Sally Edgerton-Netke**, professor of teacher education, who passed away Friday, Aug. 5.
- To **Gary Kwaiser**, custodial specialist, on the loss of his father, Jerome Kwaiser, who passed away Aug. 16.

Briefly Speaking

- 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.
- Faculty/Staff reserved parking permits for 2004-05 expire Sept. 15. The Cashier's Office is now issuing new permits. 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.

The Interior is published monthly for faculty and staff at SVSU. 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. 27 • Oct. 25 • Nov. 29

Submission Deadline:
Noon on the Friday before the publication date.
Please send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.

SVSU Retirement Institute nets national grant

SVSU's Institute for Learning in Retirement has received a \$100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation. Through the grant, the institute will become one of 73 Osher Lifelong Learning institutes nationwide.

"We're very pleased," said Jo Brownlie, director of the Office of Continuing Education at SVSU. "We're the only school in Michigan to have received this grant."

Established in 1977, the

Osher Foundation is interested in helping institutions of higher education across the country provide stimulating non-credit courses for persons over 50 who are interested in personal enrichment. Its goal is to eventually fund 100 institutes nationwide.

SVSU began its ILR program in 2001. Since that time, its membership has increased from around 200 seniors to 607. Brownlie believes the grant will enhance

recruitment and programming.

"With this support, we will be able to expand our advertising efforts, and we will have the flexibility to offer additional member programs and services," she said.

In its attempt to support the creation of new programs or strengthen existing ones, the Osher Foundation offers grants of up to \$100,000 a year for up to three years. As part of the grant, the institute will now be called the "Osher

Lifelong Learning Institute at Saginaw Valley State University" and will employ a universal logo used by all the institutes around the nation.

Upon demonstrated success, the Foundation will consider establishing endowments of at least \$1 million to support individual institutes. For programs already established, such as the one at SVSU, endowment grants can be made earlier.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SVSU annually develops fall, winter and spring schedules. During the past year, about 20 classes and day trips were offered each semester.

Annual membership dues for the Institute are \$50 per person. Members receive a 50 percent discount on classes, discounts on day trips, and receive a monthly newsletter.

To receive a 2005 schedule of fall classes, call ext. 4475, or visit www.svsu.edu/oce/ilr.htm.



SVSU students create unique surgical device for Field Neurosciences Institute

Two SVSU students have developed a specialized surgical instrument for prominent Saginaw neurosurgeon E. Malcolm Field, M.D., founder of Field Neurosciences Institute.

Senior mechanical engineering majors Cam Gzym, left, and Zach Schulz created a device designed to be used during spinal fusion surgery, where a bone graft is placed between two vertebrae, causing them to grow together. While patients lose some range of motion, the procedure reduces their pain and improves their quality of life.

The instrument was designed for surgery on the cervical vertebrae in the neck and made from surgical steel. It holds the bone graft as the surgeon places the piece of bone between the vertebrae and then releases the bone material while keeping it in place between the vertebrae.

"This new surgical tool is going to make the accuracy of bone graft surgeries easier and more accurate," said Dr. Field. "It will also make it easier to implant multiple bone grafts in the same patient."

FNI sponsored the students' senior design project and required them to meet the exacting specifications of Dr. Field and FNI executive Director Verne Hulce, leading to considerable trial and error.

"We tried hundreds of ideas that wouldn't work," Schulz said.

The students were grateful for the opportunity to use their engineering knowledge to improve people's lives.

"I wanted to make something that would help people," Gzym said.

"There aren't any tools designed specifically for this procedure, which essentially can replace a blown disc in someone's neck and ease their pain. That made it a neat project to work on," Schulz said.



Faculty and staff can enjoy the all-you-care-to-eat brunch in the RFoC for only \$5.99 (through Sept. 16).

Fall Semester Hours:

Monday through Friday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Brunch
2 to 4:30 p.m., Soup/Salad/Deli
4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Dinner
8:30 to 10:30 p.m., Late Snack
(Pizza, Grill, Deli, Market, Desserts)

Saturday/Sunday

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Brunch
2 to 4:30 p.m., Soup/Salad/Deli
4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Dinner

Sponsored and Academic Programs Support announces grants

The following grants were received from May through August 2005:

College of Science, Engineering & Technology

Chris Schilling, Strosacker chair in engineering, received \$10,700 from the Michigan DEQ Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) – Pollution Prevention Internship Program to implement the Pollution Project RETAP Internship Program. This program will fund internships for two upper-level science and engineering students.

College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences

Clifford Dorne, professor of criminal justice, received a total of \$198,400 from the U.S. Department of Education: 2005 Congressionally-Directed Award to implement the Crisis Management Intervention Center. The Center will provide technology-based crisis preparedness programs.

Dorne also received \$39,611 from the County of Saginaw/Juvenile Center in the form of a Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG). This grant will enable SVSU to perform and provide coordination of truancy mediation cases, as well as to provide mediator training for some students.

Eric Gardner, associate professor of English, received \$1,500 from the Missouri State Archives: Judicial Research Fellowship and Internship Opportunities for his Statement of Research Interests. The grant will help to defray travel and related expenses as he studies the Missouri State Archives judicial holdings to better understand

how different individuals talked about slavery and race.

Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Janalou Blecke, dean of Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing & Health Sciences, received a total of \$134,190 in two grants from A Partnership for Education and Practice [PEP Project – Phase II] with MidMichigan Health, Bay Regional Medical Center and SVSU's Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing & Health Services. These grants will fund a program to accelerate healthcare training and help to bring more people into the medical workforce.

Blecke also received \$19,615 from the HHS: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund a Graduate Nursing

Program Traineeship. This project will provide traineeships to graduate nursing program students.

Staff

Walter Rathkamp, executive director of the Center for Science & Mathematics Education and SVSU Regional Math/Science Center, received \$596,667 from the Michigan Department of Education: Title II, B-2005-2006 Mathematics and Science Partnership Competitive Grant to implement the Building a Science Partnership Program. The Program will help to incorporate science benchmarks into content sessions with teachers in 15 school districts.

Michael Major, women's tennis coach, received \$550 from the Saginaw Community

Foundation: YMCA Fund for Women and Girls Program for his project "Tennis Instructional Improvement through Video Analysis." The project will help to increase development and performance of the SVSU women's tennis program through video analysis.

Harry Leaver, executive director of the Center for Business and Economic Development, received \$299,991 from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation: Economic Development Job Training Program for his project "2005 Healthcare Pilot." The program will work with area hospitals to develop and implement lean tools and techniques in the healthcare industry.



With the start of fall semester on Monday, Aug. 29, many SVSU freshmen are embarking upon a new chapter in their lives. The number of residential students at SVSU has tripled over the past decade. Approximately 1,850 students are expected to live on campus during the fall 2005 semester, as the newly-constructed University Village III opens to returning students. In 1996, only 616 students lived on campus. For the third straight year, around 60 percent of incoming freshmen will live on campus. SVSU's housing facilities are among the most modern in Michigan. Living Center North opened in 1999, University Village I and II opened in 2000 and 2001, respectively. Living Center South opened in 2003 and has an 80-bed addition currently under construction. (Photo by Tim Inman)