SVSU establishes Student Research and Creativity Institute

SVSU has established a new institute to promote and support original work by students.

In its first year, 2005-06, the Student Research & Creativity Institute (SRCI) will fund up to $50,000 (maximum $10,000 per student) to encourage and assist outstanding student work in the arts, humanities, sciences, professional disciplines, and community service.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to identify and work with students interested in submitting proposals prior to the Oct. 31 deadline.

Although the proposals need to be from students, the application materials must include a letter of support from a faculty or staff member.

The University established the Institute as part of its goal to develop nationally-recognized programs and areas of excellence that promote quality throughout the University and enhance the value of an SVSU degree.

Public recognition and promotion of outstanding student work will bring credit to the University, enhancing its growing reputation as an institution of teaching excellence that encourages and supports student innovation, originality, and excellence across a wide range of academic and professional fields.

Students may submit written proposals as individuals or in teams. All projects will require faculty or staff mentorship and supervision.

An advisory committee appointed by President Eric Gilbertson will evaluate proposals on the basis of quality and distinctiveness, contribution to knowledge and to student learning, and consistency with the mission and vision of the University.

Preference will be given to those proposals which are broadly multi-disciplinary, though projects which represent outstanding achievement within a single discipline are also strongly encouraged.

Committee members include Brooks Byam, associate professor of mechanical engineering; Frank Dane, James V. Finkbeiner endowed chair in ethics; Sally Decker, professor of nursing; Diana Lawson, Harvey Randall Wickes chair in international business; Carlos Ramet, executive assistant to the president; and Cindy Sager, assistant dean, College of Education.

Those who submit applications by the Oct. 31 deadline will be notified of their status by Dec. 16.

For more information, contact Carlos Ramet at ext. 4042.
Professional Profile

- Kathy Kalmar, assistant professor of teacher education in elementary, early childhood and special education, had three articles published in juried journals. The articles are: “The State of play in K(inder)garten,” published in the spring 2005 edition of The Michigan Association of Teacher Educators Journal; “Down Time and Your Baby’s Brain,” published in summer 2005 by TOPS: Tips on Parenting Magazine, Utah State University. In addition, 84 activities will be published in 2006 by Gryphon House, and TOPS has accepted “Selecting Books for Young Children” for the fall 2005 edition. Additionally, Kalmar’s presentation on “Distance Learning Field Work: How Using a Variety of Strategies That Leaves No Teacher-to-be Behind” was accepted for the Michigan Association of Teacher Educator’s Fall 2005 Conference. Lastly, Kalmar is working on the creation of “Sally’s School,” a constructivist learning lab for early childhood and elementary College of Education students in Macomb County, in memory of the exemplary work of the late Sally Edgerton Netke. Those who wish to contribute to this memorial fund should request envelopes from the dean’s office.

- Judith Kerman, professor of English, has had a new book of poetry, Galvanic Response, published by March Street Press in North Carolina. Also, Kerman published her first column in the Bay City Times for an anticipated monthly series on Bay City architecture.

- Poonam Kumar, associate professor of special education, published an article titled “A Cross-Cultural Examination of Typically Developing Children’s Attitudes toward Individuals with Special Needs” in the June 2005 edition of International Journal of Disability, Development and Education.

- Tai-Chi Lee, professor of computer science, presented a paper titled “A HESSL (Highly Enhanced Security Socket Layer) Protocol” at the Seventh IEEE International Conference on E-Commerce Technology in Munich, Germany, July 19-22. ByungKwan Lee co-authored the article. Also, a paper co-authored by Patrick Robinson titled “A Design for a Fractal Image Compressor” was awarded as the best student paper presented at the 2005 International Conference on Information Systems: New Generation in Las Vegas April 4-6.

- Enayat Mahajerin, professor of mechanical engineering, presented a paper titled “Case Study of Buckling Failure of a Large Liquid Storage Tank” at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Conference on Pressure Vessel and Piping Design, July 16-18 in Denver. Also, Mahajerin participated in a three-day intensive program titled “Development of an Online Course” July 19-21 at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. The Program was sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

- Sandra M. Nagel, associate professor of psychology, made a presentation May 13 in Minneapolis at the Joint Meeting of Fifth International Conference on Bioelectromagnetism and Fifth International Symposium on Noninvasive Functional Source Imaging within the Human Brain and Heart, sponsored by the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society. The paper, “Indications of Sex Differences in Cortical Activation in Adult Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder,” focused on the clinical application of an alternative technique for the analysis of magnetoencephalographic data and will be published soon in a journal sponsored by the IEEE.

- Janet E. Rubin, professor of theatre, recently participated as a published author in the juried session “Workshop for Emerging Writers” at the American Alliance for Theatre and Education conference in Chicago. She also chaired a session featuring Diane Austin from the United States Department of Education and moderated the panel discussion, “Lost in Translation: Arts Education in Federal NCLB Policies and Disconnects at the Local Levels.” Panelists were representatives from the U. S. Department of Education and a Utah state representative. At this national conference, Rubin completed her term as president of AATE, and now serves the organization as immediate past president.

Condolences

The campus community extends condolences to:

- Sharon Carlin, senior accounting clerk, on the loss of her father, George Sequin, who passed away Sept. 20.

- The family of Debra Murray, Blackboard support specialist, who passed away Sept. 17.

- Janet Nagayda, associate professor of occupational therapy, on the loss of her mother.

- Steven Sherlock, professor of sociology, whose father, John Sherlock, passed away Sept. 1.
Award-winning authors, actors, musicians and artists will examine global popular culture and the challenges it presents as part of the 2005 Fall Focus: Popular Culture and the Popular Arts series. Featuring six speakers and one Jazz concert, the event takes place from Oct. 12 through Nov. 15.

- Accomplished author Isabel Allende will begin the series Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre. She will present “Stories and Dreams: An Evening with Isabel Allende.”

- SVSU’s Assistant Vice President of Campus Facilities Stephen L. Hocquard will present “What Can Buildings Tell Us? Defining Popular Culture Through Architecture” Thursday, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. in Founders Hall (see story, Page 1).

- Renowned artist Gladys Nilsson will give her talk, “Personal Foibles: A Pursuit of Amuse from Pillar to Post,” Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 1 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. In addition, SVSU will exhibit a collection of her watercolors and selected prints in the University Art Gallery Oct. 3-29 (see story, Page 4).

- On Saturday, Oct. 29, SVSU Artist-in-Residence Jeff Hall and graduate Shirlene Zarin-Taj perform “The Top of the Pops: A Saturday Night Jazz Recital.” The session will take place at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

- Ghana native, actor and scholar Derrick Ashong will assess contemporary culture in “Go Platinum or Go Home: Pop Culture and the Killing of Cool.” Ashong will speak Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre.

- Pico Iyer will present “The Global Soul: Popular Culture and Our Changing Lives” Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre.

- History Professor John V. Jezierski will close the series with “A Popular Vision: 19th Century Photography and the Mass Media.” The address takes place Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

The cost of the series is underwritten by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Visiting Scholars and Academic Development Endowment, the Thomas and Hilda Rush Distinguished Lectureship, SVSU’s College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences and the Hoffmann/Willertz Memorial Lecture, with additional support provided by SVSU’s Student Life Center and Office of Diversity Programs. All lectures and concerts are open to the public. Admission is free of charge.

Dorothy S. Millar, associate professor of teacher education, who co-edited the volume with Stephen P. Barbus, dean of the College of Education.

The 227-page book contains 11 chapters written by 20 SVSU faculty members who were involved with implementing programs as part of the grant.

Copies are available to all SVSU faculty by contacting the Office of Academic Affairs at ext. 4296. A Summary Evaluation Report that briefly describes the various evaluation activities employed during the grant period is also available.

In addition, copies of the book are being sent to all 147 schools that partnered with SVSU during the duration of the grant.

**Two nursing faculty to be inducted into Michigan Nurses Hall of Fame**

Two pillars of SVSU’s Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing and Health Sciences will receive the Michigan Nurses Hall of Fame Historical Award next month.

The College’s namesake, Crystal M. Lange, and Margaret Flatt, acting assistant dean of the College, will be formally honored during the Michigan Nurses Association awards dinner at the Ypsilanti Marriott Eagle Crest Conference Center Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Lange, who died in 1999, will be inducted posthumously. She was considered the driving force behind the formation of the Nursing Department, which would be named in her honor 23 years after her arrival in 1976.

A resident of Midland, Flatt joined the SVSU faculty in 1978. She has served as acting assistant dean since 2003.

Mamie Thorns, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, and Lucille Beuthin, vice president for public affairs, get their hands “dirty” making rice crispy bars in the RFoC, which celebrated a grand opening Monday, Sept. 26. SVSU administrators donned aprons and manned several food stations in SVSU’s newly-remodeled dining facility. In addition to the RFoC, a ribbon-cutting also took place at Einstein's Food Court, located near Zahnow Library.
David Abbs, Leola Wilson appointed to University governing board

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm this month appointed David J. Abbs and Leola Wilson to eight-year terms on SVSU’s Board of Control. Abbs succeeds Linda Sims and Wilson replaces Sandra Cotter.

A Saginaw resident, Abbs graduated from SVSU in 1983 with a B.B.A. and has 24 years of experience in the investment management business. He is a Certified Financial Planner, a Certified Fund Specialist, and a Registered Principal and Investment Representative with LPL Financial Services.

Abbs and his staff manage more than $112 million in client assets from office locations in Saginaw, Bay City and Grand Rapids.

An active member in his community, Abbs currently serves on the board of directors for four non-profit organizations. He also is a life member of the National Eagle Scout Association.

Born and raised in Saginaw, Wilson is retired after more than 20 years as a case worker for the Family Independence Agency.

For more than three decades, Wilson has been a strong and dedicated supporter of civil rights, and has served as volunteer president of the Saginaw County branch of the NAACP.

Wilson is a founding member of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, a charter member of the Friends of Claytor Library Committee, and the first African American to serve on the Saginaw Intermediate School District Board, for which she also is a past president.

A graduate of Delta College and Central Michigan University, Wilson is a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Renowned Chicago artist featured in University Art Gallery

Art from the Windy City will blow through the University Art Gallery next month.

Chicago’s internationally-known artist Gladys Nilsson will display 48 pieces of her artwork from Monday, Oct. 3 through Saturday, Oct. 29. The exhibition includes a miniature retrospective of watercolors, collage and prints, with work dating from the late 1960s to the present day.

Nilsson will also offer a public lecture Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 1 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. Her appearance is sponsored by SVSU’s Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists Lecture Series.

Nilsson gained international fame after revolutionizing the use of watercolor in the 1960s and then for serving as a founder of the Hairy Who and Chicago Imagist movements in the early 1970s. Her artwork often features mod colors; playful, animated characters; and the satirical edge that was common in the Hairy Who and Imagist style.

Nilsson’s creations have been displayed in the collections of the National Museum of American Art, the Whitney Museum, the Vienna Museum of Modern art, and the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

The University Art Gallery is located in the Arbury Fine Arts Center. Fall semester hours are Monday, noon to 4 p.m.; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; and Saturday, noon to 3 p.m. Admission is free of charge.

For more information, contact Dave Littell at dlittel@svsu.edu or at ext. 4159.

Briefly Speaking

• Enrollment at SVSU has reached a new milestone with 9,569 students taking classes for the fall 2005 semester. This represents a 1.3 percent increase over the 9,448 students enrolled in fall 2004. The 2005 freshman class consists of 1,263 students with 41 percent of entering freshmen arriving with a high school grade point average of 3.50 or higher. The class includes 107 Presidential Scholars who were valedictorians or salutatorians of their high schools, marking the third consecutive year with at least 100 such freshmen. The 2004 freshman class had 1,241 students. In addition, a record 1,869 students are living on campus this semester, up from 1,700 last fall. Phase III of University Village, townhouse-style student housing, opened in August. The student body at SVSU is comprised of 7,244 undergraduates; 1,638 graduate students; 471 teacher certification students; and 216 non-degree students.

• On sale now are Red Pride packages, which include a Red Pride t-shirt, rally towel, noise stick, water bottle with coupon for free fill-up, a pack of Big Red gum and two coupons good for free admission into a SVSU home football or basketball game during the 2005-06 season. Cost is $15. For more information, contact Shelly Reminder at ext. 7306.

• The annual Open Enrollment for Group Health Insurance and Flexible Spending Accounts for benefits-eligible faculty and staff continues through Friday, Oct. 14. Open Enrollment is the time to review enrollment status, add or delete dependent coverage, or change from one medical plan to another. It is also the time to determine flexible spending accounts allocations for the calendar year 2006. Open Enrollment packets were mailed the week of Sept. 19. For more information, contact ECS at ext. 4108 or ecs@svsu.edu.
Jill Gushow deals with a variety of thorny issues in her job as director of staff relations.

Many people would prefer to avoid labor negotiations and employee discipline issues, but then again, many people might choose to stay inside after close encounters with grizzly bears, scorpions, rattlesnakes and sharks, but not Gushow. Her love of the outdoors has brought her face to face with all of them.

“And all of those were up close and personal,” she said.

Workplace challenges seem less insurmountable after ascending 14 “fourteeners,” as Gushow describes the mountains over 14,000 feet high she has climbed, in authentic Colorado jargon.

After finishing law school, Gushow worked in corporate practice in Denver, Austin, and Baltimore.

“I did a lot of international travel because of my job,” she said. “That was the really cool part, but the bad part is when you start having children.”

Not shy about defying convention – she doesn’t have a television plugged in at her house – Gushow originally envisioned herself as the consummate career woman and without children; but when she and her husband, Michael, decided to start a family, Gushow returned to her roots, having grown up in Auburn.

“I knew I was coming back to a very grounded community where I have family and friends, and people have values similar to my own,” she said.

Gushow has a son, Noah, 2, and is expecting her second child in October. She is fully enjoying motherhood.

“It’s great; I love it,” she exclaimed. “It’s much better than I anticipated.”

Approaching two years at SVSU, Gushow enjoys working in higher education and focusing on human resources.

“(The work) is a combination of very interesting employment issues, human resource work, and challenging topics dealing specifically with higher ed,” she said. “I didn’t expect the work to be so widely varied.”

Gushow says her transition was eased by the staff she inherited.

“I was fortunate to come into a department that has highly capable people,” she said.

Among Gushow’s goals are to increase opportunities for employees to participate in leadership initiatives, professional improvement activities and wellness programs.

“We’re a great institution with great employees as we are, but times change very quickly, and we need to be able to adapt,” she said.

“The job of every good manager is to make sure that he or she could be replaced. We need to ensure we have employees who are ready to become the next leaders.”

Gushow says it is particularly important to focus on humans as resources in an educational setting.

“You look like at a place like this where we’re not creating widgets, we’re not creating software, we’re not selling paper products,” Gushow said. “What we’re doing is helping students.

“Our people who teach those students, the people who make sure our facilities are in order, the people who run benefits, that’s our asset. It’s not the widget – it’s our people.”
These days, it is difficult not to have some exposure to forensics; there are television programs devoted to the subject. Computer forensics, on the other hand, is an emerging field, according to Il-Hyung Cho, assistant professor of computer science.

“I don’t think there are many experts in that area,” he said, “but there is a demand. Almost all crimes committed conventionally are also done in cyberspace.”

Broadly defined, computer forensics is looking at illegal computer activity.

The field is new to Cho, too, but he is learning quickly because studying computer forensics is an institutional priority.

“The University sees it as an area to make the department better and more appealing to students and local industry,” he said.

Cho’s research aligns with the objectives of the Center for High Performance Computing and Informatics, formed last year as a partnership between SVSU and IP3, a market research and development firm in Saginaw that focuses on information assurance and information security.

Cho says e-mail is one of the most common ways for computer hackers, or “black hats,” to attack computer networks. Sometimes, when an attachment is opened, a program with malicious code, such as a virus or worm, will run immediately. Other times, a “zombie” program will remain dormant – possibly in thousands of computers – until a command is sent later.

“Once activated, those ‘zombies’ will all perform the same task, such as trying to access databases,” Cho explained. “For companies with millions of customers, if they must shut down for one hour, it will cost them millions of dollars. We are focusing on ‘zombies’ (in our research), because they can cause the most damage.”

There are computer forensics tools available to scan a computer’s hard disc, and Cho is hoping to find student volunteers willing to allow their machines to be scanned, because file sharing and other activities common among college students can make their computers more vulnerable.

In his classes, Cho instructs students on how to design durable and effective software.

“What I teach focuses on how software can be built as rigorously as in other engineering disciplines, such as mechanical engineering or nuclear engineering,” he said.

During the tech boom a few years ago, Cho says some students with limited computer experience were attracted by the high income potential of computer science, but that has changed, and most current students have extensive computer backgrounds.

Cho says it is challenging for him and his computer science colleagues to remain current in their field because knowledge becomes obsolete so quickly.

“Unless we update ourselves every year or two, we’ll fall behind,” he said.

Staying up to date is not much easier at home, as Cho and his wife have three-and-a-half-year-old twins who are exploring all kinds of new behaviors, such as mimicking their parents.

When he is not on the computer, the native of South Korea is taking guitar lessons.

In the meantime, Cho is hoping to strike the right chord for protecting computers.

“I feel lucky to have been assigned this work.”