

Interior

Open forums scheduled for VP finalists

A series of open forums will be held on campus with the three finalists for the position of vice president for academic affairs. All members of the campus community are encouraged to attend. Brief biographies of the three finalists are included online at www.svsu.edu/newsevents. Complete curriculum vitae are on file in the President's Office and available upon request. All forums will be held in Curtiss Hall.

Charles Cullum

- Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Banquet Room A.
- Thursday, Dec. 8, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Seminar Room G.

Richard L. McDowell

- Monday, Dec. 12, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Banquet Room A.
- Tuesday, Dec. 13, 9 to 10 a.m. Banquet Room A.

Donald J. Bachand

- Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Banquet Room A.
- Thursday, Dec. 15, 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. Seminar Room E.

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty and staff may present the Alumni Scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during the Commencement ceremony at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16. Call Norma Zivich at ext. 4075 to make arrangements.
- The Marshall M. Fredericks Museum Gift Shop has items that would make lovely gifts for the holidays. For more information, or to order Gift Shop merchandise, call ext. 7125, or email mfsmstu@svsu.edu.
- The division of administration and business affairs has several suggestions for conserving energy. For more information, visit www.svsu.edu/newsevents and click on "Energy Conservation Measures" under Campus Services.
- An online "President's Forum" has been created to provide an opportunity for the campus community to make comments and ask President Eric Gilbertson questions about University strategy, planning, practices, and other substantive items affecting our University, and the ways in which we will continue to develop and work together. To access the forum, visit www.svsu.edu, then click on "President's Forum" under Quick Links; or access the login page directly at www.svsu.edu/president/qa. The forum, which is available to SVSU faculty and staff only, will prompt users to enter an SVSU login and password.
- The campus will close for the 2005-06 holiday break at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 22, and will reopen at 8 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 3. SVSU paid holidays are Dec. 23, 26-30 and Jan. 2. For further information, contact ECS at ext. 4108, or visit www.svsu.edu/ecs/benefits/index.cfm?doc_id=3778.
- Faculty and staff are invited to a reception honoring Jennifer Bridges, professor of kinesiology and this year's recipient of the university-wide Innovative Use of Technology in Teaching Award, Thursday, Dec. 8 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Emeriti Room. Refreshments will be served.
- Copies of the second annual edition of "This is SVSU" are available upon request from University Communications. For more information, call Marilyn Bordeaux at ext. 4039.
- The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is sponsoring a trip to Rome, Italy, May 10-18. The trip will be led by Thomas Renna, professor of history. For further information, or to make reservations, call ext. 4475.



The 16th Annual Sims' Public Speaking Competition was held Friday, Nov. 4. The winner of the contest was Ashley Talley; second place went to Kayleen Schumacher; finishing third was Katelyn Vancamp; and finalists honors went to Samantha Merchant, Tracy Ulch and Candace Rau. The Sims Awards for Excellence in Public Speaking were created by Linda and Lawrence Sims in 1999 to promote and celebrate the development of competence in communication skills. Students from any discipline can vie for the scholarships at the annual contest. Photo by Tim Inman.

Professional Profile

• **Marcia Shannon**, RN, MSNCS, presented a paper co-authored by **Mary Graiver**, RN, MS, at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Annual Conference in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 3. The paper, titled "Infusing Diversity/Global Health Care into Mental Health Nursing Education," highlighted three assignments used in a practicum course to infuse discussions about diversity/global health into the mental health curriculum. One assignment involves using a professional journal in an online teaching/learning platform. The journal centers around a newspaper article about care of a mentally ill man in another country. The second assignment is a "critical thinking card" used at the end of a class that discusses the rate of bipolar disease in another country. The third assignment uses a discussion board to critique an article written by a mental health consumer. All of these ideas could be easily used in almost any nursing program. The paper discussed how to develop the assignments. Student examples were shared and student outcomes discussed.

• **Stephen Taber**, assistant professor of biology, attended the 16th Annual Argonne Symposium for Undergraduates in Science, Engineering and Mathematics, at the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Ill., Nov. 4-5. Student Jennifer Privette presented a talk titled "Arthropod Abundance Following Prescribed Burns in a Mixed Pine-Oak Forest of Central Texas."

• **Heidi Vellenga**, director of SVSU's English Language Program, **Judy Youngquist**, SVSU ESL specialist, and **Diane Boehm**, director of SVSU's University Writing Program, were among faculty members and colleagues from several other universities to receive a grant from the National Council of Teachers of English to review the existing research on the assessment of second-language writers. The group's purpose will be to gather a body of research on the writing skills of students who speak more than one language. Eventually the researchers will present their findings at conferences and develop additional materials for better assessing and teaching second-language writing.

• **Bill Wollner**, associate professor of music, and his wife Jan, have been selected as winners of the 2005 Kendall-Pelton Musician of the Year Award. The Music Society and Midland Symphony Orchestra present the award annually to a person (or persons) who has made great contributions to music in Midland, and whose life has musically affected and encouraged people of all ages. The award was presented to the couple prior to the performance of the MSO Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Midland Center for the Arts Auditorium.

Condolences

- The campus community extends condolences to:
- **Karen Hollenbeck**, senior AIS programmer/analyst, on the loss of her father-in-law, Elmer R. Hollenbeck, who passed away Nov. 26.
 - **Pat Latty**, faculty secretary on third floor Brown Hall, on the loss of her mother, Margaret Beiler, who passed away Nov. 4.
 - **Andrew Mattfeld**, maintenance, on the loss of his father, Collie Mattfeld, who passed away Oct. 27.
 - **Sue Welke**, administrative secretary in the Academic Advisement Center, and **Trish Gohm**, administrative secretary in the Student Life Center, on the loss of their mother/grandmother, Aleen Osborn, who passed away Nov. 12.

Directory Revisions

Please note the following change to your *2005-06 Faculty/Staff Directory*:

- **Dennis, Gerald** – Technical Director, Theatre Department, 184 Curtiss Hall, ext. 4276

Director named for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Jo Brownlie has been named director of the recently established Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at SVSU. She will be responsible for delivering quality programs and services to more than 600 current OLLI members, while also recruiting new members, and marketing and enhancing the Institute.



Jo Brownlie

Brownlie has worked at SVSU for 20 years, most recently as director of continuing education, a position that included oversight of SVSU's former Institute for Learning in Retirement, as well as a variety of professional training programs.

In August, SVSU received a \$100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation to become the 73rd Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in the United States. Established in 1977, the 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.

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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Jan. 31 • Feb. 28 • March 28 • April 25 • May 30

Submission Deadline:

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

STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH**Lisa Gross****Assistant Director, Academic Advisement Center • December 2005**

Don't let Lisa Gross tell you she doesn't take work home with her.

Part of the reason the 30-year-old assistant director in the Academic Advisement Center left her former job as a district manager for Sprint PCS was to spend more time with her young family. In reality, though, the woman in charge of SVSU's orientation process is hard at work to recruit at least two would-be alumni.

"They are definitely prospective students," Gross says, referring to her sons, 3-year-old Ian and Brady, 1. She yields a bit, respecting their imminent graduation into the responsibilities of adulthood, before adding with a smile: "At least for the first couple years of college."

Gross has been doing a lot of smiling since being hired at SVSU four years ago.

"I really love it here," the Chesaning resident says. "I can honestly never see myself leaving this place."



While her title and responsibilities have remained much the same over the years, her job has been everchanging. When Gross arrived in 2001, the campus was smaller in size – both physically and in terms of student population.

Since, she's had to readjust the makeup of the university's orientation program.

Once, students simply showed up to take their basic skills tests, meet with advisors and sign up for classes. Now freshmen and transfer students are put through a day-long program that involves the collaboration of multiple departments, involves parents and even includes lunch.

"It can be very challenging at times," she says of the responsibility, "But it always turns out positive."

Gross is accustomed to taking on challenges. In her last job with Sprint PCS, the Saginaw native was charged with creating a network of clients throughout mid-Michigan. Back then, the company didn't have much of a presence in the community. Now it has various home bases, one just a few minutes down the road from SVSU.

The role often required 15-hour workdays. "And you took a lot of baggage home with you after work," Gross recalls.

When she decided to start a family with her husband, Aaron, it was time for a change.

When a position opened in SVSU's Academic Advisement Center, Gross jumped at the opportunity even though she didn't have much experience in the field outside of a stint as a student coordinator for the orientation program at Northern Michigan University.

"I loved working with the parents and students," she says of her job at NMU, where in 1998 she earned a degree in public relations. "I knew I wanted to do something like (that job), but it took me a while to get in."

When the switch was made from the corporate world to that of higher education, Gross knew she made the right decision.

"Everything from higher management-on-down, there's been a lot of support," she says of SVSU, where she received a master's degree in educational leadership in August. "You can actually make a difference here."

She also enjoys her department's atmosphere.

"We're very family-oriented here," she says.

The proof of that statement is taped all across the cabinet drawers in her Wickes office. Decorating the shelves are dozens of photos of Ian and Brady, her two favorite prospective SVSU students.