

# Interior

**S**VSU is looking to give current and future education leaders the ultimate education. Through a \$1.5 million gift from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation in Midland, SVSU is creating a fellowship program that will annually provide 12 select individuals with concentrated leadership training over a one-year period.

“Our vision is to help the participants elevate their leadership skills and meet the challenges their schools and communities will face in the future,” said Stephen Barbus, dean of the College of Education. “We want them thinking creatively about leadership.”

Participants, known as Gerstacker Fellows, will be selected based on past academic and service accomplishments, along with outside recommendations. They may be nominated by a supervisor from their home school districts.

“It will be highly selective, with only 12 participants a year,” Barbus said. “We are going to challenge them.”

The dozen participants selected will meet monthly on weekends, starting in August. SVSU faculty from various disciplines will instruct the Gerstacker Fellows on subjects dealing with leadership ethics, political problem solving, financial planning, human resource management and education with a global perspective.

The program’s capstone will be an international experience that introduces the Fellows to one or more of SVSU’s sister universities in Japan, China or Taiwan.

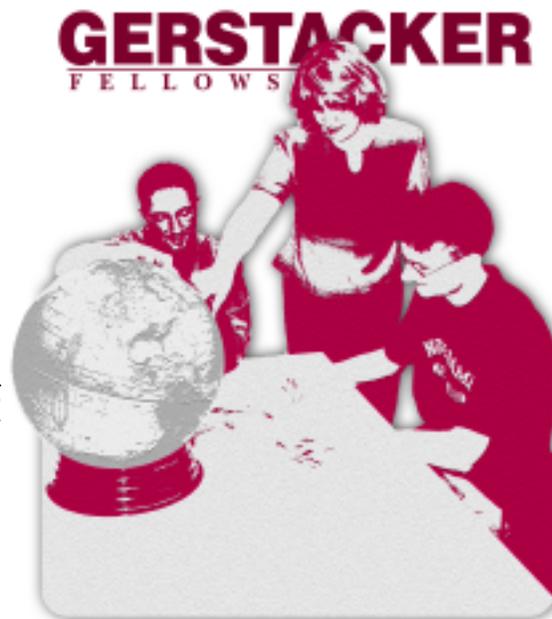
Gerstacker Foundation vice president Ned Brandt said board members were quite receptive to the idea. He believes it will benefit everyone involved.

“The program has a lot of potential, both for the individuals and for the school,” Brandt said. “We agreed to it based on the general idea that it would show what the participants could do to bring honor to themselves, their communities and the university.”

Thanks to the Gerstacker Foundation’s financial support, there will be no charge to program participants unless they elect to have the educational experience considered for graduate credit.

The Gerstacker Foundation has a history of supporting SVSU, having donated \$1 million to the construction of the University’s Regional Education Center and \$1.25 million to establish the Carl A. Gerstacker Endowed Chair in Education, currently occupied by James S. Leming.

Applications to be part of the inaugural class of Gerstacker Fellows are now available online at [www.svsu.edu/coe/gerstacker](http://www.svsu.edu/coe/gerstacker) or by contacting the College of Education at ext. 6067. The application deadline is April 3.



# Helene J. Lusa

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Helene Lusa brought a wealth of experience with her when she joined the SVSU faculty last August. The assistant professor of educational leadership spent 35 years as a teacher and administrator in suburban Detroit.

That experience pays off in her ability to share real-life stories and examples with her students.

“I can speak to just about anything,” she quipped.

Lusa endured more than 10 layoff notices over the years and tells her students not to be discouraged by the current job market for teachers in Michigan.

“There are good jobs out there, especially for good people,” she said.

Lusa is quite enthusiastic when discussing how the recently-established Gerstacker Fellowship program (see Page 1 story) will enhance the skills of current K-12 educators by providing them with concentrated leadership training, including international study.

“You tell people about the opportunity and they say, ‘Are you kidding me?’”

“I’m particularly excited because it’s integrated across the University, not just the College of Education,” Lusa continued. “It’s important for educators to have that integrated experience.”

“I think the impact on the area is what’s really important. I think these people will take back to their districts not only their personal leadership skills, but things they can share with other people.”

Ultimately, students will be the beneficiaries, Lusa noted.

“Research tells us that effective leaders are keys to increasing student achievement,” she said.

That is why Lusa is also working to develop a Principals Leadership Center that will enhance the instructional capabilities of school administrators.

Lusa says SVSU is proving to be a “good fit” for her because of its emphasis on teaching and learning, and her students show professional promise.

“My undergraduate students have a lot to learn,” she said, “but they have the passion and commitment to be good educators. My graduate students impress me continually with their level of thinking and commitment to the profession.”

Lusa added that she “likes the diversity of students here.”

Ask Lusa why she chose to come to SVSU and she points to a picture of her grandson, Dylan, and the increased scheduling flexibility that comes with being a college faculty member. She also relishes the opportunity to play a role in producing more effective educators.



# Ryan Fewins & Jennifer Jackson

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, STUDENT LIFE CENTER • MARCH 2006

Ryan Fewins and Jennifer Jackson appear to be almost inseparable. Both started their jobs in August 2004. Their offices in the Student Life Center are adjacent. They keep similarly late hours. They even bowl together in a Sunday night league. Their team: “Ebony and Ivory.”

The two are quite close, and they share the common goal of enriching the college experience of SVSU students. Despite identical titles, their roles are different and distinct. Fewins takes the lead on community service and volunteer activities while Jackson plans and organizes programs and events.

“A lot of what we do is independent in the planning stages,” Fewins observed, “but then when it’s the week or day of an event, it’s all hands on deck.”

Both spend considerable time advising student groups and counseling students who drop by their offices at all hours of the day and night.

Jackson says student organizations should be fun, but they also play an important role in students’ personal development.

“Student organizations are there for students to have experiences and gain skills outside the classroom,” she said.

The same goes for student activities, according to Fewins.

“I think a lot of people look at the Student Life Center and say it’s about fun events – and that’s part of it – but there’s a serious, purposeful, educational element behind everything we do,” he said.

As an alumna, Jackson has observed a significant change as SVSU has grown and the Student Life office was placed within the Student Center.

“It’s more welcoming, and there’s a lot more going on,” she said.

Fewins and Jackson are quick to add that faculty and staff are welcome at most Student Life events.

Since SVSU students tend to be nocturnal creatures, Fewins and Jackson are often on campus well into the night.

“If students are meeting at 10 p.m., I’m here,” Jackson said. “A lot of students think we live on campus.”

When she gets a chance, Jackson likes to shop, but she spends most of her limited spare time chasing her children, Jaedyn, 4, and Chayse, 18 months.

“They keep me going,” she said, in an understatement.

Fewins likes to travel, but he also devotes much of his own time to volunteer work in the community.

“It’s part of a lifelong service ethic. You have to live it,” he said. “That’s what we’re trying to instill in our students.”



# Professional Profile

• **Altat U. Rahman**, professor and department chairman of electrical and computer engineering, attended “Reforming Electric Energy Systems Curriculum,” organized by the University of Minnesota, at Orlando, Fla., Feb. 17-19. The workshop was sponsored by NSF, NASA and ONR for the development of curriculum in the areas of power electronics, power systems and electric machines and drives. Rahman discussed the role of utility companies in the development of electric energy systems curriculum and the financial grant SVSU received from Consumer’s Energy for the development of a power electronics and drives laboratory.

• **Deborah Huntley**, associate professor of chemistry, published a paper titled “Squeezing C-C Bonds” in *Angewandte Chemie* (International Edition, 44[46], 7549 [2005]). Co-authored by G. Markopolous, P. Donovan, L. Scott and R. Hoffmann, the paper was based on Huntley’s sabbatical work. The article also was picked up by *Nature* magazine and was included on the “Research Highlights” pages of the Dec. 7, 2005 issue.

• **Judith Kerman**, professor of English, published a paper titled “Post-Millennium Blade Runner” in *The Blade Runner Experience: The Legacy of a Science Fiction Classic*, a scholarly anthology edited by Will Brooker and published by Wallflower Press (London & New York) in December 2005.

## Condolences

• **Cathleen Miller**, assistant professor of accounting, on the loss of her mother, who passed away Feb. 4.

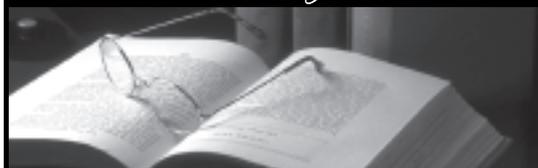
## Briefly Speaking

• Faculty and staff may present the Alumni Scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during the Commencement ceremony at 1:30 p.m., May 6. Call Norma Zivich at ext. 4075 to make arrangements.

• Faculty and staff regalia orders are due April 6 in the Bookstore, and order forms are being distributed on campus. For a copy of the order form, contact Suzette at ext. 4384.

• The SVSU Foundation Office is accepting proposals from faculty and staff for SVSU Foundation Resource Grants beginning immediately through Monday, March 27, 2006. These grants may be used for projects that directly involve and benefit SVSU students. Final approval of grant funding will occur at the June 6, 2006 meeting of the SVSU Foundation Board. To obtain an electronic copy of the guidelines and application materials, e-mail busch@svsu.edu.

*You are cordially invited . . .*



The Melvin J. Zahnow Library and  
the Office of Academic Affairs  
cordially invite you to attend the

### *Second Annual Faculty Authors Reception*

Recognizing excellence in  
published research and writing

Monday, March 13, 2006 ~ 4:00-5:30 p.m.  
Roberta Allen Reading Room  
Melvin J. Zahnow Library ~ Fourth Floor

Wine and Cheese      Music by the Zahnow Duo

## Calendar

• **International Mail Art: “Brain Cells, Civil Service and the Networked World”** – March 13 through April 8, University Art Gallery. Hours are Monday, noon to 4 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, noon to 3 p.m.

• **Wayne Wolf**, professor of electrical engineering and computer science at Princeton University, will deliver a lecture on smart cameras and high-tech surveillance Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in the Marble Lecture Hall as a 2006 Dow Visiting Scholar and a guest of SVSU’s College of Science, Engineering and Technology. Admission is free of charge.

• **University Wide Employment & Networking Fair** – 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 7 in Ryder Center. For a list of registered employers, as well as to take advantage of advance online registration before March 24, visit [www.svsu.edu/careers](http://www.svsu.edu/careers). Contact the Office of Career Planning and Placement at ext. 4954 or email [careers@svsu.edu](mailto:careers@svsu.edu) for more information.

• **SVSU Theatre Production of *Oliver*** – Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts. Performances are: Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 2, 2:00 p.m.; Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, April 9, 2:00 p.m. For ticket information contact the Box Office at ext. 4261.

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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**Submission Deadline:**  
Noon on the Friday before the publication date.  
Please send items by e-mail to: [tmi@svsu.edu](mailto:tmi@svsu.edu).