

African-American scholar to speak at SVSU's MLK Celebration

A leading scholar on the black American experience will deliver the keynote address during SVSU's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Wednesday, Jan. 17, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Curtiss Hall banquet rooms.

The speaker, Manning Marable, is a professor of history, political science and policy at Columbia University, where he also served as a founding director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies.

A regular guest on *Today*, *Charlie Rose*, Fox Network news, National Public Radio and the BBC, Marable is a prolific author. He has

of well-known figures of the civil rights movement.

In 2002, Marable established the Center for Contemporary Black History at Columbia University, an advanced research and publications center that examines black leadership and politics, culture and society. He also is a national leader in the development of Web-based, educational resources on the African-American experience.

Marable received a bachelor's degree from Earlham College and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin. He completed his Ph.D. in American history from the University of

Maryland in 1976.

The theme for the SVSU celebration is "Vision 2007: Martin Luther King Jr. and His Vision of Multicultural Democracy."

Marable's visit is sponsored by the Office of Diversity Programs.



Manning Marable

Tickets for the event — which includes dinner — are \$35 for the general public and SVSU faculty and staff. Student tickets are \$10. For ticket information, call the SVSU Box Office at ext. 4261.

written and/or edited nearly 20 books and scholarly anthologies, and has written some 275 articles published in academic journals and edited volumes.

Marable's most recent book, *Living Black History*, takes a fresh look at the legacy

President of Taiwanese University delivers Commencement Address

The president of Shih Hsin University, Paul Tzung Tsann Mu, was the Commencement speaker Friday, Dec. 15. A sister university to SVSU, Shih Hsin is one of Taiwan's oldest institutions of higher learning.

The December graduating class numbered 498 students, including 413 who received bachelor's degrees, 77 who received master's degrees, and eight who received education specialist degrees.

Dr. Paul Tzung Tsann Mu was installed as president of Shih Hsin University in 2001. Founded nearly 50 years ago, SHU is one of Taiwan's oldest institutions of higher learning. It has some 50,000 alumni and is considered by many to be the preeminent school of journalism in Taiwan.

Prior to his appointment at SHU, Mu was named founding president of National Dong Hwa University, which was formally inaugurated in July 1994. He served in that post for seven years. Mu earned a Bachelor of Arts from National Taiwan University; a Master of Arts from the University of Nevada; and a Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis. All three degrees were in economics.



Dr. Mu, right, participates in the ceremonial hooding of the honorary doctorate with President Eric Gilbertson and David Gamez, Board of Control vice chair.

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

**BY ERIC R. GILBERTSON, PRESIDENT
4 P.M. THURSDAY, FEB. 1
FIELD THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS
RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**

Brian Thomas

Instructor of Sociology

Students in the largest freshman class in SVSU history recently completed their first semester, making the often difficult adjustment from high school to higher education.

“A lot of incoming freshmen struggle,” said sociology instructor Brian Thomas. “Coming to college not only involves a new level of academic work that they must perform, but there are also a number of unspoken rules and things that nobody really ever tells you.”

For example, faculty include deadlines in their syllabi and expect students to be working toward them, while Thomas says students frequently feel “blindsided” when the assignment is due. The higher level of critical thinking required also catches many students unawares.

Thomas recently has taken over as coordinator of the “college transitions” pilot program that gave 35 new students a head start on their acclimation.

“We had a variety of students, both in terms of academic performance, as well as simple location,” he said.

During the summer, seven groups of students were matched with faculty and library mentors and came to campus for a workshop. They also participated in a two-week online seminar and were asked to read *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* by Pietra Rivoli.

While one semester is insufficient to draw conclusions about the program’s success, feedback has been positive and encouraging.

In October, the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences was awarded a new grant by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to expand the program and make it “bigger and better” for 120 students entering next fall. Thomas is seeking more partners to maintain the small group model.

“The role of the faculty mentors was critical to the success of the past program,” he said, adding that shared experience is valuable, too. “A lot of what takes place in a University, and in general, involves learning from our peers. That process of learning together is important.”

The goals of the program align with Thomas’ values.

“Frankly, there’s a social justice element in it to me. It’s easy for some people to go to college; it’s not easy for everybody. If your parents didn’t go to college, if you don’t have siblings who went to college, the idea of showing up in a college classroom can be a very intimidating process, and even if you make it through the door, that is only one of many very important steps.”

Thanks to the program, more students at SVSU are putting one foot in front of the other.



George Puia

Dow Chemical Company Chair in Global Business

The global economy. That small phrase appears with increasing frequency in newscasts and everyday conversation. For George Puia, it is at the core of a question that he asks himself regularly.

“How do I help the University create students who are more globally competitive, and how do I do that in a way that builds the regional economy? The fun part of doing that is shaping curriculum and extracurricular activities in ways that really are transformative.”

One example Puia cites is the development of a short-term study abroad program.

“For our students, there is an extra expense with study abroad,” he said, “and that is they’re working part time and can’t afford to lose that job and that income. The opportunity cost to study abroad is too high.”

Previous trips have gone to India and Poland, and during Spring Break, 18 students will be going to Russia to meet with executives from international companies such as Motorola and Morgan Stanley, as well as Russian entrepreneurs.

Puia also interacts regularly with the local business community. “One of the roles of a regional university is to find ways to use its resources to make the region more competitive, and SVSU has really taken a leadership role in several areas,” he said.



This region has more than 300 tier two auto suppliers that have relied primarily on supplying to the major automakers, according to Puia.

“Many of those companies are already globally competitive and they don’t know it,” he said.

To increase their understanding, Puia recently hosted a video-conference with the U.S. Commercial Service in Korea. He also is collaborating with faculty and students who are working with local firms to identify export opportunities, including research using databases from the United Nations and World Bank.

“To me, that’s an ideal project because it ties all the pieces together,” he said. “It helps the regional economy by diversifying these firms and making them economically stronger. It creates an extraordinary learning opportunity for students, and it makes the students more global.”

While Puia is pleased with what has been accomplished, he hastens to add that there is more to do, and he will not be alone.

“These changes are done by a team, and I’ve found SVSU to be a remarkably collaborative environment.”

SVSU Professional Service*

- Editorial board of the *International Journal of Family Business*
- Editorial board of *Current Issues in Management*
- Presentation to Midland Tomorrow on the WIRED grant and its healthcare related initiatives
- Workshop on managing export operations for regional small businesses, in partnership with Saginaw Future

Scholarly Activity*

- “Intra-cultural variation and entrepreneurship: Exploring the effect of diversity on national levels of innovation” was published in *Review of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Research* (co-authored with Ofori-Dankwa)
- “Global Management Research: The unexplored world” was published in *Current Issues in Management*
- “Control Corp’s Saudi Arabian Venture” was published in *Annual Advances in Business Cases*
- “Magda’s first overseas assignment: A case study in expatriate careers” appeared in the *Proceedings of the Southwest Management Association*

Grants Awarded*

- Principal author of SVSU’s portion of the WIRED grant for regional economic transformation from the U.S. Department of Labor. SVSU’s portion of the grant is some \$2.7 million over three years.
- Principal investigator for the Business and Internationalization in Education grant, funded at \$164,000 for use in 2005-2007. The grant provides funding to engage undergraduate students in service-learning research projects to aid local businesses in finding suitable export markets.

*Lists are representative, not all inclusive

Scott Mellendorf

Reference, Internet and Off Campus Services Librarian • January 2007

The stereotypical librarian was a bookworm as a child and a college lit major who wanted to be surrounded by volumes. Scott Mellendorf is a former factory worker who enjoys auto racing. In 1987, he made the “big step” of giving up his factory job because he knew if he did not, he would be “punching a clock forever” — something he “didn’t want to do.”

Mellendorf enrolled at SVSU with thoughts of becoming a teacher. While going to school, he began working in Zahnow Library.

“I became really interested in the computer and technology end, which was really growing. That kind of attracted me to it,” he said. “I was there at the growth of all of it.”

Mellendorf recalls the days of literally hearing students connecting to the Internet via modem. Today, he instructs students not to rely on search engines when looking for academic sources.

“That’s very difficult because Google has the one search box,” he said. “We show them how to evaluate resources and try to steer them to our library databases.”

Technology also has dramatically increased the number of students who utilize interlibrary loan.

“That’s an area that has really changed in the past few years,” Mellendorf said. “As you’re doing the research now, it’s a click away.”

Information may be easily accessible electronically, but students still seek printed material. “Absolutely; we’re surprised by how often they look for books.”

But this is not your parents’ library where students read in solitude. Mellendorf says it often serves as a meeting place for group projects. “The library has become a social place to do research,” he said.

Mellendorf “thoroughly enjoys” his time spent at the reference desk and answering e-mail questions from students. He also coordinates off campus services, visiting the Macomb REC and other sites to inform students about the resources available to them, such as the library’s Web site and toll-free telephone number.

A recent grandfather, Mellendorf drives the speed limit during his daily commute from Cass City, but he has been known to fulfill his need for speed.

“We have a family-run short track race team,” he explained. “My Dad is the mechanic and my son is the driver, though I have driven a few times. We have a lot of fun during the summers.”

Mellendorf appreciates the support he receives from his colleagues and is glad he changed careers.

“I’m very proud to represent the University and the Library.”



SVSU named “Outstanding Affiliate” for peer education efforts

SVSU has been honored for its programs to help students make healthy decisions through peer education activities. SVSU received one of two Outstanding Network Affiliate awards for medium-sized (5,000 to 12,000 enrollment) schools from The BACCHUS Network, a leading national peer education association.

Nine SVSU students gathered with some 800 fellow peer educators from around the country to share best practices for health and wellness education during The BACCHUS Network General Assembly in Anaheim, Calif. November 9-11. SVSU was recognized for its exceptional peer education efforts throughout the preceding year. The award includes a plaque and a \$300 cash prize.

Accepting the award on behalf

of the SVSU BACCHUS Chapter were:

- Meghan Alderson, a social work major from Millington
 - Kari Berger, a biology major from Midland
 - Crystal Birchmeier, a social work major from Mayville
 - Jessica Dryer, a social work major from Beaverton
 - Suzannah Gassel, a psychology major from Lapeer
 - Trista Gould, a pre-nursing major from Port Huron
 - Jackie Haase, a pre-nursing major from Yale
 - Kyle McDaniel, a pre-education major from Yale
 - Joe Richardson, a social work major from Burton
 - Dustin Stolzman, a social work major from Decker
- Tony Thomson, director of the Student Counseling Center, serves as the area consultant for

Region 7 of The BACCHUS Network, which includes Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. Jenny Ordway, assistant director of the Student Counseling Center, serves as the state coordinator for Michigan.

The BACCHUS Network is a university and community based network focusing on

comprehensive health and safety initiatives. It is a network of more than 32,000 student leaders and advisors who work with over 8 million peers on more than 900 campuses worldwide.

For more information on The BACCHUS Network, visit www.bacchusnetwork.org.

Mentors present at national conference

Five Writing Center mentors gave presentations at the 23rd National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing, Nov. 10-12, hosted by the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor:

- Tori Oxley, Krystal Ruhno — “Can I Go to My Locker?’ and Other Things You Won’t Hear a College Student Ask During a WC Session: The Movement from Higher Education to High School Writing Mentoring”
- Leslie Washe — “Assisting ESL Students with Translations of Concepts”
- Mark Kraemer — “Beyond the Four Walls: How Peer Tutors Develop Authority Outside the Writing Center”
- Kelly Stewart — “Policing Plagiarism: What Authority Do Tutors Have in Monitoring Honesty?”

SVSU Board sets housing rates for 2007-08; grants honorary degree

The SVSU Board of Control approved rental rates for students residing on campus during the 2007-08 academic year at its regular session Friday, Dec. 15.

Housing rates are increasing an average of 3.7 percent. Students in the First Year Suites and freshmen placed in the Living Centers will pay \$6,630 for room and board next year with the traditional meal plan, up from \$6,380 in 2006-07.

For returning students whose meal plan participation is optional, those in the Living Centers will be charged between \$3,750 and \$5,600 for lodging, depending on the number of students living in a room. Students living in University Village will pay \$4,630 for a townhouse and \$5,300 for an efficiency apartment. Rental rates for Pine Grove Apartments range from \$3,470 for a double bedroom unit to \$6,620 for a family unit.

Housing rates were included in the 2008 Auxiliary Operations business plan approved by the Board.

The Board also passed a resolution granting an honorary degree to Paul Tzung Tsann Mu, President of Shih Hsin University in Taiwan. (See story, Page 1.)

In other action, the Board:

- passed a resolution to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- granted tenure to 10 faculty members: Thomas Canale, assistant professor of art; Bonnie Harmer, assistant professor of nursing; Amy Hlavacek, assistant professor of mathematical sciences; Ming-Tie Huang, assistant professor of physics; Thomas Kullgren, professor of mechanical engineering; Poonam Kumar, associate professor of teacher education; John Lesko, assistant professor of English; Julie Lynch, assistant professor of psychology; Cynthia Sager, associate professor of educational leadership and services; and Stephen Taber, assistant professor of biology. All appointments are effective July 1, 2007.

• approved sabbaticals for the following faculty members during the 2007-08 academic year:

- Hamza Ahmad, mathematical sciences; Hasan Al-Halees, mathematical sciences; Gary Clark, marketing; Margaret Flatt, nursing; Farid Hallouche, computer science; Gladys Hernandez, modern foreign languages; Bing Liu, mathematical sciences; Mark McCartney, accounting; Michael Mosher, art/multimedia; Janet Nagayda, occupational therapy; Sandra Nagel, psychology; Thomas Renna, history; Janet Robinson, psychology; Danilo Sirias, management/marketing; Dee Storey, teacher education; James Sullivan, English; Melissa Teed, history; Janice Wolff, English; and Matthew Zivich, art.
- Passed a resolution to commend outstanding athletic accomplishments during the 2006 fall season.
- Approved reappointments of Alma Gilmore Doud, Barbara Mahar Lincoln, Susan Pumford

and Roz Rymal to the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum board.

- Passed a resolution to approve budget development and capital outlay requests for fiscal year 2008.
- Approved the purchase of .17 acres of land contiguous to the University on Davis Road.
- Approved the purchase of a transmission electron microscope, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.
- Approved an addendum to “Continuing Excellence,” the University’s five-year strategic plan.
- Authorized the borrowing of up to \$7 million to finance the construction of a Health Sciences facility.

Professional Profile

- **Cyrus Aryana**, associate professor of mathematics and faculty advisor for the SVSU Math Club, announced that SVSU placed 7th at the 13th Annual Michigan Autumn Take Home Challenge, Saturday, Oct. 28. There were 63 teams (record number of participants) from 23 colleges/ universities and from seven states who participated in the competition. Two teams from SVSU participated in this year's contest. According to Aryana, this achievement was due to the hard work of the math contestants, the support of the College of Science Engineering & Technology, and the Department of Mathematical Sciences.
- **J.J. Boehm**, director of media relations, gave a presentation titled "Public Relations: Is Our Profession Ethical?" to the White Pine chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, Dec. 6 in Freeland.
- **Gladys A. Hernández**, professor of modern foreign languages, presented at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages conference in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 16-19. The topic was "Ethnicity from Different Latino Women Perspectives."
- **Abigail Jewkes**, assistant professor of teacher education, presented a paper titled "Preschool Makes a Difference: Influences on Young Children's Language, Literacy, Numeracy, and Self-Regulation Learning" at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 8-11.
- **Judith Kerman**, professor of English, has had a poem, "Narcissus," published in *Red Mountain Review*, Vol. 2, 2006.
- Essays by three SVSU faculty members appear in the latest issue of the online journal *Bad Subjects: Political Education for Everyday Life* <<http://bad.eserver.org>>, the oldest continuously-published political journal on the Web. *Bad Subjects* issue #76: Race and Culture contains "Reading Crash: Writing Awareness Narratives" by **Janet Wolff**, professor of English; "My Polonia: Re-Encountering Lawrence Welk" by **Mike Mosher**, associate professor of art/communication multimedia; and "The Big Penny Pussy Sale: White Patriarchy and the Rhetoric of the Hollywood Fancyman" by **Nate Garrelts**, assistant professor of English. Tamara Watkins, who graduated from the CM program in 2004, is one of the three co-editors of this issue.
- **Danilo Sirias**, associate professor of management, presented a paper at the National Decision Sciences Institute annual meeting that took place in San Antonio Nov. 18-21. The paper was titled "Using the Main QFD Matrix to Design a Class: An Experiential Learning Activity."

Condolences

- To **Stephen Barbus**, dean of the College of Education, on the loss of his mother-in-law, Betty Betts, who passed away Saturday, Dec. 9.
- To **Bethany Montgomery**, custodian, on the loss of her father-in-law, William Baker, who passed away Friday, Dec. 15.

Briefly Speaking

- The All University Awards Banquet will be Friday, April 20, 2007. This year's grand prize will consist of two round trip air fares from Flint to Tampa, Fla., with two nights lodging at a hotel in Tampa.
- Flu vaccine is still available for students, staff, faculty and their spouses for just \$15. Stop in anytime at Health Services, 267 Wickes Hall. For more information, call ext. 4271.
- The Student Research & Creativity Institute has established a second application period for academic year 2006-07. Proposals for funding to support student projects may be submitted to the Office of the President during winter 2007 semester. The deadline for submission of proposals is 4 p.m., March 30. For further information, please view the SRCI Web site at www.svsu.edu/srci, or call Carlos Ramet, Office of the President, at ext. 4042.
- An exhibition of recent artworks by 15 full- and part-time faculty members of the SVSU Art Department opens Monday, Jan. 15, as the SVSU University Art Gallery begins the winter 2007 semester with the SVSU Art Faculty Exhibition. Featured in the display will be new works in painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, sculpture, graphic design, digital imaging, printmaking, mixed-media collage, and more, by SVSU art faculty. The exhibition continues in the Gallery through Feb. 3. **An artists' reception will take place Thursday, Jan. 25 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Gallery; refreshments will be served.** The University Art Gallery is located in the Arbury Fine Arts Center. For Gallery hours or further information, contact Dave Littell at ext. 4159 or e-mail dlittel@svsu.edu.
- Effective Jan. 15, Ryder Center (and Fitness Center) hours will be Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to midnight. From 10 p.m. to midnight, Monday through Thursday, building use is limited (no access to Cardinal Gym or classrooms). However, the Fitness Center, racquetball courts and arena (as available, around Intramural Sports schedules) will be open for use. Faculty, SVSU students and staff will be required to show SVSU ID's before using the facilities.
- The SVSU Foundation Office is accepting proposals from faculty and staff for SVSU Foundation Resource Grants beginning immediately through Thursday, Feb. 1. These grants may be used for projects that directly involve and benefit SVSU students. To obtain an electronic copy of the guidelines and application materials, please visit the SVSU Foundation Web site at www.svsu.edu/foundation. For more information, contact Emmie Busch at ext. 7025, or busch@svsu.edu.

Interior

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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