

New endowed chair joins SVSU

SVSU has hired Said Elfakhani as its Harvey Randall Wickes Chair in International Studies.



Said Elfakhani

“Dr. Elfakhani’s talents and leadership and academic experiences will enrich the portfolio of talents in the College of Business and Management and the University,” said Marwan Wafa, dean of the College. Elfakhani comes to

SVSU from American University of Beirut, where he has served as Associate Dean of the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business since 2000. Prior to that, he spent 11 years on the faculty of the University of Saskatchewan, located in Canada. He is currently a visiting professor of finance at the University of Texas at Dallas.

A Canadian citizen of Lebanese descent, Elfakhani has extensive teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate levels and has authored or co-authored numerous articles that have been published in scholarly journals, as well as three chapters in edited books. In addition, he was invited this year to serve as guest editor for the first issue of the *Journal for Global Business Advancement*. Elfakhani’s teaching and research interests include corporate and international finance, investment and portfolio management, and derivative securities.

Elfakhani holds a Ph.D. in finance from the University of Texas at Dallas, where he also completed a master’s degree in finance. In addition he holds an MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington and a bachelor’s degree from Lebanese University in Beirut. Elfakhani will begin his new duties at SVSU in January 2008 with the start of the winter semester.

The Wickes Chair in International Studies is named for one of SVSU’s founders.

Tenth Annual Thomas and Hilda Rush Distinguished Lectureship

“Medicine, Morality, and the Marketplace: Why You Have No Right to Health Care in America”

a discussion by

Drew E. Hinderer

Professor of Philosophy and Chair, Department of Philosophy

Thursday, Oct. 18 • 4 p.m. • Founders Hall

Reception to follow



DREW E. HINDERER will explain why the U.S. health care system has failed to treat access to a minimally adequate level of health care as a human right. He currently serves on two health care institutional ethics committees, offers frequent continuing education workshops on health care for medical and nursing professionals, and has provided consultations on clinical cases with significant ethical content. Hinderer is the author of many articles and two hospital ethics workbooks, as well as co-author of *Health Care Ethics: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach*. He has been awarded grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and received the House Family Award for Teacher Impact, a distinction reserved for those SVSU faculty who have had a significant and positive impact on the lives of students.

GO FIGURE

FALL 2007 ENROLLMENT NUMBERS:

9,662

Students taking classes in the 2007 fall semester, up from 9,543 students a year ago

1,558

Incoming freshmen, compared to 1,450 last year

23%

Increase since 2005 in the number of new students choosing SVSU

2,202

Students living on campus

66%

Percentage of freshman class living on campus

1,677

Graduate students enrolled this semester

Judith Kerman

Professor of English

The walls of Judy Kerman's office are adorned by masks. As an artist, she appreciates them and relates them to her work as a writer.

"Poetry is a masked act," she said. "Whatever I say of myself is also true of my reader."

Masks create intrigue because of what they hide, according to Kerman. "We use the face to anticipate other people's motives," she said. "Masks are inherently fun and scary at the same time, because they complicate that."

Kerman stresses a corollary of that observation to her creative writing students.

"I tell them, 'You don't decide what a piece is about; you find out what a piece is about.' In that, it is very different from other kinds of writing."

Someone who can "never remember where" she gets an idea, Kerman is not sure when she started collecting masks, though she traces her interest back to the late 1970s when she was doing political clowning.

Kerman has written papers on masks and clowning within the religious movement, and has presented at numerous conferences regarding the fantastic and the arts.

"What does it all have in common, other than I do it," she wondered.

But recently Kerman has noticed there has been a theme to her work. "What I find myself doing, if I look at all those papers, is looking at the way fantasy or the fantastic is used to think about moral issues."

A science fiction reader for her entire life, Kerman was "blown away" by the 1982 film "Blade Runner."

"The premise of 'Blade Runner' is that you have androids whom the society denies human rights," she said.

In January, she will be discussing that topic as a plenary speaker at a conference at Florida State University that is examining how part-human part-machine science fiction characters such as androids and cyborgs are used to think about "the other." Kerman will be joining such noted authors as Umberto Eco and Vivian Sobchak.

"The list of people is fairly intimidating," she remarked.

With her seemingly unconnected academic and artistic writings now unmasked as having a common thread, Kerman acknowledges that her pursuits are quite varied. She also operates a publishing company and writes a column on architecture for *The Bay City Times*.

"The way I approach my scholarly life and my artistic life are the same. If something is interesting, I go there. I don't ask a lot of questions about why it's interesting to me."



Mike Pazdro

Project Manager • September 2007

The way Mike Pazdro sees it, his job is simple. “To sum it up, it’s our job to get projects done on budget and on time.”

But meeting those objectives often requires detailed planning and complex problem solving — none more so than the recent \$16 million renovation and expansion of Pioneer Hall.

“That is the hardest project I’ve ever worked on,” Pazdro said. “It was such a demanding and precise building. Every piece of equipment had specifications and each lab was different; each professor was different in terms of what they needed. It was a big learning curve.”

The building also adheres to standards for certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, something new for the architects, contractors and SVSU. “It was a first for everybody” Pazdro said. His thought when the building opened this fall: “Thank God.”

The challenges were not restricted to the Pioneer site.

“A lot of people don’t realize what we had to do to move everybody out of Pioneer,” Pazdro said. “We had to renovate the theatre; we had to renovate a lot of other spaces on campus. It’s been a big trickle-down effect.”

Pazdro’s considerable experience includes having done a number of house designs and working for architects in Ann

Arbor and Saginaw. He was involved in the construction of the Student Center before taking his current job.

“It was weird going from the client side to the owner side in the matter of a day.”

When considering the offer, Pazdro worried whether there would be enough work to keep him busy. Those concerns have long since vanished.

“I have 15 jobs on my plate right now,” he said. “I’m booked for the next year, but I like what I’m doing; it keeps me on my toes.”

Pazdro had never hunted before moving to Midland. Now, whether goose, duck or deer season, it is his favorite escape from his “stressful job.”

“No phones, no faxes, no bosses, just time to relax,” he explained.

With the Pioneer project completed, Pazdro joked that he is going to change his cell phone number.

“The new one will be unpublished. People can call (director of construction) Jerry Stuart,” he chuckled.

Such good-natured ribbing is typical among a staff that embodies teamwork, according to Pazdro.

“I can’t stress it enough,” he said. “This campus is great; everybody is friendly. It’s the best job I’ve ever had.”





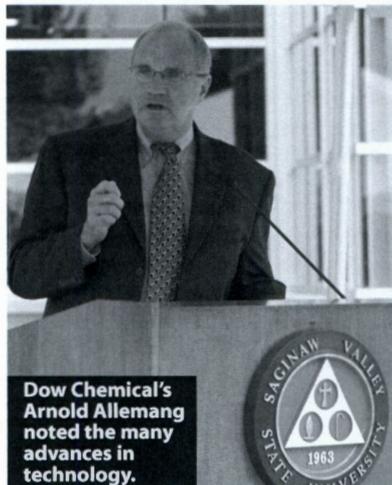
Board of Control members Ruth A. Braun, David J. Abbs and D. Brian Law officially re-opened Pioneer Hall at a Sept. 10 ceremony outside the facilities' south entrance.

Grand Re-opening



CBED's Dulcey Simpkins discusses alternative fuels with Emily DeRocco.

The pioneering spirit that led to the construction of Pioneer Hall is more than evident in the \$16 million renovation of SVSU's engineering facility. The renovated Pioneer Hall was completed in time for fall 2007 classes. To celebrate the re-opening, SVSU hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony and symposium Sept. 10. Arnold Allemang, senior advisor and member of the board of directors at The Dow Chemical Company, gave the keynote address at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The symposium (middle photo below) — titled "Pioneering Mid-Michigan's Economic Future through Innovation, Education and Engineering" — included a panel consisting of SVSU faculty Brooks Byam (mechanical engineering) and David Karpovich (chemistry) and SVSU endowed chairs George Puia and Christopher Schiling; Emily DeRocco, assistant secretary of labor for employment and training for the U.S. Department of Labor, opened the symposium.



Dow Chemical's Arnold Allemang noted the many advances in technology.



Faculty panelists at the engineering symposium.



Emily DeRocco opened the symposium.



Mechanical engineering professor Brooks Byam.

Human Rights & Human Responsibilities

SVSU brings you something more, something better with its fall focus on Human Rights and Human Responsibilities. The 2007 Rush Lecture, Dow Visiting Scholars & Artists Lectures, and the Hoffmann/Willertz Lecture, plus a special full-day symposium, will provide audiences with a fresh perspective on the imperatives of human rights and the challenges of human responsibilities.



Stephen Lewis

Wednesday, Oct. 16
7 p.m.
Malcolm Field Theatre for
Performing Arts

"Time to Deliver: Winning the Battle Against Poverty and Disease in the Developing World"



Asma Barlas

Monday, Oct. 22
7 p.m.
Rhea Miller Recital Hall

"Women's Rights in Islam"



Chris Abani

Monday, Oct. 29
7 p.m.
Rhea Miller Recital Hall

"Human Rights in Politics and in Art"



Suzanne Mettler

Thursday, Nov. 8
10 a.m.
Curtiss Hall Banquet
Rooms A-C

"Soldiers to Citizens: The G.I. Bill and the Making of the Greatest Generation"



Paul E. Teed

Wednesday, Nov. 14
7 p.m.
Rhea Miller Recital Hall

"Theodore Parker's Vision of Freedom: Violence and Social Responsibility in 19th Century America"

The 2007 Fall Focus also includes the 10th Annual Thomas and Hilda Rush Distinguished Lectureship (see story, Page 1).

Admission to all lectures is free of charge and open to the public.

For more information, call ext. 4261.

Reception honors Board of Control's Ruth Braun

The campus community is invited to attend a reception to honor Ruth Braun Monday, Oct. 15 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Roberta Allen Reading Room on the fourth floor of Zahnow Library.

Braun recently completed 16 years of service on the SVSU Board of Control



Ruth Braun

and delivered the August Commencement address. A noted advocate for education, she is believed to be the only individual to serve on boards for all three

levels of public education in Michigan, having also served 18 years on the school board for Saginaw Public Schools and two years on the Board of Education for the State of Michigan.

Please RSVP to the President's Office at ext. 4041.

Professional Profile

• **Allan Freed**, Clifford H. Spicer endowed chair in engineering, published NASA Technical Memorandum, No. 214827, titled "Physical Laws for Mechanobiology."

• **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, has an article titled "You have no business to whip me': The Freedom Suits of Polly Wash and Lucy Ann Delaney" published in the current issue of *African American Review* (41.1: 33-50). It continues Gardner's consideration of Lucy Delaney's c.1891 slave narrative and the St. Louis freedom suits.

• **Judith Kerman**, professor of English, has had her translation of "Eva/Sion/s," a long poem in Spanish by Sherezade (Chiqui) Vicioso, published as part of a tri-lingual edition of the poem (Spanish, English and French) by House of Nehesi Publisher, St. Martin. Vicioso is a prize-winning poet, playwright and essayist of the Dominican Republic.

• **Carlos Ramet**, executive assistant to the president, published an article titled "Ken Follett's *On Wings of Eagles*: Narrative Negotiation of 'True Story' Fiction" in the *Michigan Academician*. The article makes extensive use of Follett's working papers, early drafts, and other original materials donated to SVSU by the British novelist, and examines the working relationship of Follett and H. Ross Perot in the early 1980s.

• Nursing faculty **Marcia Shannon, Elizabeth Roe, Sally A. Decker**, with **Qingran Lin** and **Chen Weiju**, presented "Global Collaboration for Culturally Competent Care: Strategies to Support EBP" at the 18th International Nursing Research Congress Focusing on Evidence-Based Practice, July 11-14, Vienna, Austria.

The SVSU Foundation Office is accepting proposals from faculty and staff for SVSU Foundation Resource Grants through Monday, Oct. 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, visit www.svsu.edu/foundation. For more information, contact Emmie Busch at ext. 7025, or e-mail busch@svsu.edu.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, and biology major Jennifer Privette co-authored a manuscript that has been accepted for publication by *Southwestern Entomologist*. The article is titled "Arthropod abundance following a prescribed burn in the Lost Pines forest of central Texas."

• **Steve Yanca**, professor of social work, and Louise C. Johnson, professor emerita from the University of South Dakota, co-authored a new textbook,

Generalist Social Work Practice with Families, published by Allyn and Bacon (Yanca & Johnson, 2008). This a family version of their text, *Social Work Practice: A Generalist Approach*, which was originally published in 1983.

New Cardinals

• **Courtney Traver**, financial assistant to the vice president for administration and business affairs, had a son, Blake Andrew (8 lbs., 1 oz.), Sept. 4.

• **Kristen Willert**, sales manager for the conference and events center, and her husband Phillip had a baby boy, Preston James, Aug. 27.

Condolences

• To **George Eastland**, professor of chemistry, whose mother-in-law Margaret Cronkhite passed away Sept. 16.

• To **Jon Essex**, groundskeeper, whose father-in-law Donald Deucher passed away Sept. 1.

• To **Lisa Gross**, assistant director of the academic advisement center, whose father, John Gustin, passed away Sept. 15.

• To the family of Erica L. LaMay, an SVSU student who passed away Aug. 25.

Briefly Speaking

• The date for the Choir Holiday Concert "Holiday Varieties II" is incorrect in the Fall Focus brochure. The correct date is Sunday, Dec. 2 (not Dec. 1). Please note the change.

• Athletics is distributing \$20 Red Pride packages, which include a T-shirt, set of pom poms, license plate, sports bottle with coupon for one free fill-up, window cling and two coupons for general admission to a home football or basketball game during the 2007-08 season. Contact Shelly Reminder at ext. 7306 to purchase a Red Pride package.

Transitions

For new faculty/staff office numbers, phone extensions, email addresses and other information, see www.svsu.edu/lookup.

New Faculty and Staff

- Joseph Ceraso – Instructor of Chemistry
- Christopher Coles – Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
- Jocelyn Hall – Interim Head Cheerleading Coach
- Herbert Haygood – Assistant Football Coach
- Rebecca Horn – Assistant Softball Coach
- Lamis Jarvinen – Assistant Professor of Biology
- Debra Karoly – Simulated Learning Laboratory Associate
- Edward Meisel – Instructor of Chemistry
- Anthony Moore – Assistant Director, Admissions
- Everett Roper – Head Softball Coach
- Diane Saylor – Instructor of English
- Frankie Smith – Head Men's Basketball Coach
- Tesfa Smith – Assistant Football Coach

Promoted/Transferred/Title Change

- Julie Coe – Interim Assistant Director of the English Language Program
- Connie Schweitzer – Director of Business Services
- Charles Shelley – International Student Advisor

Left/Leaving

- Lucille Beuthin, Noah Botimer, James Matthews, Craig Maxwell, Scott Woods

Retired

- Dale Irish, Carol Oberin

The Interior is published on the last Tuesday of each month 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 Wednesday before the publication date.
Please send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.**