

Work on Davis Road begins this week

Faculty, staff and visitors may need to seek an alternate travel route at times over the next few months. Starting this week, the City of Saginaw is beginning work on a major water main improvement project on Davis Road between Pierce and Freeland roads. This is a vital upgrade to the City's water system and will result in the replacement of a fresh water transmission water main that is 62 years old and deteriorating.

Concurrent with the City's efforts, the University will rebuild Davis Road from the intersection of Pierce and Davis north to College Drive. This is the portion of Davis recently acquired by SVSU.

"That portion of roadway is in need of repair, and scheduling the reconstruction to coincide with the water main work should minimize inconvenience," said James G. Muladore, Vice President for

Administration and Business Affairs. "When we're done, drivers and pedestrians will see noticeable improvement to the road surface and better safety, including marked walkways. We're also adding new lighting and signage."

The City and the University intend to finish the project prior to the start of the fall semester this August. During this interval, there will be periods of time when Davis Road will be either partially or completely closed to vehicle traffic. These closures may affect the entire one-mile stretch of Davis from Pierce to Freeland or the portion of Davis from Pierce to College or College to Freeland.

Work on the water main will proceed according to the contractor's schedule, weather conditions and other factors, so specific closure dates are not yet known, but faculty, staff and students will be

updated in a timely manner as the project proceeds.

This is a vital project for the University, the City of Saginaw and its water customers (including SVSU). Anyone aware of upcoming projects or events that may be affected by this project should

contact Campus Facilities at ext. 4080.

"We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding over the next few months as the project proceeds," Muladore said. "When it's done, I think they will be pleased."

All University Awards Banquet Nominate Your Colleagues for These Awards:

- Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award; Ann Coburn-Collins, Chair, ext. 2130
- Stuart D. & Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature; Joni Boye-Beaman, Chair, ext. 4062
- SVSU Outstanding Performance Award; Jim Dwyer, Chair, ext. 4209
- Rueben Daniels Community Service Award; Beth Roe, Chair, ext. 4128
- House Family Award for Teacher Impact; Deb Huntley, Chair, ext. 7013
- Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award; Deb Huntley, Chair, ext. 7013
- Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Teaching; Deb Huntley, Chair, ext. 7013
- Terry Ishihara Award for Co-Curricular Involvement; Mike Simon, Chair, ext. 4116
- Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award; Maime Thorns, Chair, ext. 4397

Deadline to submit nominations is Friday, March 7. Contact the award chair for criteria and nomination format. Awards will be presented, Friday, April 18, at the All University Awards Banquet. For more information, contact Pamela Clifford at ext. 7462, or pacliffo@svsu.edu.



Last weekend, the SVSU Theatre Department presented its annual Youth Theatre production to the public, and this week more than 2,400 children from 30 schools will visit campus to see the play. Directed by Janet Rubin, "Miss Nelson is Missing" is a musical based upon the popular children's book by Harry Allard and James Marshall. In April, Steven Erickson will direct Shakespeare's classic "As You Like It," the story of Rosalind and Orlando's celebrated courtship that is played out against a backdrop of political rivalry, banishment and exile in the Forest of Arden. For performance information, visit www.svsu.edu/theatre/.

Daniel Cook

Assistant Professor of English

Daniel Cook is well-traveled, having earned degrees from schools in Ohio, North Carolina and California, and this summer he will make his first trip to Scotland to present a paper on Victorian literary criticism, essentially analyzing how literature was analyzed during that era. "It sounds a lot more boring than it is," he quipped.

Cook's personal journey is also full of twists and turns. He has worked at factories and farms; he waited tables while struggling as a writer. He even completed Officer Candidate School for the U.S. Marine Corps but declined his commission.

"I'm really glad I had those experiences and this meandering path," Cook said. "You tend to have great real world examples to discuss."

That also helps him relate to students who are often working jobs in addition to their studies. "It's nice to be able to connect with them and say, 'Hey, I know what it's like to work second shift while trying to go to school.'"

In just his second year on the faculty, Cook has already taught a wide variety of courses and his students have made an impression.

"I've found that SVSU students are incredibly intellectually thirsty. When I'm doing my job well and igniting their curiosity, they're producing pretty good work."

When it comes to his work in academia, Cook says his background provides "a common sense check and balance to abstract theorizing." His academic pursuits began in fiction and creative writing before moving to 20th century American literature, but he found his intellectual curiosity leading him to 19th century British literature, particularly authors who wrote about crises of faith.

"I thought these accounts were fascinating," he said. "I'd be reading novels no one had read for 150 years. You'd find these old things buried in libraries or on microfilm, and maybe they were scandalous for the time. And the more I read the scholarship on the topic, the more I realized I have something to say about this."

Much like his résumé, Cook's relationships are diverse.

"You make friends in ways you never would have imagined," he said. "I would consider my best friend here to be (English professor) Basil Clark. He came here in 1975, which means he came here the year I was born."

"I really like the collegiality of this place. The people here have been so hospitable."

That appeals to a man who has many points of reference for comparison.



Jennifer Ordway

Assistant Director, Student Counseling Center & Health Services • February 2008

Jen Ordway describes herself as a “jack of all trades,” and for her job that’s almost a requirement, because on any given day she could be planning a campus program, talking to local social service agencies, counseling individual students on any number of issues, or most likely, all of the above.

In her three and a half years, Ordway has seen some changes. “We used to do a lot of short-term counseling. With our student population growing, now we’ve gone more to assessment and referral,” she said.

Using this approach, students are directed to appropriate community agencies for further counseling. Ordway plays an important role in SVSU’s alcohol education program, including those students whose alcohol use is deemed to be high risk. Each of them receives three individual counseling sessions with her. But she stresses those instances are not the norm.

“There are a lot of misperceptions out there. The majority of our students are making healthy decisions when it comes to alcohol.”

Ordway works closely with peer health educators, trained students who counsel their peers on a variety of health and lifestyle issues. She also is involved in this semester’s “Biggest Winner” competition, aimed at encouraging students to make

healthier decisions. “They make their own goals,” Ordway said. “It’s not just weight loss.”

She also is coordinating the second annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event at SVSU, where men don heels in a gesture to relate to women. The first walk in November 2006 raised more than \$6,500, and Ordway expects to exceed that total for this year’s event Thursday, April 17. Proceeds will go to local groups for battered or abused women.

Away from work, Ordway is “always trying to find family things to do” with her husband and three children. She says they love to camp in the summer and have found that a new Wii game system provides entertainment during the cold winter months.

A 2001 graduate, Ordway says working at SVSU “feels like coming home.” Ironically, she spends much of her time counseling new arrivals away from home for the first time.

“The first semester is the hardest for incoming freshmen, because they have freedom,” she said. “It’s almost like they want me to tell them what to do, but I tell them ‘these are decisions you’re going to have to learn how to make.’ It’s part of growing up.”



Professional Profile

- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, has the lead essay in Harriet Wilson's *New England: Race, Writing, and Region* (University of New Hampshire Press, 2007: 3-26). The essay is titled "Of Bottles and Books: Reconsidering the Readers of Harriet Wilson's *Our Nig*" and focuses on the reception of Wilson's 1859 work on free African American life in the North. Gardner also gave a paper titled "A Different Kind of Slave Narrative: Race and Rhetoric in the St. Louis Freedom Suits" at the Modern Language Association's Annual Convention in December.
- **Mike Mosher**, associate professor art/communication & multimedia, displayed "Cubist Choice: Six Small Paintings from the Artist's Own Collection" Feb. 7 at the A & J Gallery, Bay City.
- **Hong Y. Park**, professor of economics, had a paper, "Advantages and Shortcomings of Korean Chaebols," (co-authored by Geon-Cheol Shin and Sung Hahn Suh of Kyung Hee University) for publication in *International Business & Economic Research Journal*. Also, Park presented a paper, "Theories of the Firm and Business Practices: Research Implications for Design in Business Practices," (co-authored by Marwan Wafa and Geon-Cheol Shin) at the 2008 Design Conference, Jan. 8-12, Miami, Fla. Park was elected chair of the Advisor Board of the Korea-America Economic Association for 2008. And, Park reviewed two papers recently for *International Business Review*.
- **Christopher Schilling**, Charles J. Strosacker Endowed Chair, was invited by Gov. Granholm to participate in a panel discussion, "Building an Alternative Energy Industry in Michigan: Next Steps," Dec. 10, 2007, at Dow Corning Corporation in Midland, Mich.
- **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, is exhibiting artwork titled *Parking Garage*, in "Our Throwaway Society," which runs through March 19 in the Kresge Gallery at Madonna University in Livonia, Mich.

New Cardinals

- **Dawn Iseler**, assistant director housing operations, had a daughter, Abigail Claire (8 lbs., 11 oz., 19.5 in.), Jan. 23.
- **Jennifer Jackson**, assistant director of student life, had a son, Camryn Alexander (10 lbs., 6 oz., 19.5 in.), Jan. 29.

Condolences

- To **Gary Thompson**, professor of English, on the loss of his wife, Pamela, who passed away Jan. 16.

Transitions

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

New Staff

- Miranda Garcia – Assistant Director, Admissions

Promoted/Transferred/Title Change

- John Armstrong – Off-Campus Clinical Experiences Coordinator
- Cynthia Bala – Assistant Director of Staff Relations
- Neil Baumgartner – Assistant Football Coach/Defensive Line Coach
- Tesfa Smith – Assistant Football Coach/Linebacker Coach
- Joseph Vogl – Director of Annual Giving/Interim Head Golf Coach
- Mary Walk – Assistant Director, UCEC
- Kristen Willert – Assistant Director, UCEC
- Susan Wood – Coordinator, Off Campus Programs

Left/Leaving

Todd Carter, Devon Gilliam, Kyle Sheppard, Dan Taylor, William Unsworth, Jeremy Vanisacker, Susan Welke (retired)

SVSU faculty, staff awarded grants

Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Janalou Blecke, dean of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences, received \$250,000 from the Northwest Health Foundation Fund II and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the Foundations Underwriting Nursing's Development (FUND) program.

Margaret Flatt, professor of nursing, received \$32,190 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Health Resources and Services Administration for Graduate Nursing Program Traineeships.

College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences

Barbara Cohen, coordinator of Language Lab and Media Center, received a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program Host Institution grant. This grant has enabled Zakariya Al-Sheibani, an Arabic language teacher, to join the SVSU faculty for one year.

College of Education

Tamara Barrientos, mathematics educator, received \$212,706 from the Michigan Department of Education: Title II, Part A(3) for the Middle School Mathematics Partnership for Algebra program. This award will help develop and implement a program to improve the quality of middle school algebra teachers.

Poonam Kumar, professor of educational technology and development, received \$581,585 from the U.S. Department of Education for the SVSU Special Education Pre-service Reform and Induction program.

Rodney Williams, assistant professor of teacher education, received \$200,415 from the Michigan Department of Education: Title II, Part A(3) for the Preparing Teachers for the Michigan Merit Social Studies Curriculum program.

Staff

Jo Brownlie, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, received a \$1 million endowment as well as a \$50,000 grant in continued support from the Bernard Osher Foundation to be used to support and enhance the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Tammy Waugh, coordinator of Student Technology Center, received \$1,000 from the Saginaw Community Foundation for the Community Youth Technology Connection program. This program helps students to increase their digital literacy skills.

Mamie Thorns, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, received \$6,000 from the Michigan Campus Compact: Brighter Futures Grant fund for The Saginaw County Youth Leadership Institute.

Robert Schooks, director of the Center for Manufacturing Improvement, received \$158,750 in federal funds for the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC) – Northeast Office at SVSU. The mission of the MMTC is to increase the competitiveness of Michigan's small and mid-sized manufacturers.

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.

Tim Inman

Director of Creative Services
tmi@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4086

J.J. Boehm

Director of Media Relations
jjboehm@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4055

Submission Deadline:

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