

Board of Control approves a series of campus capital projects

At its regular session May 10, the Board of Control approved construction of additional student housing as part of a series of capital projects.

The Board agreed to move forward with two major housing projects. The first would add two apartment-style buildings to the seven such housing units already under construction in the northwest section of campus near the Regional Education Center. The two additions, at a cost of approximately \$2.3 million, when they open this August will add housing for 48 students.

Construction will also begin this summer on a traditional \$12 million residence hall, Living Center Southwest. Expected to open in August 2009, it will be home to approximately 210 residential students.

“The addition of new housing is tied to our ability to recruit new students,” said James G. Muladore, vice president for administration and business affairs. “The number of freshmen continues to increase, and more and more of them are coming from outside commuting distance. Nearly 70 percent of this year’s incoming freshmen will be living on campus.”

This fall some 2,500 students are expected to reside on SVSU’s campus, up from 2,200 in 2007-08 and nearly four times the 645 students who called SVSU home in 1998. There were 9,662 students enrolled at SVSU in 2007-08.

“We’ve also been highly

successful in creating an environment where a higher percentage of returning students want to continue to live on campus,” Muladore added.

As part of the Living Center Southwest construction plan, Fox Drive will connect only to residential parking lots and no longer extend to other campus roadways; Tower Drive will be extended to Collings Drive to maintain vehicle access to the campus from Pierce Road.

Other capital projects approved by the Board include a \$2 million expansion of the Arbury Fine Arts Center, which will add classrooms, labs and faculty offices. The dining facilities in the Regional Education Center also will be upgraded at a cost of \$500,000.

In addition, the Board granted promotions to 16 SVSU faculty members, effective July 1. Promoted to assistant professor were:

- **Sally Shepardson**, biology, who was also granted tenure
- **Brian Thomas**, sociology
- **Debra Wagner**, nursing

The following were promoted to associate professor:

- **Marie Cassar**, psychology
- **Il-Hyung Cho**, computer science and information systems
- **Jennifer Fager**, teacher education
- **Nathan Garrelts**, English
- **Evelyn Ravuri**, geography
- **Deborah Smith**, teacher education
- **Lee Trepanier**, political science

Those promoted to professor were:

- **Brooks Byam**, mechanical engineering
- **M. Patricia Cavanaugh**, English
- **Robert Drew**, communication
- **Scott James**, computer science and information systems
- **Dorothy Millar**, education technology and development
- **Ann Catherine Sullivan**, teacher education

In other action, the Board passed a resolution to thank **Jeremiah Stanghini**, president, and the elected representatives

of Student Association for their service during the 2007-08 academic year; and passed a resolution to congratulate **Angela Seeley**, president, and representatives elected to serve on Student Association during the 2008-09 academic year.

The Board also passed a resolution retaining **David R. Gamez** as Board chair, **Dr. K.P. Karunakaran** as vice chair, **Lawrence E. Sedrowski** as secretary, and **D. Brian Law** as treasurer.



At its May meeting, the Board of Control agreed to bestow an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree to U.S. Senator **Debbie Stabenow**, who gave the keynote address to graduates during Commencement exercises. Born and raised in Michigan, Stabenow made history in 2000 when she became the first woman from the state of Michigan elected to the United States Senate. She was elected to a second term in 2006. Stabenow is a strong advocate for higher education – working to pass recent increases in college financial aid and securing millions in cutting-edge research dollars for Michigan’s colleges and universities.

Mary Harmon

Professor of English

“Virginia Woolf said ‘to teach without zest is a crime.’ I absolutely agree with her.”

Those words from Mary Harmon yield great insight into her attitude and approach to education.

“I think students are interested and responsive if they have an enthusiastic and interested teacher, and a teacher who’s interested in them,” she said.

The veteran English professor draws upon more than 20 years of K-12 teaching experience in instructing many students who are planning to become educators themselves.

“One of the primary things I try to instill in them,” Harmon said, “is that as they prepare lessons and engage in various techniques and strategies in the classroom is to always be thinking, ‘What is the purpose of this? How does it connect to the other things I’m doing in the classroom? What does it teach the child?’”

Harmon has taught a variety of subjects outside of English education, including contemporary literature and contemporary drama – two of her favorites.

“I like the diversity; it keeps me alive and fresh.”

Harmon takes pride in returning papers promptly – and she reads a lot of them.

“I don’t think students can respond to literature in short

phrases, true-false answers or multiple choice. I think they need space and words to think about the concepts and the situations being presented in the literature. It’s the same in my Teaching the Art of Writing or linguistics classes, too. Writing helps them clarify what they’ve read and respond personally.”

Harmon encourages students to write actively “a great deal. That’s why I’m always tired,” she said with a hearty laugh.

But not too tired to clear the brush and otherwise tend to her 15 acres of wooded property, or to go hiking nearly every weekend. She enjoys the “challenge and rigor” of hiking and the total concentration it requires.

Harmon’s summer plans include hiking mountains in the Andes and the Pyrenees. One of her favorite aspects of such trips is visiting remote areas and spending time with the people indigenous to those regions.

“It puts one’s own life in perspective,” she said.

When she returns in this presidential election year, Harmon expects to be quite busy in her role as president of the Saginaw Area Democratic Club.

Harmon says her 17 years at SVSU have been good to her. “I’ve had a chance to pursue academic and other interests with encouragement and freedom.”

And push her students to do the same.



Monique Owens

WIRED Project Coordinator • May 2008

Monique Owens says she “has never met a stranger.” She has had hundreds of new introductions through her role with the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative, making new friends and colleagues through the process. Backed by the U.S. Department of Labor, WIRED is intended to enliven the economy of a 13-county region in Michigan, and it has given her quite an education.

While Owens has a degree from SVSU, she jests that she “feels like I’ve earned a Ph.D. in two years.”

“I had no idea that the (\$15 million) grant involves so many people, so many partners, so many organizations. At times, I’ve been a reporter, a researcher, a biographer, a technical writer. It’s been an amazing experience.”

Owens is often the liaison between companies, agencies and government organizations, encouraging them to see one another as partners rather than rivals.

“I really believe a strong community helps everyone. That’s what WIRED is really about, getting those in the region to map their resources and understand those resources well enough to be economically viable and competitive.”

Owens has also worked to build better bridges within SVSU between the Center for Business and Economic Development where she works and other departments such as the colleges of

Business & Management, and Science, Engineering & Technology.

“We’ve worked a lot with businesses and with students to get them to think entrepreneurially,” she said.

Owens says her personal background aids her in understanding business and diverse groups of people. Growing up in rural Mt. Vernon, Ala., with 12 siblings, she moved to Saginaw at age 15 after her brother landed a job with General Motors and purchased a home large enough to accommodate the family.

“What brought us here is economics, and for our family to take care of one another,” she said. “The South and the North are very different. It was difficult at first, but I’ve loved it here ever since.”

Outside the workplace, Owens says she “loves going to church” and spending time with family — when schedules permit. Her husband James travels as a professional guitar player, and with three stepchildren and a daughter of her own, the calendar is frequently full.

“We find time to bond over the weekends,” she said.

Owens can’t speculate as to what her future workplace challenges may be, but she is ready to embrace them.

“I love learning. That’s why I took this job.”





Ten outstanding Michigan educators have been selected for the third class of the Gerstacker Fellowship. They will receive concentrated leadership training over a one-year period, including a trip to Asia to gain international leadership experience and examine leadership practices in other cultures. Known as Gerstacker Fellows, the select participants will meet monthly on weekends, starting in August. SVSU faculty from various disciplines will instruct the Fellows on subjects dealing with leadership ethics, political problem solving, financial planning, human resource management and education with a global perspective. The third class of Gerstacker Fellows are, from left: **Sherry Lambertson**, assistant principal at White Pine Middle School in Saginaw Township; **Sandra Robinson**, a social studies teacher at

Saginaw High School; **Sherry Bledsoe**, principal of Zilwaukee International Studies School in the Saginaw Public School District; **Patrick Tobin**, assistant director of human resources for Bay City Public Schools; **Carol Selby**, principal of Heavenrich Elementary School in Saginaw; **James Cain**, current principal of McAlear-Sawden Elementary School in Bay City and incoming Director of Special Education for Bay City Public Schools; **Amy Hutchinson**, chair of the English/World Language Department Chair at Midland High School; **Paul Schroll**, assistant principal and science department chair at Midland's H.H. Dow High School; **Geralyn Myczkowiak**, regional literacy director for the Saginaw Intermediate School District; and **Rhonda Provoast**, Superintendent of Hale Area Schools.

Professional Profile

- **René L. Hernandez**, assistant professor of health sciences, was appointed to the Governor's Joint Task Force for Health Professions in Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. Her term runs through December 31, 2011.
- **Robert Tuttle**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received funding through the American Foundry Society for his project titled, "Effect of Cooling Rate on Ductile Iron Properties." The project will complete work on determining how mechanical properties in ductile cast irons are affected by cooling rate and "skin" formation. This project is in partnership with foundries located in Michigan and Pennsylvania. The total project cost is \$47,546 with AFS funding \$27,046 and the foundries supplying the remainder of the project cost.

Condolences

- To **Shaun Bangert**, associate professor of art, and **Bill Bangert**, maintenance pool, on the loss of their son, Kody, who passed away April 27.
- To **Averill Packard**, reference librarian, on the loss of her mother, Frances Youngs, who passed away April 25.

Transitions

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

New Staff

- **Melissa Kaczmarek** – English/Language Arts Staff Development Specialist
- **Ashley Pope** – Math/Science Staff Development/Assessment Specialist
- **Derek Sapikowski** – Support Center Technology Specialist
- **Vincent Vliet** – HVAC Assistant

Promoted/Transferred/Title Changed

- **Cynthia Bala** – Associate Director of Human Resources
- **Andrew Bethune** – Acting Executive Director of the SVSU Foundation
- **Kimberly Brandimore-Horton** – Director of Student Life
- **Loyce Brown** – Human Resources Specialist
- **Matthew Grulke** – Microlabs Technology Specialist
- **Jodi Hutchinson** – Human Resources Manager
- **Dawn Iseler** – Director of Housing
- **Jennifer Jackson** – Assistant Director of Minority Student Services
- **David Jerome** – Inventory Management Specialist
- **Ann Miner** – Benefits Manager
- **Jennifer Neitzel** – Human Resources Manager
- **Ronald Portwine** – Assistant Vice President of Business Services
- **Linda Schmidt** – Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Student Services & Enrollment Management
- **Matthew Slack** – Event Technology Manager
- **Jack VanHoorelbeke** – Director of Human Resources

Left/Leaving

- **William Delong**, **Yvonne Kilmer**

Retired

- **Barb Beck**, **Eugene Czowski**, **Katherine Harley**, **Mary Ann Kipfmiller**, **Karen Turpin**, **Roger Zacharko**

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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Noon on Wednesday before the publication date.

Please send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.