

SVSU Enrollment Hits New Highs

Total Enrollment*
9,837

Incoming Freshmen*
1,660

On-Campus Residents*
2,468

Freshmen Living on Campus*
72%

Credit Hours*
110,881

Credit Hour Increase Over a Year Ago
3.4%

International Students
406

Graduate Students
1,647

**New record highs*

SVSU smashes rival in Battle of the Valleys

SVSU students shattered previous records for fund raising during the annual “Battle of the Valleys” competition. SVSU raised \$47,278 for the Bay County and Saginaw chapters of Habitat for Humanity during the week-long challenge with Grand Valley State University students Sept. 7-12.

SVSU has 9,837 students enrolled for the fall 2008 semester, while GVSU has 23,892 students. Grand Valley raised \$28,002 for Campfire USA this year.

Several student organizations organized and led events, allowing the campaign to reach out to a broad spectrum of students and get them involved. In addition to the fund-raising activities, SVSU students participated in a service project for Habitat for Humanity Friday, Sept. 12.



Accepting the proceeds from BoV were Jerry Swallow, resource development coordinator, Bay County Habitat; Robert Jarve, executive director, Bay County Habitat; Cameron M. Brady, development manager, Saginaw Habitat; and Roger Scovill, president, Saginaw Habitat. (Photo by Adam Baudoux)

“We are blown away by the generosity of SVSU’s students,” said Cameron Brady, development manager for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

“This will be one of the largest gifts we receive this year and will have a lasting impact on our community by

providing deserving families with quality housing,” he said.

The previous standards for “Battle of the Valleys” fund raising were set in 2007 when GVSU collected \$31,382 for Helen DeVos Childrens Hospital and SVSU netted \$20,319 for the Saginaw City Rescue Mission.

The Eleventh Annual Thomas and Hilda Rush Distinguished Lectureship

“The Taste for Tudors in Contemporary America: Narcissus Meets Clio”

by Robert Braddock, Professor of History

Thursday, October 16
4 p.m. • Founders Hall
Reception to follow

Braddock will point out parallels between Tudor times and the present as both periods are rife with issues of ideological conflict, terrorism, nationalism and human rights. As Braddock has observed, “In today’s U.S., you can say Constitutional niceties are being ‘neglected.’ In Tudor England, they knowingly and deliberately broke the law.”



Amy Hlavacek

Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences

The United States is falling behind the rest of the world when it comes to learning math and science. According to the documentary film *Two Million Minutes*, the U.S. ranks 24th among developed countries – behind emerging economies such as China and India.

“A lot of it is cultural,” Amy Hlavacek said. “The Indian and Chinese students are brought up with the expectation that if you work hard, you will get it. And to succeed, it’s necessary for you to learn this stuff.”

“It’s something that’s passed on in the U.S. from generations of teachers and parents. It’s become very accepted that math is hard and it’s OK if you’re not good at it because no one else is either.”

“Whereas in the other countries, students were expecting to like math and expecting to ‘get it,’” she continued, adding, “I think that’s the difference.”

Hlavacek speaks from personal experience, having spent a year of high school in China. She is working to counteract these discouraging trends on two fronts: running the Math Resource Center, which saw 2,996 visitors during the fall 2007 semester, up from 1,725 the year before; and instructing future teachers, many of whom don’t major in math and don’t hide their fear or contempt for the subject.

In her classroom, Hlavacek tells education majors to be mindful of what they say and their body language when discussing math with their students. She herself is willing to employ unconventional methods such as occasionally allowing a class to re-do an assignment.

“I think they learn when given a chance to do it again. Part of succeeding in the class is being confident enough to not freak out.”

Hlavacek says the math faculty are a “cohesive and collegial department” and she enjoys working with them. She also was “excited” about the opportunity to direct the Resource Center.

One change Hlavacek made was placing pink flags on the tables. When students have a question, they simply raise the flag.

For the students who insist they have no need for math, Hlavacek has a practical response.

“You may not have to factor a polynomial, but you will have to be able to follow an algorithm and you will have to use the logical thinking that you do when you factor a polynomial. We’re a very technology-dependent country, so more and more you need to understand math and science to understand politics and be an informed voter.”



Ann Coburn-Collins

Director of Adjunct Faculty Support • September 2008

In any given semester, there are more than 300 adjunct faculty teaching courses at SVSU. Ann Coburn-Collins works to see that these part-time instructors have the resources they need.

“My role is to try to facilitate the teaching and learning process for adjunct faculty,” Collins said. “That involves providing them with appropriate faculty development so that they can be successful in the classroom. I advocate for them whenever I can.”

Coburn-Collins has “a lot of empathy” for adjuncts, having been one herself after previously being a full-time faculty member at a community college.

Two programs are being piloted this year to help adjuncts grow and acclimate to the University. In one, those who apply must attend six workshops, be mentored by a full-time faculty member, and develop an online portfolio.

“At the end of the year, they’ll be assessed the same way full-time faculty are assessed,” she said. “It will show their worth. They could be an excellent teacher and have terrible evaluations or be a bad teacher and have excellent evaluations, because students aren’t looking for the same things a professional would look for.”

Those who participate also receive \$500 and, upon completion, an increase in their compensation.

The other program provides funds for adjuncts to attend conferences and “professionalize” by learning best practices in their disciplines or in the classroom.

Coburn-Collins says her office offers coffee and “really good tea” as enticements for adjuncts to stop in as part of a larger effort to “create a community and a culture that understands adjuncts are important.” She says part-time instructors typically fall into one of three categories.

“Literature and my research has shown that there are people who work all day at a job and have some specialized knowledge. Many adjuncts are retired, particularly those from the school system. The third kind are those who do this for a living. Many of them are itinerant workers who are always on the go.”

Outside of her job, Coburn-Collins keeps a hand in education, serving as advisor to the sociology club and as a volunteer at Handy Middle School in Bay City where her daughter attends.

To relax, she and her husband “like to sit outside with our wine and watch the birds and the squirrels” around their home.

Just over a year into her job, Coburn-Collins is enjoying it. “My passion is teaching. I love education. I call myself a ‘student of life.’”



Faculty, staff receive grants

College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences

M. Patricia Cavanaugh, professor of English, received \$3,109 from Michigan Campus Compact Brighter Futures program for her proposed CHS/SVSU Writing Academy. This academy will help Bay City Central High school students enhance their writing scores.

Holly Child, assistant professor of criminal justice, received \$15,340 from Mentoring Solutions to provide evaluation services for the Mentor Solutions/Winning Futures Program.

Barbara Cohen, coordinator of the language lab and media center, received a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Host Institution grant. This grant will bring Nasser Al Hashmi from Oman to our campus to teach Arabic language and culture to students in the fall 2008 and winter 2009 semesters.

Jules Gehrke, assistant professor of history, received \$3,000 from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation to support his research: "The Impact of Henry George's Philosophy in Britain."

Sara Beth Keough, assistant professor of geography, received \$7,000 from the International Council for Canadian Studies: Canadian Embassy for the Faculty Enrichment Grant. This grant will support some expenses of the summer study abroad course: "The Geography of North America".

Keough also received \$1,000 from the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States for her grant Considering Canadian Music. This grant will bring Robin Elliot to campus to provide students with a comparison of Canadian and U.S. musical environments.

Helen Raica-Klotz, lecturer of English, received \$3,500 from Michigan Campus Compact for "Write It, Draw It, Do It: A Writing/Art Workshop." This workshop helped prepare future teachers to work with underrepresented students and encouraged workshop participants to pursue a college education.

Brian Thomas, instructor of sociology, received \$12,115 from the Ruth Mott Foundation for Enhancing the Local Food System of Flint/Genesee County. This program will create a community food system network that will positively impact the community.

College of Business & Management

Gary Clark, professor of marketing & management, received \$633.75 to cover expenses for a client-based project to be completed by his students.

College of Education

Joshua Ode, assistant professor of kinesiology, received \$100 from the Michigan Society for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (MSCVPR) to assist students with travel expenses to attend the MSCVPR Conference at Treetops Resort.

James Leming, Carl A. Gerstacker Chair in Education, received \$4,930 from the National Council on Economic

Education to support the Saginaw Valley Area "Making a Job" Teacher Workshop. This workshop provided middle school teachers with skills to create a classroom environment where students could experience entrepreneurship and business creation.

Crystal M. Lange College of Health & Human Services

Janalou Blecke, dean, received \$8,000 from the State of Michigan for graduate nursing scholarships, and \$335,203 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the proposed Nursing & Health Sciences Center at SVSU. The construction of this new building will positively impact our students, faculty, as well as health care in our region.

In addition, Blecke received \$107,640 from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the Michigan Teaming Tactically Educating Nurses (MITTEN) Project. This project will increase the number of qualified nursing faculty and nurses who receive baccalaureate degrees in our region.

Margaret Flatt, professor of nursing and acting assistant dean, received \$124,920 from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth to increase the availability of nurses in the workforce through the project, Partnering Around Capacity Enrichment (PACE).

Rose Lange, assistant professor of nursing, received \$1,000 from Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc. – Theta Chi Chapter for her research: "Benefits and barriers of physical activity: Differences in BMI weight classifications in women."

College of Science, Engineering & Technology

Andrew Chubb, associate professor of chemistry, received laboratory equipment valued at \$79,700.80 from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Garry Johns, professor of mathematics, received \$5,000 from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium to support his and William Vautaw's research in Modeling Secure Communication Networks.

Morteza Marzjarani, professor of computer science & information systems, received \$2,500 from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium: Undergraduate and Graduate Fellowship Program on behalf of student Heather Pegg for her research in the Probability Function for Detecting Cracks in Aircraft.

Christopher Schilling, Charles J. Strosacker Endowed Chair, received \$83,000 from the C.S. Mott Foundation for his grant: Biodegradable Plastics of Protein and Polysaccharide Carboxylates: Manufacturability Studies. His research will lead to the commercialization of biodegradable plastics.

Staff

Linda Farynk, director of the Melvin J. Zahn Library, received \$500 from the Michigan Center for the Book to support the Theodore Roethke Centennial Celebration. This event promoted an awareness and appreciation of Michigan's

(Continued on Page 5)

Faculty, staff receive grants (Continued from Page 4)

rich literary heritage by highlighting Roethke's substantial contributions to 20th century American poetry.

Farynk also received \$500 from the Michigan Humanities Council for Celebrating the Great Michigan Read with James Plath, author of Remembering Ernest Hemingway. This grant funded Plath's honorarium.

Farynk in addition received \$5,000 from the Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Fund to present the play, "Roethke and Me: Conjuring the Garden Master" during the Theodore Roethke Centennial Celebration in November 2008.

Deborah Huntley, associate vice president for academic affairs, received \$1,776,833 from the U.S. Department of Education for the Title III Strengthening Institutions grant. These funds will assist in the improvement and expansion of online and distance education programs.

Carlos Ramet, executive assistant to the president, received \$750 from the Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission for the Theodore Roethke Centennial Celebration.

Robert Schooks, director of the Center for Manufacturing Improvement, received \$158,750 for the administration of Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center – Northeast Office at SVSU.

Dulcey Simpkins, (formerly) director of entrepreneurship and commercialization, received \$175,500 over five years from the Dow Corning Corporation for the Emerging Technologies Fund program. This will assist our Independent Testing Lab in servicing new technology-based businesses while providing faculty and students with hands-on educational experiences.

Also, Simpkins received \$5,000 from Prima Civitas Foundation for I2M: Inventions to Market Day at SVSU. This grant supported a half-day event designed to help inventors achieve commercial success.

Mamie Thorns, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, received \$11,147 and \$35,535 from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for the King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Visiting Professors Program and the KCP Future Faculty Fellowship Program for 2007-08.

Marilyn Wheaton, director of the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, received \$5,000 from Citizens Bank Wealth Management, N.A. for the 2008 Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition. This exhibition brought new artists and visitors to our campus and the Sculpture Museum.

Transitions (For office numbers, phone extensions, e-mail addresses and other information, go to www.svsu.edu/lookup)

New Staff

- Donald Armstrong – Custodian
- Megan Baldwin – Aquatics Director
- William Bangert – Custodian
- Chris Decker – Cashier
- Laura Donajkowski – Event Coordinator
- Rachel Florence – Assistant Director, Admissions
- Michele Gunkelman – Director of Residential Life
- Amy Kline – Resident Director
- Mary Mathis – Police Dispatcher
- Terence Moore – Executive in Residence
- Traci Morin – Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Jessica Olpere – Event Coordinator, UCEC
- Jennifer Paradise – Instructional Technology Support Specialist
- Judith Schram – Financial Aid Advisor
- Johanna Seder – Custodian
- Haley Slade – Police Officer
- Andretta Smith – Police Dispatcher
- C. Grant Wall- Head Men's and Women's Cross Country & Track and Field Coach
- Matthew Woodbury – Director of Media Relations

New Faculty

- Kathlyn Barry – Assistant Professor, Sociology
- Jonathan Gould – Assistant Professor, Teacher Education
- Zachary Leffakis – Assistant Professor, Management
- Melissa Lewis – Instructor of Communication
- Thomas List – Assistant Professor, Marketing

- Eric Moeller – Instructor of Sociology
- Kristina Parker – Instructor of English
- Nicholas Scheall – Instructor of Philosophy
- David Voisine – Assistant Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Lee Wright - Instructor of English

Promoted/Transferred/Title Change

- Andrew Bethune – Executive Director, SVSU Foundation
- Richard Buford – Coordinator of Campus Recreation Programs
- Emmie Busch – Assistant to the Executive Director, SVSU Foundation
- Drago Dumbovic – Head Women's Soccer Coach
- Karen Erwin – Administrative Secretary, Student Affairs
- Timothy Kenyon – Lecturer of English
- Maria Lynch – Senior Accounting Clerk
- Monica Reyes – Director, Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development
- Donald Ricker – Instructor of Criminal Justice
- Krista St. Aubin – Assistant Director, Student Life Center
- Karvika Thapa – Financial and Procurement Analyst
- Melissa Woodward – Administrative Secretary, Sponsored Programs

Left/Leaving

- Ashley Christie, Jennifer Fager, Jessica Rorai, Byung-In Seo

Retired

Richard Thompson

Professional Profile

• **Hasan Al-Halees**, associate professor of mathematical sciences, attended the 2008 MathFest Conference of Mathematical Association of America in Madison, Wisc., July 31-Aug. 2 at which two of his students presented their mathematics research.

• **Karen Brown-Fackler**, associate professor of nursing, presented “Student Incivility in the Classroom” at the Conference on Teaching, Learning and Civic Engagement May 20 in Mount Pleasant.

• **Fenobia I. Dallas**, assistant professor of English, published a book titled *The Pedagogy of Practice: Technical Communicators Interrogating the Raced Audience* (April 2008. Saarbrücken, Germany: VDM Verlag Dr. Müller). Also, Dallas completed a project titled “RAISIN: Researching Academic Instruction on a Social Interaction Network,” which explores academic instruction on a social networking site (Facebook.com).

• **Alan D. Freed**, Clifford H. Spicer Endowed Chair in Engineering, released a software package recently; see: www.zonnon.ethz.ch/usergroup/bel.html. In addition, Freed published a paper: go to pjm.math.berkeley.edu/jomms/2008/3-5/p06.xhtml for more details.

• **Gladys Hernández**, professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “La mujer almodovariana” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Costa Rica July 8-12.

• **Tai-Chi Lee**, professor of computer science and information systems, presented an article titled “Blowfish Encryption/Decryption Using FPGA and Custom Instructions,” at the 2008 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Applied Computing July 14-17 in Las Vegas. Mark White and Michael Gubody co-authored the article.

• **Wayne Mackie**, professor of finance, accepted a three-year appointment to the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, and will be attending the TAP annual conference in Washington, D.C., in December.

• **Mark McCartney**, professor of accounting, published a paper titled “The Perceived Importance of an Ethical Issue as a Determinant of Ethical Decision-making for Accounting Students in an Academic Setting” in the September 2008 issue of *Accounting Education*.

• **Michael Mosher**, associate professor of art/communication and digital media, was among local artists who donated art works to the Saginaw Art Museum’s 2nd Annual Art Dart. Mosher’s work was titled “Robert” (1978; pencil drawing). Art Dart is a benefit for the Saginaw Art Museum that took place Sept. 19.

• **George Puia**, Dow Chemical Chair in Global Business, recently had two articles published in the *International Journal of Family Business*. The two articles are: “The Export MAP: Market Assessment Program” and “A Tale of Cool Cities: Finding Promising Practices in Economic Development” (co-authored with SVSU alumna Natalie Pretzer).

Tune in to a new television program appearing this fall on local cable access channels. **SVSU Red Alert** features head football coach Jim Collins; other athletic programs and coaches also appear on the show, which runs each week on BayArea3TV on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.; Saginaw Charter Cable Channel 16 on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.; and MCTV Cable Channel 3 on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. Subsequent airings may occur throughout each week and also can be viewed at www.svsu.edu/athletics.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, presented a talk titled “A New Poecilantrax Bee Fly Species From Arizona (*Diptera: Bombyliidae*)” at the annual meeting of the Michigan Entomological Society at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn June 14. Taber also received a phone call July 3 from Eric Kandel, the 2000 Nobel Prize winner in physiology or medicine; they discussed a disagreement over an article published in *Science* magazine. In addition, Taber discovered a new species that belongs to the infamous biting black fly family, and will be named *Greniera michiganensis*. Taber’s article, “A New Black Fly Species (*Diptera: Simuliidae*) from Michigan,” will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Southwestern Entomologist*. The insect was found in the western Michigan study site of swamps, marshes, and woods that Taber began investigating in 2005. And, Taber had a manuscript accepted for publication in *The Great Lakes Entomologist* titled “A Gynandromorph of the March Fly, *Bibio fraternus* (*Diptera: Bibionidae*).” Also, Taber reported the discovery of an insect with a male eye on one side of its head and a female eye on the other.

• **Lee Trepanier**, associate professor of political science, presented three papers at the American Political Science Conference in Boston Aug. 28-31: “Derrida’s Escape From Language and Metaphysics;” “Political Theory in the East Asian Context: Ancient and Modern Perspective;” and “Justice, Vengeance, and Conciliation in Ancient and Modern Perspective.”

Condolences

• To **Rejeana Heinrich**, associate director of the Family Business Program, whose mother, Leona May Heinrich, passed away Sept. 7.

• To **Sherry Pfenniger**, cashier, whose mother, Lucille Bladecki, passed away Sept. 4.

• To **Hank Pletcher**, lab coordinator, whose mother-in-law, Barbara M. Hise, passed away Sept. 21.

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.