

Embracing the Environment

As winter's icy grip and the nation's economic troubles cause organizations to seek savings wherever they can, SVSU is in the fortunate position of being "one of the lowest energy users per square foot of any college campus in the Midwest," according to Steve Hocquard, assistant vice president for campus facilities.

A modern campus is part of the explanation, but environmentally friendly design and energy conservation also are increasingly ingrained into construction projects and campus maintenance. SVSU attained a silver rating for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) from the U.S. Green Building Council for Pioneer Hall, the first building in the region to obtain such a certification.

Its "green" features include diverting storm runoff through a planted area so that the water is filtered by vegetation before it flows into drains. The floors are polished concrete, meaning "we'll never have to replace that flooring," Hocquard said.

Though still in the early

stages of designing the new Health & Human Services building, he and his colleagues will be "using all the tricks of the trade" to meet LEED standards and include innovative elements.

"We're talking about putting in demonstration solar collectors" into the building's electricity grid to reduce energy costs and support the local solar industry, Hocquard said. Aquathermal technology is expected to be incorporated

into the heating and cooling systems, using heat pumps to flow water from the retention ponds along Bay Road instead of traditional boilers and chillers.

"That will cut down the heating and cooling costs quite a bit."



SVSU's new Health & Human Services building is being designed to meet LEED standards.

Green is Growing

Many other environmentally friendly examples – both grassroots and institutional – can be found on campus.

- Since July 2008, more than 15,000 pounds of food waste from Dining Services have been diverted to the SVSU Greenhouse where worms have recycled it into soil and fertilizer. The program has expanded to include paper waste from the Lutz Veterans Affairs hospital in Saginaw.
- No city water is used for irrigation. All planted areas, including athletic fields, are irrigated using campus ponds.
- Students, faculty, and staff have formed the Green Cardinal Initiative to work together on sustainability issues.
- More plant products and eco-friendly salts are used to melt ice on campus, including a biodegradable soy product to help with traction.
- More than 120 tons of cardboard, paper, plastic and metal are now recycled annually.

Those who pass through the building may be walking on cork. "It's a long-lasting product that's naturally made," Hocquard explained.

While such measures are attracting considerable attention of late, especially after last summer's skyrocketing energy prices, Hocquard says he and his staff "have been doing those things all along."

The Regional Education Center, for example, is "very energy-conscious" with ceramic frits in the glass that reduce air conditioning use by 30 percent.

In 1994, all the light fixtures on campus were modernized. "We did something like nine thousand interior light fixtures at that time."

Changes are being made on an institutional level, but Hocquard stresses that people must change their individual habits, too. Students have asked for more campus recycling stations and 40 sites will soon be added in academic buildings.

Hocquard acknowledges that some colleges and universities have more environmental awards, but on a "green" report card, SVSU is getting good grades.

"We're pretty proud of what we've done to date."

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION

BY ERIC R. GILBERTSON, PRESIDENT

4 P.M. THURSDAY, JAN. 29

MALCOLM FIELD THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

Ric Roberts

Assistant Professor of Theatre

As an SVSU student, Ric Roberts attended the regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Twelve short years later, he was in charge of an event that brought more than 1,600 students, faculty and judges to his home campus.

SVSU went the unusual route of being the sole host rather than sharing the duties with one or more other schools.

“I knew if we were going to do this,” Roberts said, “that we were just going to make all the decisions instead of waiting to hear back from someone else.”

It was the first time in a quarter century that the event was held in Michigan, and Roberts will have an opportunity to attend the national festival in April when he accompanies SVSU student Brett Elliott, who won the regional stage management competition.

“Getting to the Kennedy Center is like us going to the Super Bowl,” Roberts said. “It is the top thing we have in our art form.”

Elliott and Roberts were two members of “the team” that ran the festival, along with Steve Erickson, Kelly Helmreich and 40 other volunteers.

Most events were held on campus, and “they loved our facilities,” but the finale took place in downtown Saginaw.

“Having the Temple Theater was our ace in the hole,” Roberts said, adding that it put SVSU’s host bid over the top.

After leaving SVSU, Roberts attended graduate school with thoughts of one day returning, but it happened much more rapidly and somberly than he ever imagined. Marc Gordon, a late theatre professor, died unexpectedly and Roberts stepped in to complete Gordon’s courses, causing Roberts to initially carry guilt about how he obtained his job.

Gordon’s wife reminded Roberts “he wanted you here,” and today the guilt is replaced by pride.

Roberts said hosting the festival accomplished two goals: causing students to respect what they have, and to elevate SVSU’s reputation in the theater community.

“Our students don’t really appreciate the facilities, not because they don’t want to, just because they don’t know. I wanted them to have their peers walking through the halls with their jaws down, and that’s exactly what happened.”

Roberts added that SVSU will be included in the next edition of *American Theatre*. “In our field, that is the top magazine. It’s like *Sports Illustrated* for sports. Our corner of Michigan is now thrust onto that.

“We have so many successes working in New York and Chicago, and hosting this puts SVSU on a national level.”



Ric Roberts, far right, poses with SVSU theatre students during the regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Jan. 6-10. Some 1,500 participants from universities in Region 3 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin) participated and were judged by more than 100 professionals from the stage, film and television industries.

James Dale Gough

Custodial Specialist • January 2009

Although he has been employed at SVSU for just four years, Dale Gough's ties to campus span four decades. His father was a carpenter and worked on the original theatre (now the art studio building). Dale spent several Saturdays with dad on the job site.

"He always had something for me to clean up or pick up," Gough recalled. "That's the way we were brought up, to make sure everything was in order."

Gough retains a copy of the original blueprints. Those early experiences set a pattern for his life, which coworkers say he continues to approach with youthful enthusiasm and a "can do" attitude. While driving to work on a sub-zero January day, he stopped to aid a driver trying to change a flat tire. Turns out it was an SVSU student.

Angela Seeley, president of Student Association, says Gough often "goes above and beyond" to help students. She shared another occasion where Gough helped keep the wheels rolling. He inflated tires on a dolly being used for T-shirt sales during Battle of the Valleys "without being asked."

Gough cleans the modern Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts, as well as the Rhea Miller Recital Hall, seminar and banquet rooms and other areas frequently seen by visitors, and he has some insight into their thoughts.

"There are a lot of things you can hear in an elevator," he said.

Comments about the university's appearance are overwhelmingly positive, which Gough believes is "a great reflection on everybody who works here," sharing credit with his custodial colleagues and those from other departments, all of whom work "to get repeat business."

Aside from work, caring for his aging parents is Gough's first priority, along with his wife Kathy who "has been a great help." But he still finds time to walk his dog Sparky and engage in other outdoor pursuits such as fishing and cross country skiing.

Gough also enjoys volunteering at his church and on building projects such as the barrier-free Boundless Playground in Kochville Township and Habitat for Humanity in Saginaw.

After a year of retirement following a career in various roles for the City of Saginaw, Gough decided "I gotta find something to do." He is grateful to have found work at a campus that has grown far beyond his childhood imagination.

"I realize I would not have a job here if it wasn't for the students. They pay my wages, so I want to make sure they're taken care of."



Professional Profile

- **Hasan Al-Halees**, associate professor of mathematics, will publish his paper titled “On 2-local isometries on continuous vector-valued function spaces” in the *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*. The paper is co-authored by Richard Fleming.
- **Said Elfakhani**, Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in Business, had two articles accepted for publication: “The Effect of Earnings Management on Canadian Stocks,” co-authored by O. Kurdi, in *Corporate Ownership and Control*, Vol. 6, Issue 4 (May 2009); and “Gold Price Determinants: Empirical Analysis & Implications,” co-authored by I. Baalbaki and H. Rizk, in the *Journal of International Business & Entrepreneurship Development*, First Quarter, 2009.
- **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, had a manuscript titled “Remarks on the rarely collected Hemipteran *Ceratocombus vagans* McAtee and Malloch (Hemiptera: Ceratocombidae)” accepted for publication in *The Great Lakes Entomologist*.

Condolences

- To **Karen Avila**, administrative records assistant, whose father Charles Beach passed away Dec. 19.
- To **Judy Zietz**, administrative secretary, whose father-in-law Robert Zietz passed away Dec. 17.

Briefly Speaking

- **J.J. Boehm**, director of media relations, co-presented “With Champagne Wishes and Caviar Dreams, How Do Communications Professionals Do More with Less?” as an invited speaker at the regional conference of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Dec. 14, 2008 in Chicago.

Prizes awarded to Healthy U participants

Three faculty and staff were named grand prize winners for their outstanding performance in the 2008 Healthy U Wellness Program. **Mike Pazdro**, project manager in Campus Facilities, earned first place and a prize of \$1,000; **Mike Major**, assistant director of career planning & placement/women’s tennis coach, received \$750 for second place, and **Matthew Margres**, professor of psychology, claimed \$500 for finishing third.

Among 299 participants, 177 achieved rewards by earning points for healthy activities, such as having an annual physical, quitting smoking, exercising and attending wellness workshops. They earned gift cards of varying value. Healthy U also offered assistance programs such as reimbursable Weight Watchers classes on campus, a weight loss team challenge, and a 5k walk/run.

The 2009 Healthy U challenge is underway. Any SVSU faculty or staff member may join by going online to www.svsu.edu/healthyu/. For more information, contact wellness@svsu.edu, or call ext. 4108.

SVSU hosts annual Alumni Family Fun Day

A slate of activities is planned for SVSU’s annual Alumni Family Fun Day, Saturday, Jan. 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ryder Center. The day’s festivities are free of charge and open to all SVSU faculty, staff, alumni and guests, and will include a complimentary lunch. There will be face painting, games, and prizes, as well as soccer clinics for children in kindergarten through eighth grade hosted by players from the SVSU soccer teams and coach Drago Dumbovic, head of the SVSU’s women soccer program. For a complete schedule of events, go to www.svsu.edu/alumni/. Participants also are invited to stay for the basketball games as the Cardinals host Findlay. The women tip off at 1 p.m., followed by the men at 3 p.m.



Transitions

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

NEW STAFF

- Jill Ewend, Simulation Learning Laboratory Associate
- Brian Hlavaty, Advisor to the Valley Vanguard
- Yang Liu, Chinese International Student Advisor/Chinese Instructor
- Heather Pegg, Linux System Administrator
- Brandon Smith, Support Center Technology Specialist
- Phillip Visnaw, Custodial Specialist

PROMOTED/TRANSFERRED/TITLE CHANGE

- Brenda Holman, Grant Accountant
- Carol Sadjak, Senior Accounting Clerk/Cashier
- Kelly Terwilleger, Accountant
- Tamara Waugh, On-Line Teaching and Learning System Manager

LEFT/LEAVING

- Richard Buford, Lee Cruppenink, Carlene Waligora

RETIRED

- James Leming, Joseph Matti, David Swenson

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.