

Student Research & Creativity Institute funds student projects

SVSU students continue to find new outlets to test their research and creative abilities as SVSU's Student Research and Creativity Institute recently awarded financial support for four student projects.

One team of students plans to build an alternative energy station that will be used to charge electric vehicles. Another student intends to develop a plan to train women in Ghana so that they can start their own businesses. Other projects will examine a famous Civil War colonel and study the effect of gender in sexual assault cases.

Students from any academic discipline may submit a proposal to receive financial support for a research or creative endeavor. SVSU commits \$50,000

annually to fund outstanding student projects and each student project is eligible to receive up to \$10,000. Students serve as the primary researcher, author or creative agent for each project and are guided by a professor or staff advisor.

SRCI selection committee members are William Barnes, Joni Boye-Beaman, Brooks Byam, Andrew Chubb, Daniel Cook, Sally Decker, Deborah Huntley, Josh Ode, Gretchen Owocki, Amy Pierce, Danillo Sirias, Stephen Taber and Robert Tuttle.

The deadline for winter 2009 proposals is Tuesday, March 31. For more information on the institute, visit www.svsu.edu/srci/, or call Deborah Huntley at ext. 7013.

SRCI supports our students' best and brightest ideas



• **Nana Kwame Akowuah**, an economics major from Kumasi, Ghana, received \$8,229 for his project titled "Shattering the Glass Ceiling for Women in Ghana." He says that while his native country is becoming a hub of investment and business development in West Africa, there is a wide gap in entrepreneurship between men and women.



• **Claire Herhold**, a secondary education major from Fenton, was awarded \$4,089 to support her research on Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and his attitudes toward abolition. Shaw was the commander of the first black regiment to be raised by the Union during the Civil War. Herhold says little scholarly attention has been devoted to Shaw and why he accepted the controversial assignment.



• **Peter Martini**, a psychology major from Pinconning, received \$952 for his study of sexual assault cases and how gender affects attitudes. Martini says "the ultimate goal of this project is to shed light on the factors that influence jurors as they begin to apportion blame in sexual assault cases."



A team of four electrical and computer engineering students was awarded \$9,777 by the Student Research and Creativity Institute to devise and build a system to harness wind and solar energy and use it to power a vehicle, such as a golf cart. Clockwise from left, Benjamin Weihl, Paul Miller, Ronald Allison and Jason Gerard discuss with their faculty advisor, Russell Clark, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, their plan to develop a charging station that uses 100 percent renewable energy to fuel batteries that will power the vehicles. "This project will demonstrate that SVSU is taking the lead in this important and emerging field," Clark said, adding that the SVSU campus will implement the completed project in a select number of campus vehicles.

Tom Kullgren

Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Tom Kullgren is known for many things. Among his colleagues, he is known for bringing black licorice to department meetings where he marvels that everyone enjoys its distinctive flavor. It's a sure sign his transition to the faculty is complete after nearly two decades as dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology.

Kullgren "loves teaching" and is "very much enjoying the young people" in his classes. He also feels "blessed" to be in the mechanical engineering department. "They're such a professional group of people," he said.

But it's the students that bring a smile to his face and energy to his voice.

"We have a very good group of students here," he said. "Many have earned the money for their tuition, so these are people who value the instruction they get in the classroom. That is, they want good value for the money they spend."

Kullgren has spent the past five years on the faculty and his "lifestyle has changed considerably" as he has focused on his courses and his department.

While the "fundamental applied science" of engineering is the same, technology – especially computers – has affected the discipline considerably. "I've worked to keep up," he quipped.

Kullgren still has students solve problems on the white board where he "picks on them."

"I pick somebody to explain it to the class so they get to exercise their communication skills." Kullgren especially enjoys teaching the introductory freshman course that is "full every semester" and includes ethics instruction and a robotics competition.

"That course does exactly what we want it to do. We want to introduce students to the engineering profession. Engineers can make a significant impact on our society; that's the main thing I want them to understand."

Kullgren is organizing a career panel in March that will give students an opportunity to interact with practicing engineers and "get them started on that career path." SVSU has a reputation for the hands-on skills of its graduates.

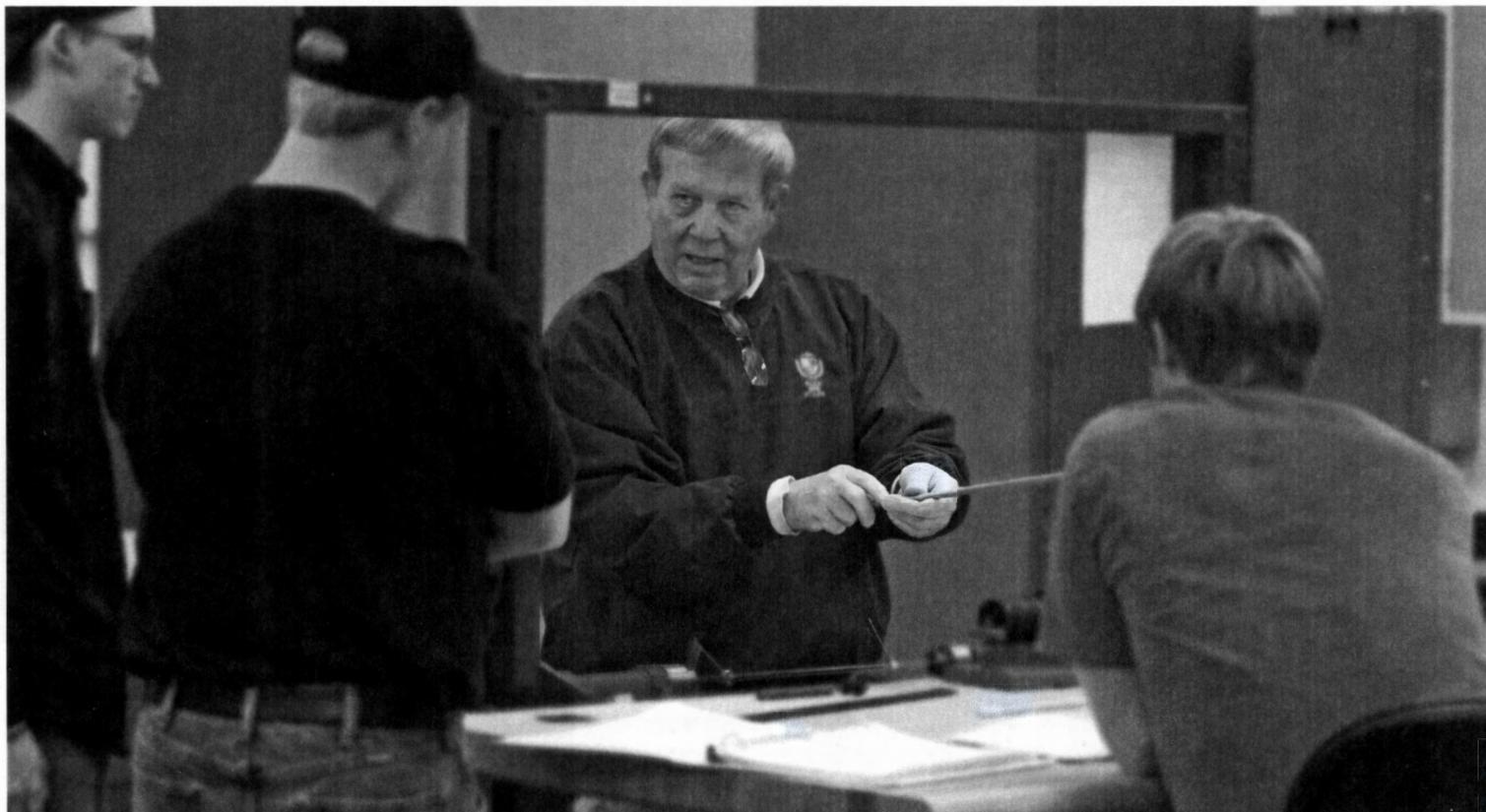
"Employers know us for that," he said.

Having spent most of his career in Pioneer Hall, Kullgren appreciates its 2007 renovation more than most.

"We're delighted with it," he said, adding that educational benefits are apparent. "Students are doing a lot more interaction with each other and with their professors."

His responsibilities are different, his address the same. In many respects, Kullgren has returned home and is happy to be there.

"I have great fun in the classroom."



Kelly Helmreich

Faculty Secretary • February 2009

Kelly Helmreich describes herself as a “people person” and it would take the average person likely all of 30 seconds in her presence to agree. Her bubbly personality suits her well when working with communication and theatre faculty and students, some of whom refer to her as a “second mother.”

Helmreich has spent a decade in her current role after a few months in SVSU’s cashiers office. During that time, the number of theatre productions has grown from four per year to nine.

“More shows means there’s more for me to do,” she said. “I love it.”

Helmreich schedules auditions, orders scripts and does the budget at the end of every production to see if it turned a profit. In addition to assisting faculty with exams, syllabi and the like, she also lends a hand to the annual Sims Public Speaking Competition and the forensics team.

“Every day is different,” she said. “I never know what new tasks are going to come up.”

Helmreich also signed up for a major role as one of the lead organizers for the regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival hosted by SVSU in January. In addition to handling registration for several competitions and arranging a few dinners, she also was the liaison for 50 “VIPs.”

“That was making travel arrangements, hotel reservations, and setting up a shuttle schedule for each VIP.”

No easy task, but Helmreich gained confidence from attending the 2008 festival in Milwaukee.

“I got to see every piece of the festival to see how it was run,” she said.

Helmreich’s favorite pastime is camping with her husband Roger and sons Jacob, 17, and Carl, 14, especially in the Traverse City area.

When her SVSU work day is done, Helmreich goes home to a working farm where the family raises beef cattle.

“We have about 50 head right now, but usually we have more than 100.”

She also does the budget, pays the bills and pitches in to bale hay and straw each fall.

Helmreich already is gearing up for summer theatre camps, ordering art supplies and name tags; preparations for the 2010 theater festival “started the day after” this year’s edition concluded. Despite the enormous workload, Helmreich “was actually sad” when it ended because the people departed.

“You got to know everybody,” she explained.

She’s ready for their return – and the work that comes with it. “I absolutely enjoyed every bit of the challenge.”



Professional Profile

- **Frank Dane**, Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics, had a manuscript titled "Nurses' prediction of volume status after aneurismal subarachnoid hemorrhage: a prospective cohort study" accepted for publication in *Critical Care*.
- **Nameeta Mathur**, associate professor of history, published a book titled *A Sportive Matka Polka: Nationalism and Feminism in Women's Physical Culture in Modern Poland* (Saarbrucken, 2009).
- **Hong Park**, professor of economics, had a paper titled "The Mortgage Securitization, Housing Bubble and Subprime Mortgage Crisis: Self-Organization Perspective" selected for presentation at the 67th Atlantic Economic Conference, Rome, Italy, March 11-14. Also, Park was re-elected to serve as chair of the Korea-America Economic Association for 2009.
- **Janet E. Rubin**, professor of theatre, was an invited presenter at the National Dance Association's Page to Stage Musical Theatre Workshop, Jan. 17-18 in Florida. The first of her two sessions was "Miss Nelson Is Missing, Theatre and Dance Standards Applied." Her second session, given with NDA's Fran Meyer, was "Dance and Theatre Standards: Work with ASCD and Advocacy." This latter session was based upon the presenters' work with the Arts Education Network of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
- **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, had a manuscript titled "Tipula (Yamatotipula) jacobusAlexander (Diptera: Tipulidae) in Michigan: Description of the Female and A Midwestern Record for a Crane Fly Long Perceived as Eastern in Distribution" accepted for publication in *The Southwestern Entomologist*.
- **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, had a painting, *Boiled Peanuts, 2007*, acrylic on linen, accepted for showing in The Storm Show at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design's Work gallery in Ann Arbor. This theme show invited area artists to "explore 'storm' as a metaphor." The applicants were juried by the show's organizers who included instructors and graduate students at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design. The exhibition runs through March 6.

New Cardinals

- **Margret McCue-Enser**, assistant professor of communication, gave birth to a girl, Dorothy Marie (7 lbs., 1 oz., 18.5 in.), Feb. 2.

Briefly Speaking

- The 20th annual All-University Awards Banquet is set for Friday, April 17 in the Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms. A reception begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m., the awards program at 7:45 p.m., and the door prize drawings at 9 p.m. The grand prize for this year's banquet is round trip air fare for two to Ybor City (Tampa) Florida, with three nights at the Hampton Inn Suites. The air fare is courtesy of Grande Voyages of Saginaw, and the hotel accommodations are courtesy of Sheraton Four Points, Saginaw. Invitations will be mailed to all faculty and staff in mid-March; for more details, call ext. 4126. In addition, nominations for the All University awards are still being accepted; contact Pamela Clifford at ext. 7462 for a list of awards and nomination forms.



The Board of Control
of
Saginaw Valley State University
cordially invites you and your spouse or guest
to attend the

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Health & Human Services Building

Friday, March 20, 2009
2:30 p.m.
North Side of G1 Parking Lot

Reception Immediately Following
in the Regional Education Center

R.S.V.P. by March 13 to (989) 964-4042

Faculty, staff receive grants

The Office of Sponsored Programs announced the following grants were recently awarded to faculty and staff:

College of Education

- **Helene Lusa**, assistant professor of educational leadership & services, received \$197,703 from the Michigan Department of Education to provide professional development to principals and teachers in surrounding school districts. This program will enhance instructional leadership skills.

College of Health and Human Services

- **Janalou Blecke**, dean of the CML College of Health & Human Services, received \$13,500 and \$18,000 from the Michigan Department of Community Health to provide scholarships to undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

Staff

- **Walter Rathkamp**, executive director of the Center for Science & Mathematics Education, received \$76,878 from the Michigan Department of Education: Mathematics and Science Centers Program for continued funding support. The program promotes high school reform and improvement of teacher preparation programs.

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.