

SVSU lands major grant to improve diversity among nurses

Saginaw Valley State University has secured a competitive federal grant of \$855,000 to enhance diversity among its nursing students.

The Nursing Diversity Workforce Grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is designed to increase education opportunities for economically and educationally disadvantaged students. Starting this fall, the three-year grant will focus on groups that are underrepresented among Michigan's nurses.

"We have a shortage of nurses from ethnic and racial minorities, and as we know, our



Margaret Flatt

population is changing," said Margaret Flatt, SVSU professor of nursing and the principal investigator for the

project. "Anything we can do to increase the number of minority graduates is going to help our community facilities meet the needs of our culturally diverse society."

Starting this fall, SVSU will use the funds to support 30 university students and 15 in Saginaw city high schools.

SVSU chose to partner with Saginaw Public Schools because minority students represent 62.5 percent of the district's student population. Students in the program will receive scholarships and stipends, along with several unique education opportunities, including enrichment activities for students and their families, licensing examination preparation programs and membership in professional nursing organizations.

"When we have students from a variety of backgrounds, it brings a richness to the dialogue in the class," Flatt said. "It really helps all of us to learn and to

be better at working together as people."

Increasing diversity among nurses in U.S. hospitals is a goal of Healthy People 2010, a nationwide health initiative. Programs are selected for funding based on their ability to address a local need.

The program bases its models on success and retention research from nursing literature, including a multilayered mentoring system where current nursing students will mentor pre-nursing university students, who will, in turn, meet with high school hopefuls. Participants will also receive guidance from faculty mentors, several of whom were supported by SVSU diversity programs during their time as students.

Students will have access to special support through resources at SVSU. They will have nursing student tutors at the writing center, and attend special workshops at SVSU's math resource center to gain

skills needed to excel in the nursing curriculum.

Grant activities were developed in coordination with Saginaw Public Schools and Health Delivery Inc., a Saginaw-based health care provider that operates clinics at Arthur Hill High School and Saginaw High School.

All SVSU faculty and staff and their families are invited to the annual

Back to School Picnic

Thursday, Aug. 27
5 to 7 p.m.

Gazelle Fountain Courtyard

The festivities follow the introduction of new faculty and staff, with remarks by President Eric Gilbertson at 4 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.



On-campus Smoking Policy Reminder

Effective January 1, 2008, smoking is prohibited on campus except in residential parking lots and specifically marked on-campus parking lots. The policy notes that "it is the responsibility of each member of the campus community to educate others on Saginaw Valley State University's Smoke-Free Environment Policy." For complete details, see section 3.3-2 at www.svsu.edu/operationsmanual/.

Michele Davis

Database Administrative Assistant • July 2009

For most people, the thought of managing and maintaining, updating and correcting thousands of computer records does not sound like a good time, but for a self-described “techno geek” like Michelle Davis, who has worked in the database field for a decade, it can be a labor of love.

“It’s a challenge, and I like that,” she said.

“My main priority is with the database, data integrity. It’s keeping track of all our alumni and donors, their most recent addresses and phone numbers, all of their gifts.”

With more than 30,000 alumni and more than 30,000 donors of record, that is no small task, but Davis previously worked with a much larger database at EDS. While the job responsibilities are quite similar, she prefers her new work environment.

“It’s a more friendly atmosphere and seems more family-oriented here,” Davis said. That’s in contrast to her previous post that involved “a lot of sales, a lot of pressure, and a lot of travel.”

Davis says keeping current is an ongoing struggle. When she joined SVSU two years ago, one of her first assignments was to create the alumni Web site. She did, but it has since required a major update.

“Technology is changing so fast, even since I started here.”

Fortunately, Davis is not one to rest on her laurels. She has an education degree from SVSU and is working toward a master’s degree in instructional technology.

“I love learning new things,” she explained.

Davis does not spend all of her time at a computer terminal.

“I get to meet a lot of the donors and alumni, and I like that.”

Away from the office, Davis spends most of her time with her husband and four children, but she still finds time to relax.

“My two biggest loves are reading and photography,” she said. “I read every night before I go to bed, and I have thousands and thousands of pictures,” including snapshots of old, wooden barns.

“They have a lot of character to them,” she explained. “The shape and the texture of them, there’s so many different things about the barns, you can get some really cool pictures of them.”

Davis feels fortunate to have the job she does and see the beneficiaries of her efforts as they stroll across the courtyard.

“I love the campus atmosphere, and I feel honored to work in a department that directly supports the students, both through the scholarships we offer and our fund raising.”



Lori Williams

Faculty Secretary • August 2009

College is a time for young adults to come of age, and that axiom is not exclusive to students. “Time has passed quickly,” says Lori Williams, who started working at SVSU in 1981 when “Pioneer Hall was the newest building on campus.

“I feel like I grew up here,” the faculty secretary said.

When Williams considers the various math and English faculty with whom she works, “family” is the descriptor that comes to her mind. “They’re an interesting and good group of people,” she said.

The members of that group have changed through the years, as Williams served political science, criminal justice and philosophy faculty when she started; but aside from technology changes, her role has remained more or less the same. “Whatever I can do to help them or make their job easier, that’s why I’m here.”

Tasks include typing correspondence and syllabi, ordering supplies and organizing large mailings. “It’s something different every day,” Williams said. “That’s what I like about it: the variety.”

She also enjoys answering questions for students and visitors.

“The favorite part of my job is when people come to me to ask for help or information. It makes me feel good when I see their smiles after I’m done talking to them.”

Williams says her prior experience as a registration assistant in

the Registrar’s office often comes in handy for such encounters, as does her own standing as a student. She has been working for “a long time” toward her degree in business

“It’s for personal fulfillment,” Williams explained. “I always learn something from the classes.”

Enrolled this fall, Williams expects to have more time to study now that both of her children, Ben and Abby, are themselves off to college. Since each played three sports at Freeland High School, much of Williams’ time was spent there.

“It’s going to be different, because my husband Mike and I were very involved in the Freeland Athletic Association.”

Now with an empty nest, the couple plans to take a special trip next summer hiking at Washington’s Mt. Rainier.

“We’re rookies at being hikers, so we just bought new hiking boots and we’re going to go into training,” Williams laughed.

She enjoys working in a campus environment – “it keeps you young” – though she initially had no designs of making this a long-term appointment.

“I didn’t think I would stay here.” Now Williams can’t imagine working anywhere else. “I’m very proud of what I do here and SVSU has been good to me. I really feel blessed to work here.”



Professional Profile

• **Basil Clark**, professor of English, has been named SVSU's Institutional Representative for the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters. Clark will serve as a liaison between the Academy and SVSU, which is one of 26 member institutions that support the activities of MASAL.

As an institutional representative, Clark will provide faculty, students and administrators with information pertaining to the 2010 conference, which will be hosted by Calvin College in Grand Rapids March 26. The interdisciplinary conference will feature papers in at least 27 different disciplines.

• **Francis C. Dane**, Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics, recently had a new chapter titled "Ethics of Stem-Cell Research: A Framework for Ethical Dialogue Regarding Sources of Conflict" published in *Stem Cell Research: Law and Ethics*, an edited volume published by Amicus Books, an imprint of Icfai University Press. The book was edited by M N Bhavani.

• **Judith Kerman**, professor of English, had her video, "Carnaval in the Dominican Republic," screened at Pit & Balcony's Riverside Saginaw Film Festival Aug. 22.

• **Arthur Martin**, assistant professor of biology, published a paper titled "Chemosensory Signals in Stream Habitats: Implications for Ecological Interactions" in the *Journal of the North American Benthological Society* (Volume 28[3], 2009). The paper was co-authored with Mary Wolf, Jodie Simon, Jennifer Bergner and Paul Moore (all BGSU affiliates). The project was funded by NSF and performed at the University of Michigan Biological Station.

• **Michael R. Mosher**, associate professor of art/communication & digital media, had a painting "LayOff'd" included in Open Competition 2009, an exhibition at the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery on the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. The small Cubist painting, in acrylics and china marker on cardboard, depicts workers leaving the gates of a GM plant for the last time, while news cameras interview one laid-off worker through the window of his Chevrolet SUV. The Open Competition 2009 exhibition closed July 16.

• **Hong Park**, professor of economics, and **Iksu Jurn**, professor of finance, published an article titled "Corporate Strategies and Performances of Korean Firms: The Unified Theory of the Firm Perspective" in *Global Economics Review*.

In addition, Park accepted an invitation as an International Scholar by Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea, for the 2009-10 academic year. He presented a paper titled "Knowledge Creation, Protection and Institutions" at the International Conference on Institutions and National Competitiveness, Seoul National University, Korea, Aug. 17-21.

• **Christopher Surfied**, assistant professor of economics, published an article titled "Atypical Work and Employment Continuity" in *Industrial Relations Journal*.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, discovered a new species – a fly from a western Michigan swamp – and named it *Polypedilum newayogo* after the county in which it occurs. The discovery will be published in a forthcoming issue of *The Southwestern Entomologist* as "A New Species of Polypedilum Kieffer Midge (Diptera: Chironomidae)."

• **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, participated in the 2009 Third Annual University of Michigan Art & Design Alumni Show, July 10 to August 7. The exhibit was held in two locations in Ann Arbor: the Work-Ann Arbor Gallery and the Jean-Paul Slusser Gallery. On display was Zivich's "Untitled, (Figure Study)" 2007, a charcoal on paper drawing. More than 175 total works were displayed. Zivich has been a member of the organizing committee of this exhibition for the past two years.

Also, Zivich's drawing, "Prairie Home Companion" 2004, wallpaper collage, was accepted into the University of Michigan's "Migration" show at their Work-Detroit gallery. The show, which is sponsored and juried by the University of Michigan School of Art, runs Sept. 11 to Oct. 17, with an opening reception to be held on the first day of the show from 6 to 9 p.m.

The "Migration" show was open to all artists who could submit works portraying the theme of migration and its implications in society. "Prairie Home Companion" depicts an appropriated image of F. Remington's Indian scout wearily surveying a mirage of F. L. Wright's "Prairie House" on the distant plain.

New Cardinals

• **Dennis Hughes**, senior systems administrator, and his wife Kerie welcomed a son, Alex Edward (8 lbs. 7 oz. 21 in.), July 1.

• **Brad Jarvis**, assistant professor of history, and his wife Nathalie welcomed a daughter, Noriane Grace (9 lbs. 10 oz.), May 31.

• **Kristina Parker**, instructor of English, welcomed a daughter, Olivia Harriet Rouech (7 lbs. 1 oz. 19 in.), July 21.

• **Jason Swackhamer**, director of web communications, and his wife Amy welcomed a daughter, Lainey Renee (7 lbs. 3 oz. 19 in.), June 30.

Condolences

• To **Kathy Anderson**, grant secretary, whose father-in-law, Darrell O. Anderson, died July 3.

• To **Irene Bauer**, registration assistant, whose father, Vern F. Haggitt, died June 30.

• To **Nanette Fein**, AIS programmer/analyst, whose father Norman Doan, died Aug. 4.

• To **Kim McDonald**, associate certification officer, whose mother, Mildred Lewis, died June 25.

• To **James Mitchell**, dean emeritus of the College of Business & Management, whose wife, Barbara, died July 24.

• To the family of **Virginia 'Ginny' Muller**, professor of teacher education, who died July 6.

• To **John Neumeyer**, HVAC assistant, whose father, Alvin Neumeyer, died Aug. 4.

• To **Jan Poppe**, director of integrated marketing, whose mother, Mary Kay Kast, died Aug. 5.

• To **Andrew Tierman**, lecturer of mathematics, whose mother, Clare Tierman, died May 22.

• To **Chuck Wallace**, manager of maintenance operations, whose father-in-law, Jack Stone, died July 28.

Briefly Speaking

• SVSU faculty and staff are eligible for 2009-10 All Sports Passes, which allow the holder into all home, regular season football and basketball games. Contact Shelly Reminder in the Ryder Center at ext. 7306.

• Faculty/staff reserved parking permits for 2009-10 are available from Parking Services for \$20; all 2008-09 permits expire Tuesday, Sept. 15. For more information, or an order form, go to www.svsu.edu/universitypolice/parking-information.html/, or contact Joyce Payne at jep@svsu.edu, or ext. 4140.

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.