

Students receive funding for scholarly and creative ventures

A vast array of scholarly and artistic student projects will receive funding from SVSU's Student Research & Creativity Institute. Five exemplary student projects were awarded, ranging from an opportunity to perform in an international music festival in Rome to the development of a trapping device for flying insects.

The following students were selected to receive funding for their projects:

- Chris Applin, an English major from Saginaw, will receive \$2,033 for his research on gender studies. Using primary and secondary sources, he will focus on historical, theoretical and psychological perspectives of gender, focusing on popular 20th century authors such as Ernest Hemingway and Virginia Woolf. Applin hopes to develop his essay into a graduate thesis and ultimately submit it to scholarly journals.

- Danzell Calhoun, a double major in theatre and communication from Saginaw, will receive \$5,535 for the research and development of an independent film based on Saginaw author Abdur-Rahim Rashada's book *A Seventy-Five Year Old School Boy: Still Finds Joy in the Classroom*. The book explains Rashada's life growing up in the south and how racial segregation, discrimination, and oppression, even from his own race, forced him to move to Saginaw in 1975. Similar to the book, Calhoun's 45 minute short film strives to replace negative stereotypes of African Americans with sincere, positive images depicted through interviews with the Rashada and scenes of African American culture from 1925 through 2010.

- Erik Gibelyou, a music major from Bay City, will receive \$6,573 for travel and other expenses for his performance as a featured solo guitarist in the 2011 Chamber Music Seminar of the Rome Festival Thursday, June 16 through Friday, July 8. The Rome Festival is a professional international classical music festival where renowned musicians, orchestras, ballets and choruses gather from around the world to perform. As part of his visit, Gibelyou will be rehearsing and performing on classical guitar in small ensembles.

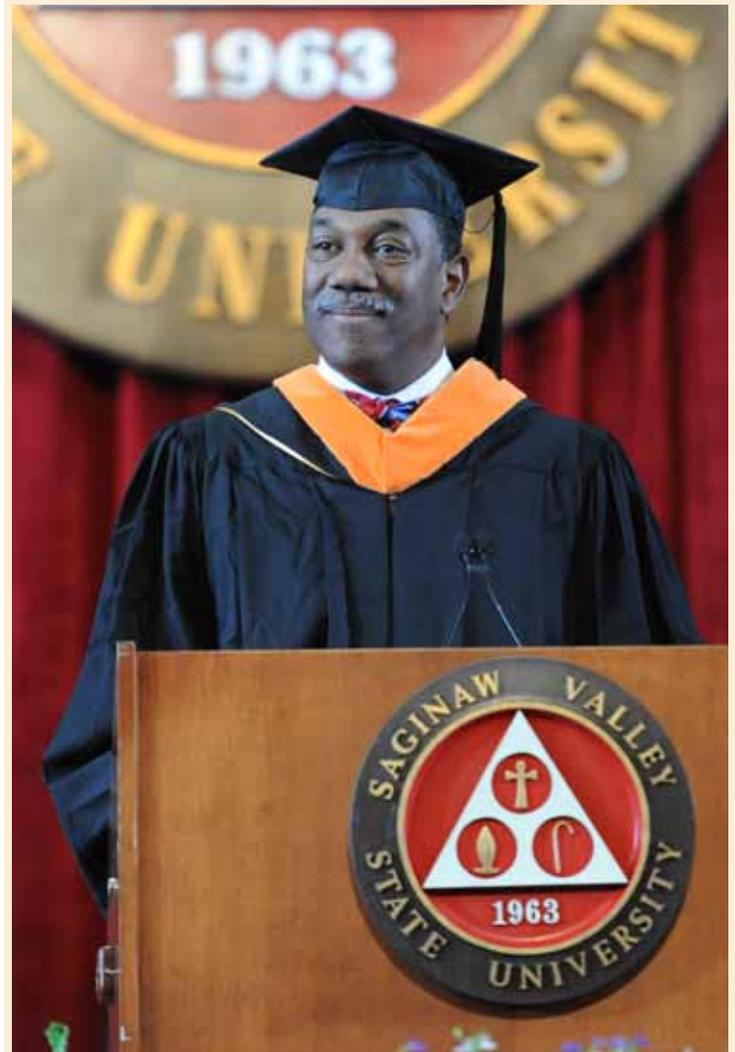
- Oliver Keller, a biology major from Harbor Beach, will receive \$4,595 to develop the Taber-Keller trap, used for the collection of flying insects that the century-old device currently in use fails to retain. The trap will be used to discover new insect species and develop more complete biodiversity sampling experiments. The trap was developed as a modification of the original Berlese funnel, developed by entomologist Antonio Berlese in the 19th century to extract small arthropods from leaf litter, soil, and other organic materials. Through his project, Keller will develop 25 traps in collaboration with SVSU's Independent Testing Laboratory.

- Ashley Tupper, a nursing major from Saginaw, will receive \$2,827 for the development of a six-month patient fall prevention initiative, "No Falls on My Watch." Through her three phase program, Tupper will present to nurses at five mid-Michigan hospitals, sharing best practice literature and tools,

and educating them on current standards of care related to fall prevention. Patients' falling is one of 15 indicators with a distinct correlation between nurse care and patient outcome, according to The American Nurses Association's National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators.

SVSU has committed \$50,000 annually to fund outstanding student projects.

Any SVSU student may submit a proposal to receive financial support for research or other creative endeavors. Each student project is eligible to receive up to \$10,000. All student submissions must be sponsored by an SVSU faculty or staff member. Students serve as the primary researcher, author or creative agent for each project but are guided by SVSU faculty and staff. For more information, visit svsu.edu/srci.



Dow Chemical executive addresses SVSU graduates — The vice president of Michigan Operations for the Dow Chemical Company, Earl Shipp, addressed the largest-ever graduating class at SVSU during Commencement exercises May 7 in O'Neill Arena. Shipp has enjoyed a 30-year career with The Dow Chemical Company, rising to leadership positions around the world. The graduating class consisted of 956 students who applied to graduate, including 703 who were to receive bachelor's degrees.

Jennifer McCullough

Assistant Professor of Communication

Human beings communicate. Jennifer McCullough is one who is deeply interested in how and why we do so, especially in social support communication. “Those are the messages we use to make others feel better,” she explained.

“If you break it down and really think about your interpersonal relationships, I’m not sure that there’s any more important communication skill than to be able to support each other. Every day of our lives we comfort someone who flunked an exam, or you have to talk to someone who lost a loved one or something like that. The ability to provide support is really, really important.”

McCullough’s particular research niche looks at celebratory support, how people respond to others’ good news. Most of us expect to be greeted with enthusiasm.

“What I find is people tend to cut you more slack if you offer not-so-great comforting messages, as opposed to not-so-great celebratory messages,” she said.

As a rule, SVSU students are required to take one of three basic communication courses. Some see no need to study the subject.

“My response is always, ‘If communication is so important that you do it every single day, wouldn’t you want to learn ways to be better at it?’ To me, the fact that it’s ubiquitous makes it very important, not something to be overlooked.”

Following such a course, many skeptics change their opinion and some change their major.

“They find this is really applicable, interesting stuff,” she said.

In April, McCullough led a group of eight students to the Central States Communication Association conference in Milwaukee, where they joined some 800 others from the Midwest.

“It really was an eye opener,” she said. One student – upon meeting the author of a textbook used in McCullough’s class – remarked, “They’re real people.”

McCullough and her communication department colleagues seek to strike the right balance in teaching the discipline.

“The most important thing is both the theoretical explanation and application of communication. So I think in all of our courses we try to think about that. What are the theories that explain why you get nervous when you have to get up and give a public speech?”

A Midwest native, McCullough completed her bachelor’s degree at a small liberal arts college and her Ph.D. at a Big Ten university.

“SVSU feels like a really nice mix of both. It’s big enough to have access to resources, but it feels like a community and has the positive things that come with a small campus, as well. It’s been very positive overall.”



Shelley Wegner

Coordinator of Marketing & Development • May 2011

Most of us have heard the adage that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. The same cannot be said of the 1,300-plus members of SVSU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, all of whom are age 50 or above.

"Learning starts at birth and continues throughout our life cycle," said Shelley Wegner, who coordinates marketing and membership for the Institute. She herself must learn how to communicate with a diverse membership. "How are they receiving the information you're giving them? That message is extremely important, so you have to find out about them first."

Wegner uses multiple tools, printing newsletters and catalogs, attending community expos and other events, as well as sending regular e-mails and more recently, starting a Facebook page. "Our members expect us to keep them up to date with technology," she explained. Still, when it comes to recruiting, Wegner says the tried and true tends to work best.

"A lot of our members find out about the program from other members. Referral is huge."

One of Wegner's ongoing challenges throughout her four years on the job has been reaching recent retirees. MidMichigan Medical Center recently began a program where they will cover membership fees for their retirees who wish to join OLLI. SVSU is exploring a similar arrangement.

"That's a great model for what we're trying to do," she said. Providing fresh, new programming is another recurring demand. "Our group tends to be highly critical," Wegner said. "They expect a good, quality program. Customer service is extremely important."

Most members have at least one college degree.

"Our membership is made up of a lot of professionals: teachers, engineers, chemists, attorneys, doctors, you name it."

A mother of three teens, Wegner spends "a lot of time at athletic events right now." On weekends, she works with her auctioneer husband, Marty. Their oldest daughter, Emily, will start at SVSU this fall, and Wegner sees many parallels.

"I can compare her experience to what our members are doing. It's very similar. The curiosity is the same. The comfort level is the same."

Wegner anticipates membership will continue to grow as more and more baby boomers retire. But much like the university itself, it is the interpersonal interaction that provides the most meaning.

"What's really exciting is when our members come to us and say, 'OLLI has saved me.' Whether they just retired and didn't know what to do with their time and needed to fill a void, or perhaps they've lost a spouse. To see the looks on their faces and hear the excitement in their voices, that is so rewarding."



Professional Profile

• **Mohammad Saad Alam**, assistant professor of electrical & computer engineering, delivered an invited talk titled “Academic Potential and Challenges in the Integration of Alternative Energy Curriculum in the Existing Engineering Programs” at Oakland University, Rochester Hills, April 8. Also, Alam – along with students T. Meitz, F. Warzoca, K. Sponsler – presented a poster titled “Feasibility Study of a Solar Powered Vehicle Charging Station” at the 2011 Solar Summit at SVSU, March 19.

• **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of rhetoric & professional writing, presented “The Chora of the Twin Towers: Contesting and Documenting the Struggle for Rebirth of the 9/11 Site” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Atlanta, April 7.

• **Monika Dix**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “Between Text and Image: Mapping Literature and Narrating Space in the *Taima-dera jikkai-zu byobu*” at the Association for Asian Studies annual conference in Honolulu, March 31-April 3. She also reviewed Liza Dalby’s book, *Hidden Buddhas: A Novel of Karma and Chaos*, for H-Net Reviews in the humanities and social sciences.

• **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, has the lead article, titled “Remembered (Black) Readers: Subscribers to the *Christian Recorder*, 1864-1865,” in the summer 2011 issue of *American Literary History*.

• **Bradley Herzog**, assistant professor of rhetoric & professional writing, **Mary Harmon**, professor of English, and **Helen Raica-Klotz**, lecturer of English, gave a joint conference presentation titled “From Strangers to Family: The Development of a First Year Writing Program” at the College Composition and Communication Conference, in Atlanta, April 6-9.

• **Marsha Millikin**, lecturer of rhetoric & professional writing, chaired a panel titled “Crafting Identities on Screen” and presented a paper titled “‘It Is Not as I Imagined It to Be’: Finding the American Eve in Michael Mann’s *The Last of the Mohicans*” at the Popular/American Culture Associations (SWTX PCA/ACA) 2011 Joint Conference in San Antonio, April 20.

• **Danilo Sirias**, professor of management, presented two papers, coauthored with Joyce Hoffman, at the 22nd Annual Conference of the Production and Operations Management Society in Reno, Nevada, April 29-May 2. The two papers were titled “Designing a Process for Teaching the Main QFD Matrix in the Classroom” and “Quality of Work Is Not Quality of Service: Applied Quality Management for the Small Field-based Service Firm.”

• **Robert Tuttle**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, gave a presentation titled “A Gage R&R Study of the ASTM A609 Ultrasonic Testing Standard” at the Casting Congress, April 6. Tuttle also presented his paper titled “Role of Titanium on Grain Refinement in 1030 Steel Castings.”

New Cardinals

• **Dan Goodell**, classroom technology/video production technician, announced the birth of a son, Elijah David Goodell (9 lbs., 8 oz., 21-3/4 in.), May 4.



Eleven outstanding students will learn what it takes to become exceptional leaders after being selected for the Robert Fellows Program. The 2011-12 class includes, front from left: Mara Berton, Yeyi Jei, Hannah Wenzlick, Kyle Rexer, Hailey Kimball, Ashley Hanson, Alicia Flynn; in back from left: faculty advisor Drew Hinderer, Elizabeth Wolf, Colin Ohl, Megan Gerulski, Sean Hammond and faculty advisor Andrew Swihart. Roberts Fellows are required to complete a three-credit leadership seminar in fall and winter semesters within one or more academic departments. Also, the Fellows meet for informal seminars and discussions with various political, business and civic leaders from throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. Established in 1999, the program is named for Donna Roberts, who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to SVSU through her personal generosity and prior service on the board of control and the board of fellows. A respected attorney, business leader and philanthropist, Roberts retired from The Dow Chemical Company, where she was secretary and assistant general counsel. She is an honorary director of the SVSU Foundation board.

• **Brent Hedquist**, lecturer of geography, announced the birth of twins, Afton Lynn Hedquist (4 lbs., 15 oz., 18 in.) and Grant Christensen Hedquist (6 lbs., 1 oz., 20 in.), May 6.

• **Amanda Ross**, instructor of biology, announced the birth of a son, Jacob Donald Ross (7 lbs., 10 oz., 21 in.), April 20.

Condolences

• To **Keleen Marciniak**, assistant director of clinical experiences, whose father, Gerald Marciniak, passed away May 6.

Briefly Speaking

• Update your information and state your photo preferences for the print edition of the 2011-12 Faculty/Staff Directory by logging on to svsu.edu/lookup. The deadline to update your information online for the printed directory is June 15. The deadline to have a new directory portrait taken is Aug. 10; call ext. 4039 to schedule an appointment.

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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