

SVSU dedicates Gerstacker Regional Aquatic Center



President Eric Gilbertson, below, delivers remarks at the dedication of the Gerstacker Regional Aquatic Center Thursday, Feb. 23 in the Ryder Center. Seated next to the podium are, from left, Jean and Alan Ott, and Thomas Ludington. One of the few Olympic-size pools north of metro Detroit, the center has seen a total of \$400,000 in upgrades, thanks to a grant from Gerstacker Foundation and a match from SVSU. These improvements include new starting blocks, relocation and repairs to the diving boards to enhance competition, repairing the bulkhead and a new scoreboard complete with video. Following the ceremony, area high school athletes, left, participated in a swim meet.



Stephanie Brouet

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Stephanie Brouet isn't afraid to say: "I love organic chemistry!" But her students are often afraid of the course material. Those with plans for medical school or other science-related graduate programs dread their "orgo" course, fearing their future plans will be derailed. Brouet hopes to change their attitudes.

"I really like showing students it's not just a class to be afraid of. I try to show them the application of it. It's pretty easy to show them application to the medical field or if they want to work at Dow Chemical."

That's not true for all students, but Brouet reaches some of them, too. "A lot of topics that are important today, like global warming and alternative energies, almost all of these have a foundation in organic chemistry. By showing them those connections, it makes the class more interesting. They see a point to learning the reactions."

In her second year at SVSU, Brouet previously taught at a private college in Massachusetts. She has been impressed with her SVSU students.

"A lot of my exams had similar questions, and the students here did a lot better. I attribute that to the fact that they're hard-working."

A Michigan native, Brouet was a first-generation college student, which she says helps her relate to many of her students, who want a relationship with their professors.

"It's a more personal environment here," she observed. "They

seem to get that this is an opportunity to brighten their future, which is something I really appreciate."

Brouet recently received a Michigan Space Grant to explore Lewis Acid catalysis, which is part of a growing "green chemistry" movement.

"It's sort of an environmental project, where reactions are done in water instead of organic solvents. Pharmaceutical manufacturers, for example, could do this in water, which is much cheaper and benign to the environment than doing them in things like benzene."

Until about 15 years ago, Brouet says organic chemists considered water something to avoid, so it's a growing research area. So is antibiotic synthesis, another of Brouet's pursuits. Developing new antibiotics has not proven profitable for pharmaceutical companies, so the chemistry community is seeking to improve existing bacteria fighters.

"My project is based on trying to find chemistries that are easy and high-yielding and haven't been exploited for antibiotic synthesis and use those to try to breathe new life into old antibiotics."

Brouet has found her SVSU chemistry colleagues to be very supportive and she is "very happy here," but nothing compares to the joy of knowing she has reached a student.

"My pride comes when people tell me organic chemistry is their favorite class."



Doug Woodington

Support Center Technology Specialist • February 2012

It has been an eventful new year for Doug Woodington. The biggest development is that he recently became engaged. He proposed to his fiancée Mei atop the Empire State Building during a vacation to New York City where they enjoyed the sights and attended television shows.

“That morning, we walked to the Today show. We were on TV with the crowd; I always wanted to do that,” Woodington said.

Woodington had planned to propose one day earlier on the first day of the Chinese New Year celebration – Mei is Chinese – but skies were gray, so he waited anxiously until the weather cooperated and she accepted. Now Woodington is busy consulting with the U.S. Embassy and preparing for two wedding ceremonies, one in Saginaw and one in Beijing.

Unlike most Chinese citizens because of the country’s “one child” policy, Mei has two brothers and three sisters, so Woodington said it simply would be too expensive for her entire family to travel to a U.S. ceremony, and vice versa.

In the meantime, Woodington plans to do what he has done for the past 12 years: assist faculty, staff and students who are experiencing technology problems. His most frequent request is helping students access the wireless network.

“The most common thing is that people can’t get their passwords

to sync. They get so frustrated they don’t know what to do, and you have to help them.”

A constant challenge for Woodington and his colleagues is staying on top of technology changes.

“It’s very important to keep up to date on that,” he said. “We keep trying to update our systems here. For Windows 7, for example, we can get familiarized before it comes out across campus.”

The bottom line is solving computer problems for campus users.

“We try to give good customer service. That’s the game plan of our whole area. And we do get good feedback from our customers.”

In his spare time, Woodington enjoys restoring cars built before computer systems became standard auto equipment.

“I have a 1969 Firebird convertible. That’s my baby,” said Woodington, who also has four other Firebirds in his collection and regularly attends car shows. He also spends time aiding local family members with various tasks, an extension of his work role.

“I always try to be very helpful to everybody,” he said. “It’s one of the things I like to do.”

While having technological expertise is necessary, Woodington says his number one job requirement is honesty.

“Be up front with people. If you don’t know, say so, and try to find an answer.”



Professional Profile

• **Julie Foss**, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, received a grant from the Michigan World Language Association to attend the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language's Oral Proficiency Interview Familiarization Workshop at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, to be held in Milwaukee, Wisc., March 8-10.

• **Brandon L. Haskett**, assistant professor of music, presented a paper titled "Using Timerime and Google Maps to Make Interdisciplinary Connections" at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids, Jan. 19-21. Also, Haskett presented a paper titled "Life-long Learning for Teachers: Developing a Professional Learning Network" at the Arizona Music Educators' Conference, Feb. 3.

• **Ling He**, associate professor of accounting, and **Mark McCartney**, professor of accounting, co-authored with others an article titled "Double Learning: Who is Learning from Online Reviews," published in the *International Journal of Electronic Business*.

• **Mazen Jaber**, assistant professor of marketing, and **George M. Puia**, associate dean for the College of Business & Management/ Dow Chemical Company Centennial Chair in Global Business, had a paper titled "Financing Social Entrepreneurship: A Research Agenda" accepted for publication in the June 2012 issue of the *Southern Journal of Entrepreneurship*.

• **Tai-Chi Lee**, professor of computer science, had a paper titled "Key Generation in Elliptic Curve Cryptosystems over GF(2n)" accepted for publication by the *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics & Computing*.

• **Mark McCartney** and **Lawrence Kickham**, professors of accounting, co-authored with others an article titled "Mercy Hospital: A Case Analysis," published in the *International Research Journal of Applied Finance*, January 2012.

• **Marsha Millikin**, lecturer of rhetoric & professional writing, presented a paper titled "From 'Ball Bats and Matchsticks' to 'Eat My Shit' – Black (Dis)Empowerment in the Novel and Film 'The Help'" at the Southwest/Texas Pop Culture Association 2012 Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., Feb. 10.

• **Altaf Rahman**, professor of electrical & computer engineering, participated in "Reforming Electric Energy Systems Curriculum," a workshop in Napa Valley, Calif., Feb. 3-4, to develop a graduate curriculum in the area of electric area systems. The workshop was sponsored by the University of Minnesota, U.S. Department of Energy, National Science Foundation and Office of Naval Research.

• **Danilo Sirias**, professor of management, had a paper titled "An Experiential Learning Activity to Teach the Main Quality Function Deployment Matrix" accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Business, Humanities and Technology*.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, discovered a new species. The finding will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Southwestern Entomologist* as "A New Nearctic Species of Micropsectra Kieffer Midge (Diptera: Chironomidae)."



Mamie T. Thorns, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, shared her recipe for Pecan Tarts at the Feb. 22 "Taste of Soul" luncheon held annually as part of Black History Month at SVSU. Nearly 1,100 diners trekked over to SVSU's Marketplace at Doan to sample a variety of foods based on recipes provided by African-American faculty and staff, and prepared in collaboration with SVSU Dining Services. Taste of Soul is sponsored by SVSU's Diversity Programs, Dining Services, Conference & Events Center, and Multicultural Services offices.

New Cardinals

• **Will Stanton**, head volleyball coach, announced the birth of a daughter, Macyn Reed (6 lbs., 13 oz., 20.5 in.), Feb. 13.

Condolences

• To the family of **Don Armstrong**, formerly a custodian at SVSU, who passed away Jan. 31.

• To **Dave Jerome**, inventory management specialist, whose brother, James Jerome, passed away Feb. 19.

Two Commencement ceremonies scheduled for May

To better accommodate families and friends who attend May Commencement, the event has been divided into two ceremonies – one for undergraduate degree candidates that begins at 1 p.m., and a second program for graduate degree and Education Specialist candidates at 4:30 p.m. While both ceremonies will be held in Ryder Center, the 1 p.m. event will take place in O'Neill Arena, and the 4:30 p.m. program will happen in Cardinal Gym.

Faculty and staff who plan to participate in the ceremonies will meet in the Fitness Center prior to the start of the events. Faculty and staff are reminded to place orders for regalia (which is provided free of charge to faculty, adjunct faculty and staff); orders are due by Friday, March 23. To order your regalia go to svsu.edu/webapps/regalia. If you have your own regalia and plan to attend, please go to the above site to confirm that you will be attending. To confirm that your regalia order was received, call the Bookstore at ext. 4277.

Faculty and staff may present the alumni scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during Commencement; call Suzette Zimmerman at ext. 4384 to make arrangements.

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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