SVSU to host concert by grammy-winning guitarist Earl Klugh

SVSU will welcome internationally acclaimed guitar virtuoso Earl Klugh to campus Friday, Oct. 24. He will perform in concert at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.

Described by the New York Times as “a guitarist with impeccable technique,” Klugh has enjoyed a decorated career that includes his latest album, “HandPicked,” which debuted at No. 1 on Billboard’s Contemporary Jazz Albums chart following its release in 2013. The disc features 13 solo tracks, and three duets with very different musicians: famed jazz guitarist Bill Frisell; ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro; and Country Music Hall of Fame guitarist and singer Vince Gill.

Since Klugh released his inaugural album in 1976, he has landed on Billboard’s top-10 list of jazz albums 24 times; six of these topped the charts. His recordings have received 13 Grammy nominations (“HandPicked” being the latest), and his collaboration with pianist Bob James, “One on One,” received a Grammy for Best Pop Instrumental Album in 1980. Over the course of his distinguished career, Klugh has performed with legendary musicians, including Gerald Albright, George Benson, George Duke, Roberta Flack, Al Jarreau, Ray Parker Jr., Lionel Richie and Stevie Wonder.

A native of Detroit, Klugh’s tour schedule this year has taken him from Japan to California to the famous Blue Note club in New York City. His visit to SVSU marks his first concert performance in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Tickets are $35 for the main floor and $30 for the balcony; student tickets are available for $10. All tickets can be purchased through the SVSU Box Office, available online at svsu.edu/boxoffice or by phone at ext. 4261.

For more information on Klugh, visit earlklugh.com.

Parking spaces at a premium for building-naming ceremony Oct. 13

SVSU will host a building-naming ceremony for Eric R. Gilbertson Hall Monday, Oct. 13 at 10 a.m., as the facility previously known as the Regional Education Center is formally re-named.

A number of parking restrictions will be in place throughout the day of the ceremony, Monday, Oct. 13. A tent will be erected over parking lot G-1, so no parking will be available in that lot. Some parking will be available for faculty, staff, students and visitors in parking lots G-2, G-3 and H. University Police will be present at the entrances to the parking lots to direct traffic. Should those lots become full, overflow will be directed to the J parking lots.

Faculty and staff planning to attend the ceremony are asked to park where they normally would and to walk to Gilbertson Hall.

The ceremony is open to the public. A reception will follow. Those planning to attend should RSVP at svsu.edu/gilbertsonhallRSVP.

“From Other Hemispheres to Our Home: National, State and Local K-12 Educational Trends”

a discussion by
Carolyn C. Wierda
Interim Associate Dean/Executive in Residence
College of Education

4 p.m. • Thursday, Oct. 9 • Founders Hall
Reception to follow
As Renea Smith’s environmental footprint has shrunk, the impression she’s left at SVSU has grown.

The assistant registrar’s role in transitioning the university’s transferable course records from a largely printed-paper process to an electronic transaction helped secure her status as a recent Staff Member of the Month. But the reduced reliance on paper for her office’s operations isn’t the only factor that played a part in the honor, says the man who nominated her.

“She’s been an excellent assistant to me — a real problem-solver since I’ve been here,” said Cliff Dorne, who became registrar last year after serving in a number of other roles at the university.

Dorne praised her ingenuity when faced with new, unfamiliar obstacles. “She’s always open to creative solutions to protocols and processes in the office,” he added.

Those protocols and processes were much different in 2006 when Smith was hired as assistant registrar.

Her responsibilities from the beginning largely dealt with managing records for the school’s transferable courses. It’s a task that involves evaluating transcripts as well as communicating both with officials at SVSU and partnering higher education institutions regarding those transfer agreements.

“Everything was paper formatted back then,” Smith said of her early years at SVSU. “When I first arrived, I would print out paper right from the course catalogue. Then we moved to email.”

Now she’s helping oversee a deeper digital transition to a computerized curriculum management program known as Curriculog.

The Birch Run native hopes the update gives SVSU another advantage in its pursuit of building enrollment figures.

“Our transfer student population is and will be important to this school,” Smith said. “There’s a lot of competition with (enrollment) numbers being so tight, so we have to make this readily available to our transfer students. You’re talking about thousands of courses from all these different schools.”

She called the work “challenging.”

“But I like a challenge. I learn something new every day. Whenever you think you know everything there is to know, something new comes out. I just love that about the higher ed environment.”
Jaime Leyrer was raised on SVSU. Literally.
Before she even began her first day of grade school, the Saginaw native was a regular at the university, where she attended the campus’ now-defunct daycare center while her mother pursued a social work degree in the early 1990s.

Not many memories remain from those earliest experiences — other than the trouble Leyrer made for herself one day when she and another daycare attendee decided to grab a pair of scissors and chop off each other’s hair.

These days, Leyrer’s locks are long again, and she’s back at SVSU, albeit this time in a position within the College of Business & Management. After working for more than a year in Career Services, she moved into her current role as special assistant to the dean in July 2013.

“It’s been a whirlwind of a year,” the September Staff Member of the Month said. “I love it.”

Each day brings a new challenge, and that wide range of responsibilities is what makes her job exciting on a daily basis, she said. She deals a lot with social media and marketing. Her favorite duty, though, involves advising students attending the College of Business & Management.

“What I love most about it is being able to work with students, being able to show them the next few years of their life, and putting together their academic plan,” she said. “A lot of times, they’re floored and shocked that they can (graduate) in four years. I’ve had students come in and cry because they were so happy about that.”

After only a year in the role, she’s seen the payoff to providing students guidance.

“I had one student last year — every time he came in, he hung his head because he felt bad he was coming in again, asking for help,” Leyrer said. “He did graduate this year and then invited me to his graduation party. That was the cherry on top of the cake when he introduced me to his family.”

The Saginaw native is a true believer in the college. She helped recruit her sister, who is now working on an accounting degree.

Leyrer said, for her second year on the job, she’s hoping to ramp up the college’s social media reach.

“It’s very important to engage with students and alumni,” she said. “Social media is going to be a big priority of mine, of the college.”

Leyrer also assisted with marketing for the Global Business Sustainability Conference the college hosted Sept. 23-26.

“It’s going to be another one of those years where we’re going to have a lot going on,” she said. “I’m looking forward to it.”
Professional Profile

- Marlena Bravender, assistant professor of education technology, presented a workshop on using simulations in education leadership preparation, as well as a paper titled “Technology Innovation in Leadership Preparation” at the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration annual conference, Aug. 5-6 in Camarillo, Calif.


- Professor of Modern Foreign Language Anna Dadlez’s three-part series, titled “Women and War,” has been accepted for publication by the Profiles in Diversity Journal. The series describes three women of different countries involved in different ways in World War II. The first part will appear in the journal this year. Two other parts will appear in 2015.


- Julie Foss, assistant professor of modern foreign languages, presented the workshop “Speaking Activities for Oral Proficiency Development” at MSU’s Center for Language Education and Research, July 21-23.

- Jason Pagano, assistant professor of chemistry, presented a poster titled “Tubular precipitation patterns from reactant-loaded pellets” at international conferences: Gordon Research Seminars and Gordon Research Conferences in Oscillations and Dynamic Instabilities in Chemical Systems, Melia Golf Vichy Catalan Business and Convention Center, Girona, Spain, July 12 and July 16-17, respectively. SVSU students Patrick Fryfogle and Eric Nelson were Pagano’s co-authors.

- Hong Y. Park, professor of economics, presented three papers based on his research supported by a Braun Fellowship. First, Park co-authored “Knowledge creation structure and new competence creation” with Heyjung Chang and Yong-Seoung Park (both at Kyung Hee University); the paper was presented at the 9th International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics, June 11-13 in Matera, Italy. The paper was included in the conference proceedings.

Also, Park and Il-Hyung Cho, associate professor of computer science & information systems, co-authored “Information technology and user knowledge-driven innovation” with Sook Jung and Dorrie Main (both at Washington State University); the paper was presented at the 2014 Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organization Conference, Aug. 3-4 at the University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K.

In addition, Park presented “Knowledge, entrepreneurship and creation of new competence: Foundations of the creative economy,” presented at the 2014 Korea Development Institute Economic Policy Conference, Aug. 8 in Sejong City, Korea. The paper was included in the conference proceedings. The KDI is the top government sponsored policy research institute in Korea.


- Matthew Zivich, professor of art, has a work accepted for showing at the Bottom Feeders and The Distant Self: Alternative Approaches to Self-Portraiture show at Slusser Gallery in the University of Michigan Stamps School of Art & Design, Ann Arbor. Zivich’s photographic work, 30 Croatian Cravats, was accepted by the curator of the show, Trevor King. The show was open to all media and runs through Oct. 8.

- Gladys Zubulake, professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “Coffee as the universal language to teach culture” at the ASTSP International Conference, Panama City, Panama, July 8-12.

New Cardinals

- Christopher Ebright, head baseball coach, announced the birth of a son, Richard Joseph Ebright (7 lbs., 14 oz., 19.5 in.), Sept. 23.

- Chris Hamstra, Assistant Swimming & Diving Coach, announced the birth of a daughter, Eleanor Anne Hamstra (10 lbs., 2 oz.), Sept. 17.

- Yu Zou, assistant professor of electrical & computer engineering, announced the birth of a daughter, Stella Y. Zou, Aug. 23.

Condolences

- To Eugene Hamilton, special assistant to the president for government relations, whose wife, Mary Pat, died Sept. 23.

- To Dorothy Lee, assistant professor of nursing, whose mother, Frances K. Carlucci, died Sept. 21.