SVSC BUCKING ENROLLMENT COOL-DOWN TREND

Reports of a study released last month, stating that the growth period for Michigan's colleges and universities is over, failed to recognize exceptions to that general trend, according to SVSC President Jack M. Ryder.

"SVSC and several other colleges are located in densely populated areas, where participation rates in higher education by students are likely to continue to increase," Ryder said.

"A continuing and strong upward trend in the number of women students attending college, and in part-time enrollments by both men and women of all ages who work full-time, makes SVSC an exception to the general trend," he believes.

The study, by CMU economist Dr. James Moor, predicted a general leveling-off of enrollments in the early 1980's and a decline during the next two decades. Ryder feels that "while the number of potential students in the 18-24 year-old range will fall steadily and significantly into the 1990's as the study predicts, it will be those colleges with high numbers of residential students, located away from population centers, who will be affected most."

A number of state colleges and universities have already shown slight declines. Last fall, for example, eight of the 15 public institutions lost students. Only three, including SVSC, registered a growth in headcount of five percent or more.

"SVSC has had a steady growth pattern of 67% over the past six years, something which has not happened at any other state college, Ryder commented.

"A large number of people in this area are taking advantage of higher education opportunities here simply because they cannot go off to institutions far away and leave their jobs, families, or other responsibilities behind. That's why we've experienced an orderly growth.

"If more adequate facilities and operating resources had been available at SVSC sooner, our enrollment would be even higher. As we get the buildings and the staff, we will continue to grow, because we'll be able to serve a larger number of students who aren't presently attending. This wouldn't influence enrollments elsewhere, because those students don't have the mobility to go off to other institutions," Ryder added.

The study suggests that the state should make no significant additional investments in capacity, except in support of either unique, new programs or existing programs in extremely short supply."

Ryder believes that SVSC's young age and its offering of programs directly related to current employment trends do, indeed, make the school an exception to the study's conclusion.

"Facilities and operating resources affect the number of students we can serve. SVSC is not bogged down with long-standing, outdated curricula bearing little relationship to current needs.

"Our Engineering & Technology programs are showing rapid growth now that we finally have facilities in which to operate. Our increase in headcount would have been even greater if the programs had been operational three or four years ago. As adequate funding comes to us, career-related areas like these or others such as nursing or business administration will draw increasing numbers of both traditional and new kinds of college students."
"By relating the college major more to career interests and because of social changes enabling women, for instance, to devote more time to their own growth and development, schools like SVSC will fill an expanded need for additional education at both the baccalaureate and graduate levels."

"SVSC has both new and existing programs which are in extremely short supply. This is where the study suggests the state might make additional investments in educational capacity. Whether for a single class or a full-time course of study, it will be the colleges like SVSC -- located near population centers and flexible enough to offer the kind of education people need -- which will buck the trend and continue to grow in the future," Ryder concluded.

"HAMLET" TO PLAY MARCH 14

The National Shakespeare Company, Inc. will be presenting "Hamlet" in the SVSC Theatre Wednesday, March 14 at 8 p.m. Admission to the production is $1.50 for SVSC and Delta students, and $2.00 for the general public. Tickets are available at the Campus Activities Office (ext. 4260) or at the door the evening of the performance. The performance is sponsored by the SVSC Program Board.

BUSCH TO SHOW PORTRAITS

Dr. Al Busch, associate professor of management at SVSC, will show another side of himself March 5-12 in the Arts Workshop in the Project '68 Building. His portraits will be on display from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

STUDENT ILLUSTRATES COVER

Stephen Lentz, a student in graphic arts at SVSC, was recently honored by doing the cover for the Green River Review Magazine, published by the Green River Press of University Center, MI.

The Green River Review has a circulation of over 300 in the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, and even Kuwait. Lentz is a freshman.

COMMENCEMENT RESERVATIONS DUE

SVSC will be conducting its 14th Annual Commencement at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, in Cardinal Gymnasium. All faculty is requested to take part in this ceremony.

Deadline for ordering academic regalia from the Bookstore (ext. 4277) is March 9. There is no charge for the rented regalia.

All faculty should return the memo sent them February 23 by the Office of Development to that office as soon as possible so an accurate count of participants can be obtained.

FIRST-AID MINI-SESSION MARCH 8

There will be a First Aid Seminar mini-session in the small private dining room of Doan Center Thursday, March 8 at 5:45 p.m. Taught by Irene Miller, the student nurse, and Kirk VanderKuy, a student certified emergency medical technician, the class is for all R.A.'s and any interested students.

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM THURSDAY

The Faculty Colloquium will meet this Thursday, March 8 in the large private dining room of Doan Center at 12 noon. The presentation for this meeting, to be given at 12:30 p.m., will be by Dr. Alex Ross, assistant professor of sociology, who will speak on "Newspaper Strikes and Organizational Change". The presentation will end at 1:30 p.m., and all faculty members are urged to attend.

FACULTY NOTES --

-- Dr. Harriet Tillock, assistant professor of sociology, will appear in a return performance on Channel 19's "Day by Day" program Thursday, March 8 at 3 and 7:30 p.m. She will be continuing in a panel discussion on "Life in the '80's -- The Social Aspects".

-- Dr. David E. Barker, assistant professor of French, recently attended a meeting at the Institute for Curricular and Instructional Innovation in Language at Indiana University. Barker is serving as a consultant for an experimental French text for non-traditional college students which is now being developed at the Institute.
Dr. Hong Y. Park, assistant professor of economics, will be presenting a paper titled "Demand for Textile Fibers: Natural vs. Man-Made", during the 54th Annual Western Economics Association Conference at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, June 18, 1979.

He will also be the discussant for a paper, "Regional Changes in Potential Economic Capacity Under the National Energy Plan" at the same conference.

-- Dr. Diana Dowling, assistant professor of mathematics, addressed the February meeting of the National Secretary's Association at the Red Palm Restaurant February 14 on the metric system.

DELTA RACQUETBALL, SWIMMING FACILITIES OPEN TO SVSC STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF

Director of Intramurals Paul Deguise has announced that beginning immediately, the new Delta athletic facility will be opening its racquetball and swimming facilities to SVSC students, faculty, and staff during certain hours throughout the week.

The racquetball courts will be open Monday through Friday from 8 to 9 a.m. Charge for the courts is $1, with an additional $.50 charge for use of a lock and towel, as locker room and shower facilities will be available. Students should call 686-9026 for reservations of courts.

The swimming pool will be open for lap swimming from 7 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday, with only the $.50 lock and towel charge for the pool. Students renting a towel and lock will be expected to show an SVSC I.D. or driver's license.

PERSONNEL --

-- Physical Plant; Custodian 1, FT-P, $4.92/hour

-- Public Safety; Police Officer, FT-P, $6.01/hour

These positions will be available to members of the SVSC community for one week. Interested individuals should contact the Personnel Office at ext. 4108.

SVSC is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer whose policies and practices are non-discriminatory.