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RYDER REPORTS ON "STATE OF THE COLLEGE"

In his February 19 "State of the College" address to faculty and staff, President Jack M. Ryder recounted that "while we have met with some failures and many frustrations over the past five years, there has also been great success." He indicated that the SVSC family has "a special mission -- a mission worthy of the best that's in us" and that "we will share a great and exciting future in the months and years ahead."

Ryder noted that "SVSC is an American success story and in my judgment historians will look back in the year 2000 and wonder at the progress which has been achieved in so short a period of time." Because 1980 is SVSC's fifteenth anniversary as a state institution, the president chose the occasion to look back and ahead. "I am becoming more impressed each day as I learn about the success of our 3500 graduates. They are taking their place in a wide variety of roles in society. More and more you read about SVSC graduates completing law school, medical school, serving in the legislature, running for political office, playing a leadership role in business and industry, in nursing, in education, in music education, in science, engineering and technology, or in social work or criminal justice." He acknowledged that it takes time for any institution to make its mark in society, but added that "many people in the tri-city area now talk about attending or sending their children to SVSC, whereas only a few years ago they were uncertain about the quality of education provided here or even the permanency of the college itself."

He cited six accomplishments among many which have contributed to the growing positive image of SVSC. These were the quality

of increased scholarly activity of our faculty, the development of service functions such as continuing education efforts, the special efforts of admissions office personnel, outreach activities of academic schools and departments, the increasing quality and activity of our musical performing groups and the increased number of sports and "phenomenal success" of our athletic program. He also cited accomplishments of SVSC graduates in state nursing boards, CPA and medical technology examinations.

"If we are to face the challenges in the years ahead with the same expectations for success, we must together plan very carefully and execute plans with enthusiasm and diligence," Ryder said. He announced that the college is now ready to implement a long-range planning process via coordination by Dr. Ann Dickey, director of institutional research and planning. "This process creates no new decision-making structures. Planning will occur within existing organizational units and will follow normal routes for making decisions." During 1980-81, all academic departments, the division of placement and continuing education services, academic advisement and career counseling, the health service, the department of residence halls, student activities and the athletic department will be participating. Support for the planning process will come from the new planning resource council, which will be responsible to develop each year a statement of "planning assumptions," a well-researched paper which will describe the environment in which the college is expected to function during the five year period for which departments will be planning. The council will also draft a schedule of planning activities and questions around which the departments will be asked to organize their planning statements. "The council will serve both as a committee of

experts charged with helping departments develop sound plans, and as a liaison group," Ryder pointed out.

Named by Ryder to two year terms on the planning resource council were Dr. William K. Barnett, dean of arts and behavioral sciences; Dr. Janet K. Robinson, associate professor of psychology; Dr. Hong Youl Park, associate professor of economics; student Jill Slasinski and James G. Muladore, budget director/systems coordinator. Accepting one year appointments were Dr. Crystal M. Lange, dean of nursing and allied health sciences; Dr. Walter Rathkamp, associate professor of biology; Dr. Douglas Hansen, associate professor of physical education; student government president Richard Gill and director of admissions Richard P. Thompson.

Ryder also enumerated four important efforts he considered extremely critical to the development of our institution. These are: 1) Retention of students; 2) Development of an international component in our curriculum and as part of cultural and educational enrichment for students on our campus and abroad; 3) Development of credit and non-credit programs and activities through our continuing education structure both on and off campus and 4) The enhancement of quality in everything we do.

Although SVSC has continued to increase in head count, the number of first time in college freshmen actually dropped from 591 in 1978 to 553 this past fall, and the president noted that our higher enrollment came from a 10% increase in transfer students. "Our future strength will lie in how well we not only respond to, but generate a market for quality education in the tri-county area," he predicted. The enrollment picture can be strengthened only by garnering a greater share of a smaller pool of 18-22 year olds, expanding educational opportunities for adults and "non-traditional" students and retaining a higher percentage of the existing student body in future semesters.

Ryder pointed out that only 48% of our fall 1975 freshmen enrollment were still enrolled the following fall. Older data indicates a graduation rate of only 11.5% in four years. While we will register about 2400 students as new to our campus

during the current school year, "what should we think about 1426 students who dropped out between fall 1975 and fall 1976?" While some left for natural reasons over which SVSC had no control, "we need to ask how many of these students left unnecessarily due to factors we could control," he stated. 242 or 17% of these had a 4.0 grade point average, while 16% had no grade point average and 15% were less than 2.0. "Improvement of five percentage points in the number of freshmen who continue with us for an additional three years would have an economic impact of over \$106,000."

Ryder also pointed to the positive campus impact which could result from retention efforts, such as "improved morale on the part of students, faculty and staff; a more lively sense of meeting the needs of students; and a heightened awareness of our common enterprise of teaching men and women course material and life experiences that make a difference to their lives."

Ryder sought help in asking questions that will lead SVSC in retention analysis and in making suggestions bringing a keener awareness that recruitment can lead to a more vital institution. To begin that assessment, he appointed dean of students Dr. Philip Beal as coordinator of an exploratory look at student retention.

Ryder's second goal, to develop an international component within the curriculum and the administration, was underscored by his statement that the average American and even college graduates are vastly ignorant about other nations and their languages and cultures. "How do we expect to understand people if we know little or nothing about how they think? We no longer have the luxury of remaining ignorant and it's even possible that our very survival may depend upon how fast we can learn," he pointed out. He related SVSC's need for broadened international education programs to Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and asked that faculty under the leadership of academic vice president Dr. Robert Yien carefully review SVSC's potential for developing an international component in the curriculum. He urged that we look at our general studies, ethnic studies and language programs with a view toward integration into the mainstream of all college programs here. "Perhaps it's even time for us to reinstitute language again as at

least a requirement of the School of Arts and Behavioral Sciences if not within the institute at large," Ryder said.

Regarding continuing education, the SVSC president said we have about 200 students in continuing education credit enrollments aside from Macomb county and said there is considerably more potential for development. "Not only can our efforts in continuing education be viewed as service to the people of our communities, but of course they enhance our overall student enrollment either directly or indirectly," he said.

Regarding enhancement of the quality factor at SVSC, "it first takes an attitude of pride in what we do with what we have. In addition, of course, it is important that more faculty be employed to increase the ratio of full-time to part-time instructors, and to mount and staff continuing education activities and scholarly activities. If quality is to be enhanced, it will require ingenuity and imagination on the part of each person at SVSC whatever role you play . . . we need your ideas and your commitment to improvement. I also feel that if all these efforts are to be recognized and reinforced, quality performance and exceptional contributions should be rewarded, should be brought to the attention of the total community. We will together make a stronger effort to achieve that goal," he promised.

Ryder felt the SVSC family can and will accomplish all he has set forth and concluded that "we have a great deal going for us -- it is in our giving that we shall receive."

SVSC WINS MEN'S BASKETBALL, BOWLING, INDOOR TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

More red and white pennants are coming for the east wall of Cardinal gymnasium, after SVSC athletes won the NAIA district 23 basketball and indoor track championships Saturday and the bowling team won the Michigan Intercollegiate Bowling Tournament crown.

Coach Bob Pratt's basketball team finished with an 11-0 record at home with their 75-70 win over Wayne State University. On Sunday, SVSC was seeded first in the

district tournament, meaning that fourth-seeded Siena Heights College will play here on Monday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. That same evening, third-ranked Grand Valley State will play at Hillsdale, seeded second. SVSC will host the winner of that game on Wednesday, March 5. SVSC currently has a 21-6 overall slate and won their first GLIAC championship with an 11-3 conference record after losing the first three league games.

Meanwhile the indoor track team swept five first places and set four school records as they took their third consecutive district 23 championship Saturday at Adrian. SVSC's Steve Umphrey broke the district record in the 3200 meter walk as he won with a time of 14:09.64. Paul "Spence" Peterson finished first in the 5000 meter run in 14:51.31. The Cardinals 1600 dash meter relay team of Dave Beauchamp, Steve Reese, Jerry Brown and Evans Lalas took first place in a school record time of 3:21.8. John Darga won the 800-meter run in 1:56.35, while Louie Iordanou won the triple jump for SVSC with a leap of 45-9. SVSC scored 180 team points to beat the district's seven other teams for the title.

At the same time, Ted Nitz's keggers split a 4-3 morning match with the University of Michigan and then beat MSU 5-2 with good clutch shooting from Fred Buxman and Mike Rehm. The Cardinals thus finished the MIBT season with a 83-29 record, while MSU closed at 81-31. They were followed by EMU in third with 69-43; U of M fourth at 65-47; Ferris State fifth, 55-57; CMU sixth, 49-63; Lawrence Tech seventh, 27-85 and Lake Michigan College eighth at 19-93. The bowlers now advance to the American Bowling Congress's Sectional Tournament, Friday and Saturday, March 28-29, in Toledo. The winner of that tourney travels to the nationals, slated for Milwaukee in May.

With a 110-70 decision over the University of Michigan-Dearborn, the women's basketball team finished with a 19-9 regular season record. Diane Dockus hit 20 points, Mary Jo Lee 19 and Erika Bush 16.

FOR SALE - FREE

One affectionate, beautiful black and white cat. Loves people; well educated - attends SVSC on part-time basis. If you're interested in providing a good home for this deserving feline, see Opal Colvin or phone ext.4041.

PERSONNEL

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in its policies and practices.