September 5, 1989

New President Shares "Point of View"

"I come not so much with a plan as with a point of view -- at least for now."

Eric R. Gilbertson, third president of Saginaw Valley State University, addressed a standing-room-only audience in Wickes Lecture Hall as part of new faculty/staff orientation activities Aug. 31. Noting that his recent arrival on campus made the occasion "not only the first but possibly the last time" that he could command so much attention, he resisted the opportunity to present grandiose or detailed plans.

"Instead, for now, I offer only a point of view -- or several points of view."

Gilbertson informed listeners that he chose a career teaching and working in public higher education because of a personal commitment to "secular but deeply felt institutional values." Among those, he cited the value of work and achievement, intellectual honesty, academic freedom, the worth of each individual, the importance of opportunity in a democratic society and opportunity that is open for all. "That commitment, like yours," he said, "is also premised in a conviction that the twin goals of academic opportunity and academic quality are not only compatible but mutually supportive."

He said that SVSU should be judged not just on its physical and financial resources, but on the professional work of its faculty and staff; not on the preparedness of entering freshmen, but on the skills and thoughtfulness of graduates. "By all testimony, SVSU should fare very well by such assessment."

However, there are problems that must be faced realistically, he cautioned. He pointed to the almost universal requests for additional staffing and other resources listed in unit planning reports.

Vignettes from the 1989 faculty/staff orientation and reception. President Gilbertson and family were greeted warmly.
"I do not doubt that almost all of these needs are real, almost all of these requests are justified. I also know -- as you do -- that very few of these can be funded in the short term, even assuming the most sanguine projections about our economic future." Gilbertson said priorities should constantly be reviewed and resources allocated accordingly, but that would not solve the basic problems of an underfunded institution. Eliminating or reducing certain activities and programs would likely involve "only moving relatively few dollars around on the margins of our programs and problems," he said.

He noted that massive and immediate help is unlikely to come from Lansing or Washington.

"None of this is intended to induce despair," he said. "Quite the contrary. It is only intended to begin our discussions about problems and, even more important, about opportunities with a shared sense of reality. It is also intended to begin our thinking about what we can do, rather than merely lamenting what we cannot. ... The best and most certain opportunities ahead are those we can create ourselves.

"Our goal, then is to unleash energy, to free up creativity, to keep the institution from getting in the way of its own people."

On the issue of tuition, Gilbertson said that while he might favor banishing not just tuition increases but tuition itself, he also supports full staffing, fair compensation, and all things necessary and proper for the university. "The only reasonable approach to tuition is one seeking balance, a sensible response to reality, fairness," he said. "This is a dilemma in which there is no clear right or wrong, no villains -- only victims."

Gilbertson concluded his remarks with a brief word about campus relationships. Noting that universities bring together some of the brightest minds, people who think independently, and are strong willed, it is not surprising that differences occur. Organizational politics can be constructive when kept civil, he said.

However, SVSU, like other academic communities, must guard against endless introspection and destructive intra-organizational dissention. Instead, there should be campus-wide discourse on issues that affect all of humanity, on questions of meaning, of right and wrong, of war and peace, of prosperity and survival.

"At its best, a university can be vibrant and exciting, challenging yet humane. At its worst, it can be an academic Beirut. Our common goal clearly must be to create and nurture an environment in which strong-willed and thoughtful and well-intentioned people can and inevitably will differ, but where civility and integrity contain those differences in appropriate forums and keep paramount the common goal of institutional betterment."

Our common enemy, he said, is ignorance.

Preceding the presidential address, Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert S.P. Yien recognized Dr. William Hoffmann, professor of history, for service that spanned the entire history of the university. Other groups recognized were those who had served the institution over 20 years, from 15 to 20 years and from 10 to 15 years.

New faculty and staff were introduced by their respective deans or unit heads. Dr. Yien also recognized faculty who had been awarded tenure, and certificates were presented to faculty who had received promotions.

Immediately following orientation activities, the Gilbertson family greeted members of the campus community at a reception in the Arbury Fine Arts Center.

**Parking Fees Change -- Again**

Sometimes procrastination pays. Those who did not rush out to buy Lot C parking passes at the new $30 rate announced in last week's Interior will be pleased to know that the increase has been rescinded. A clause in the faculty contract establishes $20 as the fee toward the annual cost of parking. Therefore, the fee will remain at $20 for all employee groups. Anyone who purchased a pass at $30 will be receiving a $10 rebate.

Current permit cards expire Sept. 30 and should be renewed prior to that date. New gate cards may be picked up from the Department of Public Safety after Oct. 1 when a new gate system is installed.
SVSU Part of NASA Space Grant Consortium

A Space Grant Consortium, proposed by SVSU, Michigan Technological University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, recently was approved by NASA to be administered by the College of Engineering at U of M.

SVSU's role will be to provide a college-level, interdisciplinary training opportunity, such as a Space Science Systems course, through U of M. Special emphasis will seek involvement of women and minorities. SVSU's program will be directed by Dr. Thomas Kullgren, dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

Alumni Relations Secretary Moves to Foundation Office

Effective Aug. 28, the office of the senior secretary of Alumni Relations and Special Events is located in the Foundation Office on the third floor of Wickes Hall. Day-to-day operations of Alumni Relations will be located in this area through June 30, 1990.

The Alumni Office remains in the Alumni Lounge of the Zahnow Library and the lounge still may be reserved for special events.

The Alumni Relations extension, 4196, remains in effect.

Campus Announcements may be Made Through Public Address

Campus individuals or groups who wish to have announcements of campus events made during home SVSU athletic contests should contact Tom Waske, sports information director, at extension 4053. Messages should be typed and submitted no later than noon, two days prior to the athletic event, to be included.

Ryder Center Recreation Hours Set

Students and employees may use the Ryder Center for Health and Physical Education during open recreation hours beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5.

The racquetball courts will be available through reservations only for $1 an hour per person. Call extension 7333. The fitness center is open Mondays through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m.; and on Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. The running track will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays;

Auditions Set for "Dracula"

Two women and six men are needed to fill the roles of medieval characters for the fall 1989 theater production of Dracula: The Vampire Play. Auditions for the cast and crew are scheduled for 7 p.m., Sept. 12 and 4 p.m., Sept. 14 in the Theatre. Copies of the script are available by calling the department of communication and theatre at extension 4019.

and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The arena (multipurpose area) is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The pool is not open.

The outdoor tennis courts are available from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (except during home varsity meets). The outdoor horseshoe pits are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

For further information, call extension 7300.

Briefly Speaking

-- The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Gallery will be open for tours from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, Sept. 10, 17 and 24; and Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. In addition, the gallery will be open on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

-- A WordPerfect users group will meet from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21 in Room 204 of Zahnow. Participants should bring their own lunches. Topics to be discussed include tips on placing text inside graphics, working with laser printers and using the WordPerfect library. For further information, call Sandy Madison at extension 4295.
Professional Profile

-- A proposal by Dr. Barron Hirsch, professor of art and director of the University Art Gallery, has been selected as one of eight grant recipients by the Saginaw Community Foundation and the Michigan Council for the Arts. The award will support an exhibit of the paintings of Julia and Henry Roecker. Mrs. Roecker, former head of the Alma College art department and prominent area artist, was at one time director of the Saginaw Art Museum.

-- Ms. Gayle Köchel, publications designer, recently was elected recording secretary for the board of the Advertising Federation of the Saginaw Valley.

-- Dr. Barbara Yarnold, assistant professor of political science, will be listed in the 1989 edition of Who's Who Among American Women. Yarnold recently concluded a presentation to the American Political Science Association in Atlanta, Ga., of "Adjudications by the Federal Courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals in Asylum-Related Appeals, 1980-1987: Conflicting Policy Goals." Yarnold has been invited to speak during the November meeting of the Illinois Political Science Association in Chicago. Yarnold will discuss "The Natural Law Origins of Social Movement and Links Between Social Movements and Interest Groups: Analysis in the Context of the U.S. Sanctuary Movement" during the group's annual meeting.

-- Mr. Matthew Zivich, professor of art, will have 25 works of art on display at the Saginaw Township Hall during September.

The works include drawings, paintings and sculptures. These works represent Zivich's One-man Show Award given him when he won the Purchase Prize during a Jan. 22 competition in Saginaw Township.

Transitions

The following personnel changes occurred during August.

New faculty

-- Dr. Husnu Ozkan (ext. 5609), hired as professor of physics.

-- Ms. Mary S. Reif (ext. 5689), hired as instructor of nursing.

-- Ms. Catherine Short (ext. 4339), hired as instructor of English.

New staff

-- Mrs. Misty D. Cramer (753-8631), hired as teacher, Children's Center.

-- Mr. Michael Holliday (ext. 4225), hired as microcomputer hardware/software technician, Computer Services.

Transfers

-- Mr. Michael McKenna (ext. 4163), hired as admissions representative, Office of Admissions. McKenna formerly was intramural supervisor.

Departing staff

-- Ms. Elvira Banda, formerly bilingual/bicultural counselor.

-- Dr. Ann K. Dickey, formerly director of Institutional Research and Planning.

-- Ms. Rosalie Fasse, formerly senior secretary in Alumni Affairs.

-- Mr. Don Seidel, formerly assistant director of Computer Services.

-- Ms. Julie VanderMei-Tack, formerly coordinator of the Learning Assistance Center.

-- Ms. Allyn Taly, formerly coordinator of Career Counseling.