February 4, 1992

Black History Month at SVSU Offers Variety of Activities

Commemoration of Black History Month at SVSU continues this week with a variety of lectures, panel discussions, storytelling and concert performances. Mark your calendar for the following events:

Feb. 3, 12-1 p.m.
Candlelight Ceremony in Wickes Lobby.

Feb. 3, 6 p.m.
Dinner honoring black leaders. Please R.S.V.P. at 790-5631.

Feb. 4, 12-1 p.m.
Brown Bag Lunch: "Educating a Diverse Nation" with James Baker in the Alumni Lounge.

Feb. 5, 12-1 p.m.

Feb. 8, 9 a.m.
"Youth in Conquest or Conflict" with Judge Terry Clark and Rev. William Hunt in the Ryder Center. Sponsored by Lydia Business and Professional Women. Open to the community — $3 each for non-members.

Feb. 10, 12-2 p.m.
"Great Kings and Queens of Africa" with Rick Nix in the Alumni Lounge.

Feb. 10, 6 p.m.
International BAHA'I Youth Art Ensemble performance in Lower Level Doan Center.

Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
Gospel Fest in Lower Level Doan Center. Admission is $4 general and $2 students.

Feb. 12, 3 p.m.
Yelena Khangha, sponsored by SVSU Program Board, in the University Theatre.

Feb. 13, 12-1 p.m.
Black Women Studies Discussion in the Alumni Lounge.

Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
"Diamonds of Distinction" fashion show in Lower Level Doan Center. Admission is $4 general and $2 for students.

Feb. 16, 7 p.m.
"Choices & Consequences of Alcohol" with Ted Ricci in the University Theatre. Sponsored by SafeHaven.

Feb. 17, 12-1:30 p.m.
"The Need for Increased Diversity in Children's Literature" with Mary Harmon in the Alumni Lounge.

Feb. 18, 6 p.m.
Precina Winbush, poet and storyteller, in the Alumni Lounge.

Feb. 19, 10-11 a.m.
"Contemporary Health Issues" in the Alumni Lounge.

Feb. 25, 11-1 p.m.
'Mock Tails' in Brown Concourse. Vote for your favorite non-alcoholic beverage. Sponsored by SafeHaven.

Feb. 26, 7 p.m.
"We Are Family" with Rev. Byron Hayes, pastor of the Word of Faith Church.

Feb. 27, 5 p.m.
K.C.P. Dinner in the Large Private Dining Room in Doan Center.

Feb. 29, 10-2 p.m.
Family Day in Ryder Center's Cardinal Gym.
National Society Installs SVSU Student Engineer Section

Two officers of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) will visit the SVSU campus tomorrow, Feb. 5, to install the SVSU student section of ASME.

David Herrington, ASME vice president, and Arthur Ebling, regional field office director, will present the Section Certificate to SVSU’s students and faculty members.

The recognition is the result of last year’s action by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET), which awarded national accreditation to SVSU’s electrical and mechanical engineering programs.

According to SET Dean Thomas Kullgren, the new section status will be especially beneficial to students enrolled in engineering classes at the University.

"Students now can gain membership in ASME, participate fully in regional and national student events and receive support for attendance at regional student conferences," Kullgren stated.

SVSU Marketers Make Finals in International Competition

Four SVSU seniors were among team finalists in the University of Manitoba International Marketing Competition held recently in Canada.

It marked the third straight year an SVSU team has finished among finalists, which included college and university teams from Malaysia, Germany, the United States and Canada.

The competition, which challenges four-member teams to use computers to develop and implement sales strategies for two imaginary products called "Sonite" and "Vodite," is based on a computerized system developed in France and widely used as a training system in private industry.

The local team began by making their first computer entry Oct. 16. When their final entry was made a week after December finals, they had cornered a 77 percent share of the market and had introduced three additional products in their sales plan. Four of their products were top sellers in their respective markets of the competition.

Faculty Advisor Richard D. Leininger said the team developed the best program he has ever seen by a student group.

"Their earnings were four times those of the winning team from the University of Saskatchewan," Leininger said. Judges, who were industry representatives, awarded SVSU fourth place.

Leininger said he already is preparing a new group of students for future competitions by conducting similar undergraduate work, which will be judged April 24, 1992.

Architectural Models on Exhibit in University Art Gallery

The University Art Gallery will host the works of Matthew Zivich, professor of art, in a show that runs from Thursday, Feb. 6-26.

Zivich’s works are termed architectural models since they bear resemblance to preliminary realization models used by architects.

According to Barron Hirsch, Gallery director and professor of art, Zivich’s works differ from their inspirational sources in that they seem to be more concerned with social commentary than with buildings.

The University Art Gallery is located on the first floor of the Arbury Fine Arts Center. Hours for winter semester are Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.; Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Call ext. 4159 for more information.
Valley Entrepreneurs to Discuss Hiring Methods

The Saginaw Valley Entrepreneurs Club will focus on "Hiring the Right People" by using a popular technique that some large corporations utilize — behavioral interviewing.

Patricia Bere, managing partner of Resource Associates in Midland, assisted Dow Corning in the development and institution of a behavioral interviewing process. Bere will explain the process at length in the meeting.

Mobil, Polaroid, TRW and Dow Corning currently use the method when hiring. After analyzing an available position, the corporations develop an interview that is structured specifically for the requirements of that job.

The questions in the interview are based on the applicant's past experiences, causing candidates to reveal their professional strengths and weaknesses.

The 6 p.m. meeting will be held in the lower level of Doan Center on Wednesday, Feb. 12. For further information call the BIDI Office at ext. 4310.

Soviet Journalist to Speak at SVSU

Russian journalist Yelena Khanga will speak on "The Unknown Exodus: Blacks in the U.S.S.R." in the University Theatre at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Khanga, who holds a degree in journalism from Moscow State University, has been a correspondent for the weekly Moscow News for the last six years. Her column typically discusses problems that foreigners experience in the Soviet Union, trouble that citizens encounter when emigrating from their country and other topics for the International Department of the News.

In 1986, she became the first Soviet journalist to participate in an exchange program with the Christian Science Monitor. Khanga has appeared on the Soviet talk-show "View" as a commentator on U.S. issues. In the U.S., she has been featured on ABC's "20/20," CNN's "Sonia Live," NBC's "Today Show" and others.

Khanga currently is a Warren Weaver Fellow with the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City. She is working with Frank Karel, vice president for communications. She states her priority is to write a book about her family as part of the history of black Americans in the Soviet Union. For more information on the presentation, call ext. 4170.

SVSU to be Site for Teacher Competency Test

SVSU is one of 10 locations in Michigan where a new teacher competency test will be administered for the first time to students wishing to become teachers.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15 on the first floor of Brown Hall, with testing conducted throughout the day.

Other testing sites are Big Rapids, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette, Mt. Pleasant, Pontiac and Ypsilanti. For additional information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at ext. 4348.

Alumni Office Seeking Nominations for 1992 Distinguished Alumni

Each year, the SVSU Alumni Association presents an alumnus or alumna with its Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to society and to the individual's chosen profession.

Nominations of candidates for the 1992 award are being accepted. Forms are available from the Alumni Relations Office, ext. 4196.

Job Search Workshop Offered

The Career Resource Center, LifeLong Resource Center, Minority Services, Placement and Cooperative Education, and Michigan Employment Security Commission will be conducting a workshop titled "Is Your Job Search Effective?" on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The session, which will run from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., will be held on the first floor Wickes Lobby.

Topics to be covered will include how to write résumés and cover letters, interviewing techniques and community/SVSU resources. Anyone interested in attending should call Jean Chesney at ext. 4267 or Diana Gutierrez at ext. 4284 for more information.
Three from SVSU Assist in Presenting MACUL Conference

The Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) will present one of the largest conferences for educators, with more than 3,000 expected to attend the March 12-13 event in Grand Rapids.

Rick Dalzell, secretary for MACUL and educational statistician and school improvement specialist in professional development for the Greater Saginaw Valley Regional Education Cooperative (GSVREC), is serving as co-chair of the MACUL conference. Sally Edgerton, assistant professor of teacher education and director of Special Interest Groups dealing with LOGO in the classroom (SIGLOGO), will chair the MACUL booth.

Douglas Hansen, professor of teacher education and physical and health education, will be the featured speaker at the MACUL conference. Hansen, whose talk is titled "Telecommunications to Virtual Reality," also serves as director of telecommunications for GSVREC.

The theme for the conference is "Creating Futures with Technology." Some 300 presentations will be given over a two-day period.

This year the MACUL conference offers a new opportunity. Undergraduates in education may attend the conference for half price. For more details, call Dalzell at ext. 4115.

Professional Profile

- Bruce Hart, Independent Testing Lab manager, recently co-authored a paper, titled "The Making of a Graphite Rotrode for Fluids Analysis." The paper was presented by Robert Anthony, Carbone of America Corporation, at the Federation of Analytical Chemists Conference held in Anaheim (CA).
- Dr. Marc H. Peretz, professor of music, was recognized at the 47th Annual Midwestern Conference on School Vocal and Instrumental Music for his work in the field of instrumental music education. At the conference, Peretz was awarded an Honorary Membership in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.
- Dr. Janet E. Rubin, professor of communication and theatre, and Dr. Marc H. Peretz, professor of music, were appointed by the Michigan Department of Education to review content examinations that are a part of the new Michigan Teacher Competency Testing Program. Rubin reviewed the fine arts test and Peretz reviewed the music test.
- Dr. Donald Wiseman, professor of accounting, had an article accepted for publication in the Michigan Bar Journal by the editorial board of the State Bar of Michigan. The article is titled "Earliest Retirement Date Assumption and the Distribution of Pension Benefits and Supplements."

Personnel

The following positions are open to all regular employees of the University:

- Asst./Assoc. Professor of Science Education — Full-time, tenure-track (new) position, joint appointment in the College of Education and the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. Ph.D. in science, mathematics or science education required. Salary negotiable.
- Technical Processing Clerk - Library — Full-time (replacement) position. Grade level 3, rate of pay $7.75. Two years college education desired and one year of library experience, preferably in technical services.

For further information, call the Personnel Office at ext. 4112. SVSU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Transitions

The following personnel changes occurred since January 7. Please make changes in your Faculty/Staff Directory.

New Staff
- Diana Boudia — hired as Bilingual Academic Advisor; ext. 5639.
- Mitsuharu Tadatsu — Visiting Professor; ext. 7032.
- Daniel Pudvay — Physics Lab Technician, ext. 5621.

Promotions/Transfers
- Steven Locke — promoted to Sr. Circulation Clerk, Zahnow Library; ext. 4242.

Departing
- Sharon Pickett — Buyer, Bus. Services
"Respect," "confidence" and "leadership" are words that come to mind when colleagues describe Brian Fisher.

Since he joined SVSU as coordinator of student financial accounting services in 1984, Fisher has quietly assumed an increasing level of responsibility. His thorough and dedicated approach to the detailed tasks required in accounting for University financial transactions have earned respect and promotions.

A native of the Saginaw area, Fisher holds an M.B.A. from SVSU and completed a bachelor’s degree in accounting at Central Michigan University.

"I graduated from CMU in 1982 when the job market was really tight," he smiles. "You had to distance yourself from everybody else just to get through the interview process."

Fisher recalls spending a summer in Texas, only to find a dearth of accounting positions there. He came back to Michigan and landed a management training position with First National Bank and Trust in Big Rapids.

When his parents noticed a classified listing in SVSU’s accounting office, Fisher applied in hopes of finding a position closer to his fiancee’s (now wife) home.

Fisher notes that the Controller’s Office then was housed in the ’66 Building, and work had not yet begun on IF 2. "I wondered why the parking lots were so far away from the buildings," he laughs. "But ever since that point in time, it has been one (building) project after another."

Fisher’s promotions include assignments as staff accountant, financial analyst and his present position as assistant controller.

Since SVSU is a not-for-profit organization, the focus of accounting is somewhat different than business accounting. "Expenditures are based on a budget plan which drives spending decisions," Fisher explains. "We monitor fiscal operations of the University, focusing primarily on the budget."

Many operations fall into an annual cycle. Examples include budget projections and preparation of information for the appropriations request document, the yearly audit, and cost analysis for setting tuition, fees and room and board rates.

Then there’s the annual cost study, which Fisher admits is not his favorite task. But the willingness of other staff members to assist during peak work periods helps the office meet its deadlines, he says.

Fisher notes that a goal of the office is provide service to the campus community. He cites examples such as payroll deductions, automatic deposit of paychecks, the installation of a campus ATM and the loan program available to personnel for the purchase of computers as examples. "We want to offer the highest level of service that we can," he says.

Away from the office, Fisher’s life centers on his family, which includes daughter Justine, three years old, and son Austin, who is four months. "I enjoy spending time with them," he says.
"All my life I have felt that if you really want to do something, you can. But there is a price," says English professor Leslie Whittaker.

"If you're serious about a goal, it's not something that you promise yourself, but something that you commit to. You hear about all kinds of ventures of that sort."

Whittaker's beliefs frequently have him following a plan others might consider unconventional. His professional career has spanned boundaries of both time and distance. Not only has he emigrated from his native country, but his profession has been pried on different continents.

He also departed from the instructional role to earn a law degree at an age when many consider retirement.

Whittaker's most recent personal commitment soon will take him to Australia, where he will spend six months as a "visiting academic" at the University of Technology located in Sydney, New South Wales.

"I have visited a sister-in-law in Australia," he says, "and like the country. The impetus for the trip comes from my own need to challenge myself and experience different ways of looking at education.

"What education means and what we conceive it to be constantly needs to be challenged," he says.

Whittaker wants to immerse himself in a culture where the "assumptions about education and the role of the university professor" are different from ours. "To understand another system, you have to be part of it," he says.

Hence the assignment at the University of Technology, which he accepted from among some six offers, including one from New Zealand.

Whittaker describes the school as being somewhat like M.I.T., "though not on as high a level. It is an academy for applied science, largely."

The educational system in Australia is much more centralized than in the U.S., he notes. Access to higher education traditionally was much more exclusive, limited to about 16-18 percent of the students deemed intellectually capable. Others were tracked into vocational programs.

Until recently funding was quite lavish for universities. Today the trend is to open the colleges to larger numbers of students. At the same time, government funding has been cut, and administrators are being asked to make the universities more self-sufficient. Understandably, the dual policy shifts have caused considerable stress.

The changes also increase Australian interest in examining other educational systems, so Whittaker expects to spend much time in discussion. He has prepared for the trip by visiting Saginaw area elementary schools to learn about current teaching methods here. He will teach courses in drama and language arts.

Whittaker will be funding his own dream, paying both transportation and living costs. As he says, "If you want to do something, you can. But there is a price."