June 15, 1993

Computerized Access to EPA Water Quality Data Offered for High School Research Programs

High school teaching teams from 22 Mid-Michigan Counties are vying for access to a computerized water quality research system in their schools through a program offered by the Institute for Environmental Policy and Education (IEPE) at SVSU.

In cooperation with the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative, IEPE solicited proposals from two-member teams of science, math or computer science teachers. In the proposals, the teachers described how they would use a computer and access to an EPA data bank to develop for their classes a program to study contaminants in bodies of water.

Ten schools from among those that submitted proposals were chosen June 7 by a University selection team. Selected schools will receive a computer, a modem and training on how to access EPA's STORET data system, containing information collected from 1950 to the present. The data represents every body of water in the United States and is reputed to be one of the largest data bases in the world. With the system, teachers will be able to guide K-12 students in analyzing pollutants found in any body of water.

Yesterday teachers began a training workshop on the STORET system to learn about collection, access and use of the data and how STORET can be accessed to teach students in classrooms. The sessions continue through Wednesday from 4 to 9 p.m. at SVSU.

Participation in the program is expected by Arthur Hill, AuGres-Sims, Bay City Central, Bay-Arenac, Birch Run, Chesaning, Grand Blanc and Tawas High Schools, as well as the Averill Career Opportunities Center and Saginaw Center for Arts and Sciences.

Funding for the project was provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Education.

For more information, contact Ralph Coppola, executive director of IEPE, at ext. 4295.

SVSU Engineering Team Places Lucky 13 in Mini Car Competition

A team of engineering students returned to SVSU June 7 flushed with success from their weekend showing in the Midwest Regional Mini Baja Vehicle Competition at the Transportation Research Center in Marysville, Ohio.

The team, and the vehicle they designed and built, finished 13th among some 65 colleges and universities entered in the contest.

With the first-ever entry by students from SVSU's College of Science, Engineering and Technology, the local team placed third in manufacturability, third in appearance, second in structural integrity and first in originality as part of the static phase of the contest. In the endurance test, the team surged from 30th place to fifth and might have done better if a traffic jam hadn't given early leaders a full lap advantage in the first lap of the race.

Though team leader Otto Schultheis and his colleagues began looking into the competition two years ago, they were frustrated when they were too late to enter the event in Minneapolis last year. This year, their early entry won them the distinction of being car number one.

(Please continue on page 2)
Mini Car

(Continued from page 1)

Schultheis and his team discovered that being first to enter doesn’t guarantee smooth sailing in the competition. In fact, the night before the contest was to begin in Ohio, they were still working to replace the car’s rear axle in the University’s engineering lab.

“The car wasn’t race ready,” Schultheis said. “The wheel on the right side didn’t fit snug. We were afraid it would come off during the endurance test. Fortunately Randy Hostetler, a lab technician, found a replacement axle at a shop in Vassar and it fit perfectly. We left at 4:30 Friday morning.”

The last minute axle replacement wasn’t an indication of poor planning by the team. During the 1992 Christmas break, team members Rod Sanderson, Dave DuPree (who left the team after graduation), Sue Brown, Bob Keitzman, Mary Armitage and Schultheis built a full-scale model of the vehicle’s frame using electrical conduit tubing. The model helped work some of the bugs out of the design.

The object of the competition is to design and build a four-wheeled recreational vehicle powered by an eight horsepower lawn mower engine. The engine could not be modified in any way, but the remainder of the vehicle, designed for mass production, must be the product of the skill and imagination of the team.

Planning by the SVSU team apparently paid off. “We did some running around in the car on campus, but we never fully tested it until we got to Ohio,” Schultheis said.

“Driver safety was one of our primary concerns. Some of the other vehicles looked like they were just there to compete. We made the sides rigid to protect against a roll over and the driver could exit through the front. None of the other cars had that feature.” Schultheis said.

The extra safety measures on the vehicle paid off when Schultheis swerved to avoid a collision and crashed into a safety fence during the endurance race. One of the car’s tires was deflated when it became entangled with a fence post. Schultheis suffered no injury. The tire was re-inflated and the race resumed.

The project was a team effort, according to Schultheis. “Rod and I did most of the machine work and assembly; Mary and Sue took care of details and found ‘off the shelf’ parts such as suspensions, rods from farm equipment and other machinery parts. Sponsors, alumni and faculty advisors all played important parts.” George Corser is the group’s faculty advisor.

Sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers and the Briggs and Stratton Engine Company, the event drew entries from throughout the midwest including Lawrence Technological University, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, Michigan Technological University and others.

“We’ve already started brain-storming for next year,” Schultheis said. “There are some things we could improve with the design and serviceability of the car. The judges gave us a lot of feedback. We probably could have done better this year, but our inexperience in the competition kept us out of the top five finishers.”

Schultheis, who is due to complete studies later this month, won’t take part in next year’s competition. But he expects other engineering students will take up the challenge next year. His advice: “It takes hard core dedication. We started working one night a week, then two nights and toward the end, seven days, 18 hours a day.”

Team leader Otto Schultheis stands next to SVSU’s entry in the Midwest Regional Mini Baja Vehicle Competition that took place June 5-6 in Marysville, Ohio. SVSU finished 13th in a field of 65 competitors.
SVSU Hosts Social Gathering

A social event open to the faculty and staff of SVSU and Delta College will be held Friday, June 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. near the Leaping Gazelle Fountain area. Complimentary refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Campus Community Invited to June 24 Tree Planting Ceremony

A brief ceremony to honor an exchange professor from China will take place Thursday, June 24 at 4:30 p.m. in Owsey Grove.

Professor Xingyang Wang, who arrived at SVSU August 19 from Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), will return to his home after teaching here during the 1992-93 academic year. Among the courses he taught at SVSU were Chinese Literature in Translation, Conversational Chinese, Contemporary China and Taijiquan.

Wang also assisted Carrie Sorensen in a presentation regarding the People's Republic of China. Sorensen taught at SISU during the winter 1992 semester. Thomas Hearrom and his wife, Pat, currently are at SISU.

Wang has made previous trips to the United States, including a year at Johnson State College in Vermont when Eric Gilbertson was president at that institution.

Volunteers and Student Archaeologists to Resume Summer Dig at Tobico

The Sixth Annual Field School in Saginaw Valley Archeology will continue exploration of the Tobico Marsh State Game Area from June 28 through July 23.

Volunteers and students will resume meticulously digging and sifting soil that last year produced arrow heads, pottery shards, partially eaten plant remains and charred fish bones indicating that humans used the area as a "sort of supermarket" before Columbus sailed into the West Indies. Previous Tobico Marsh explorations discovered 75 archeological sites that yielded significant data about the Late Woodland period (A.D. 500-1600) in the Saginaw Valley.

James H. Payne, a graduate student from The University of Michigan, again will direct SVSU's archeological investigation of the Bay County wetlands and other sites in the Saginaw Valley.

Students are invited to enroll in "Archeology," SOC 312 (Section 4800) at SVSU. Registration is June 24-25. Students are responsible for their own living expenses. Participants also will be responsible for purchasing an annual pass to the State Parks for $18.

For additional information please contact the Department of Sociology, ext. 4492.

Did You Know? ...

- Central Stores will be closed for inventory June 29 and 30. Any orders received by Friday, June 25, will be delivered and charged to 1992-93 budgets. All orders received starting Monday, June 28, will be charged to 1993-94 budgets and will be delivered July 1.
- Items that were presented to President Eric Gilbertson and the Office of International Programs by foreign universities and dignitaries will be featured in the Wickes Showcase. The display will run through July 9.
- Students receiving Employee Tuition Waivers (employees or employee family members) must bring their tuition bills to the Financial Aid office to assure crediting of their accounts. Each time hours are added and a new bill is generated, the student should return to the Financial Aid office to assure the additional credit is added to his/her award.
- A trip to Tiger Stadium on Monday, July 19 is being organized for campus employees and their friends and families. Cost is $23.50, which includes transportation and ticket to the game. A coach will depart from J-lot at 4 p.m. Game time is 7:05 p.m. The Tigers will take on the Twins from Minnesota. To sign up, call ext. 5697.

Summer Interior Schedule:

- June 29
- July 20
- August 10
- August 31

Submit articles to be included in the newsletter by the Thursday before the publication date. Call ext. 5641 for further information.

DIRECTORY PORTRAITS

still are being scheduled in the Office of Marketing Research/Information Services. To have your photo taken or retaken, call ext. 5641.
Professional Profile

- Roosevelt S. Ruffin, director of Multicultural Programs/Affirmative Action, served as team leader for a group of local business people who toured the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The study exchange, sponsored by Rotary International, visited 23 cities in an effort to learn and discuss similarities and contrasts between life in the United States and Brazil.

Saturday, June 12, at her home following a four month illness. Funeral services were held this morning at St. Stephen Church. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to VNA Hospice.

- The Saginaw News presented its 1993 Crystal Apple Award to Betty Wiseman, wife of SVSU accounting professor Donald Wiseman. Betty, a math and science teacher at Reese High School, was nominated by her students.

Across Campus

- The campus community extends its sincerest condolences to the family of Joan E. Doozan. An administrative secretary in the Office of International Programs, Doozan passed away

Campus Happenings

Summer Sports Camps
For youngsters age eight to 18. Children of campus employees will receive a discount for participating. Call ext. 7300 for camp information and registration materials.

Clay Invitational 1993

University Art Gallery, Arbury Center
The work of six leading mid-Michigan artists are on display. Call ext. 4159 for gallery hours.

Transitions

The following personnel changes have occurred since May 18. Please make changes in your Faculty/Staff Directory.

New
- Eva Erdosne Toth, EarthVision Coordinator/Teaching Fellow, ext. 4295.

FREDERICKS SCULPTURE FROM DALLAS LIBRARY ADDED TO SVSU COLLECTION — The Dallas Public Library soon may meet its demise as the wrecking ball moves in. But a 20-foot sculpture by Marshall M. Fredericks, which has graced the library’s exterior since 1956, is safely tucked away in the Arbury Fine Arts Center. The sculpture, which arrived Friday, June 11, is titled "Youth in the Hands of God.” Cast in Norway, it depicts a 10-foot youngster resting in a pair of massive hands. The piece was purchased with private donations. Gallery Director Michael Panhorst said the work will be cleaned, then erected on an exterior wall of the Arbury Fine Arts Center later this summer.
June 14, 1993

Control Board Approves 1993-94 Budget of Nearly $33 Million, Debates Commencement Prayers and Reappoints Five to Board of Fellows

The Board of Control acted Monday, June 14, to approve a 1993-94 operating budget of $32,956,533, an increase of $2.27 million over last year.

In his statement, President Gilbertson told the Board the budget is balanced “with revenues and expenditures increased by approximately 4.69 percent over the current year’s base budget. It contemplates a 2.39 percent growth in enrollment and a zero percent increase in state funding.

“Most of the University’s General Fund budget is spent on people—salaries, wages and benefits. These amount to about 73 percent of General Fund expenditures,” the president said and noted that negotiations are underway with all represented employee groups “so precise budgetary support needed for compensation is difficult to project...after these negotiations are resolved, some modifications in the budget will likely be necessary.

“We have seen significant increases in costs of insurance. We are pleased to report that we have been able to contain utility costs and we project no increase for utilities in this budget,” Dr. Gilbertson said.

The budget proposes a nine percent increase in student financial aid “in part due to changes in federal programs which require the University to increase its ‘match’ for various federal allocations,” the president said. “This will not result in any more dollars being available for our students; it is simply a means of shifting the cost of these programs from the federal government to the University.”

Dr. Gilbertson also pointed out that the allocation for the Presidential Scholarship program will be increased to accommodate 18 more high school valedictorians and salutatorians who will join the University next year, bringing the total of Presidential Scholars to 68. This will require an increase of $89,000 in budgeted support for the program.

“While the state of Michigan has not been able to increase its support for public universities in either the current year or the year ahead, we have fared far better than our sister institutions in other states during these difficult years,” Dr. Gilbertson said.

“The fact is that a zero percent increase—without cuts—represents a very strong commitment from both the Executive and Legislative branches of State government.

“Michigan has actually risen in the rankings of the 50 states relative to support for public higher education during the past two years,” the president added. “We are grateful for this protection and the commitment it represents, but still costs have not stopped

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* Tuition and Fee rates received from Presidents Council.
Ranking represents tuition and fee cost in ascending order for Michigan Universities. (i.e., 1=lowest cost, 15=highest cost).
increasing for the University and revenues are needed to meet these increases.

"Accordingly, the entire increase in our revenues for the coming year must come from tuition and fees. We do expect some enrollment growth which will generate additional revenue. It will also, however, be necessary to increase the rates of our tuition and fees. This budget contemplates a 7.14 percent increase in tuition rates, together with increases in sundry other fees (e.g. general service fee, admissions application fee, various course and lab fees, etc.)."

PRAYER POLICY

By a five to three vote, the Board approved a resolution to include an invocation and benediction in commencement ceremonies. The resolution, proposed by George Ward, Robert Walpole, Ruth Braun, Judge Terry L. Clark and Elva Revilla, was introduced in the Board’s May 7 meeting and held over. The resolution states:

"Pursuant to the Free Speech and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment, it is the policy of the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University to include an invocation and a benediction on the program of commencement. We would request that the invocation and the benediction be nonsectarian and non-proselytizing in nature."

During deliberations, Board members expressed opposing views. Dr. Thomas Rush spoke at length, questioning the policy’s constitutionality and fairness as well as who and how many speakers should be allowed to lead commencement prayers. He also expressed the view that "a moment of silence carries a much greater sense of spirituality than does a spoken prayer."

Joining Rush to vote against the measure were Charles Curtiss and Donna Roberts.

In a prepared statement, Board Chairperson George Ward defended the resolution, quoting Abraham Lincoln’s remarks as he prepared to leave Springfield, Illinois to assume the Presidency and said that "In the real world of America, in times of transition and challenge, Americans—indeed all people—have always been led in public reflections of the universal relationship of creator-creature. It has both daunting and inspiring powers that solemnify as nothing else can. Why should we try to create a diminished campus-world divorced from this reality?"

"A good public invocation or benediction is not for the purpose of expressing any particular theological point of view. Its purpose is to add a little perspective and sense of community through a brief, solemn reminder that our lives are a gift and the cause is outside ourselves," Ward said.

President Gilbertson also expressed opposition to the resolution saying, "I do not believe that, in matters of religious faith, any majority should impose upon others practices and policies that it would not wish to have imposed upon itself, were the numbers reversed.

"True prayer is intensely personal. It is too important, too sacred to be recited perfunctorily in public ceremonies not assembled for that purpose." The president continued, "At our two most recent Commencements, we made provision for a ‘moment of silence’ in the ceremony—this to permit each individual to ‘find meaning in the occasion in his or her own way.’ The change in our practice was intentional and I accept full responsibility for it. I continue to believe this is the appropriate way to permit individuals to express their faith or just appreciate the meaning of the occasion in their lives."

The president concluded saying: "I believe, again, that prayer is too important to be used in this manner. I also believe that commencements are too important to divide people on this issue."

BOARD OF FELLOWS

In other action, the Board also reappointed five current members to the SVSU Board of Fellows. Reappointed were Bert W. Baker, vice president and treasurer of Bay Health Systems; George F. Ditzhazy, General Motors retiree; Willard B. Hunter, marketing research manager, Dow Plastics, Dow Chemical Company; Burnett S. Kelly, general manager, Medical Materials Commercial Unit, Dow Corning Corp.; and Richard A. Lounsberry, vice president, Commercial Loans, Second National Bank-Saginaw.

Before moving to Executive Session, Ms. Revilla told the Board she has asked the Governor not to reappoint her for another term.