



# THE INTERIOR

FOR SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES. CALL INFORMATION SERVICES AT 790-4055 WITH NEWS ITEMS

January 25, 1994

## Acclaimed Russian-Born Violinist to Perform at SVSU

Born in Russia to a family of outstanding violinists, Julia Bushkova has distinguished herself as an artist with a unique and charismatic stage presence. The campus community is invited to witness Bushkova's musical talents at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, January 29 in the University theatre. Admission is free.

Her appearance marks the season's second concert of the Rhea Miller Concert Series. The program will include the Tchaikovsky *Trio* for violin, cello and piano.

Bushkova, who began music lessons at age five, made her concert debut in Poland at age 15. While a student of Zinaida Gilels, she performed extensively in Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and throughout the Soviet Union. She has given solo performances in Moscow's Great Hall.

A graduate with highest honors from the Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Bushkova was a top prize winner in the Russian Federal Republic Competition, Bulgarian Recital Competition, William C. Byrd Competition and the International Bartok Festival.

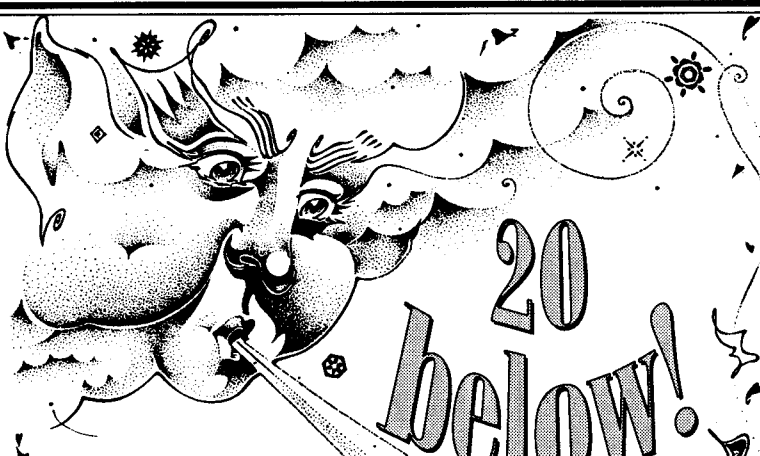
Before leaving the Soviet Union in 1987, Bushkova taught at the Gnessim College of Music and gave numerous recitals sponsored

by the Moscow Philharmonic Society. The renowned violinist Josef Gingold noted that Bushkova's "superb technique, beautiful tone and fine musical qualities are that of a born soloist. Julia is, in my opinion, a violin virtuoso of high rank."

Her former teacher, Igor Bezrodny, called Bushkova "a rare talent who can master compositions of the greatest difficulty and whose interpretations consistently show remarkable depth and originality."



Julia Bushkova

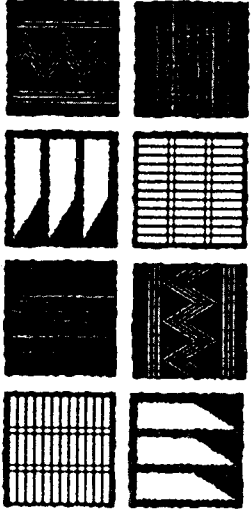


**20 below!**

For several days last week, the weather was the news as record sub-zero temperatures in mid-Michigan resulted in dead car batteries and frozen water pipes for many area residents. To cooperate with a Consumers Power Company effort to conserve natural gas, the SVSU campus was closed Thursday and Friday, Jan. 20-21. Regular operations on campus resumed Monday, Jan. 24 as temperatures climbed back into the low 30s.

**The annual State of the University address has been rescheduled for 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 3, 1994, in Marble Lecture Hall. Immediately following the address, refreshments will be served at a reception to be held in the registration area, first floor Wickes Hall. Later, a question and answer session will take place in Marble Lecture Hall.**

**SVSU  
African-American  
History Month '94**



**"Empowering Afro-American  
Organizations: Present and  
Future"**

Students, faculty and staff will participate in a month-long observance of Black History Month beginning Wednesday, Feb. 2. Residents from surrounding communities also are invited to participate in the events.

The calendar of events includes:

**FEB. 2  
OPENING**

Lower Level Doan Center, 10 a.m. - 12 noon  
Guest Speaker: Mr. Rex Nelson, Director of Community Relations and Player Programs for the Detroit Pistons.

**FEB. 7  
BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

University Theatre, 7:30 p.m.  
Brown's daughters chronicle their family's pivotal civil rights battle of the '60s.

**FEB. 8  
AFRICAN ART EXHIBIT**

Lower Level Doan Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Presenter: Art Smith, Saginaw Black Culture Alliance.

**FEB. 9, 16 & 23  
"I AM BECOMING" AFRICAN AMERICAN  
SELF-ESTEEM WORKSHOP**

Lower Level Doan Center, 10 a.m. - 12 noon  
Faculty and staff should advise interested students to sign up in the Office of Minority Services (Wickes 173) or SafeHaven (Wickes 117).

**FEB. 14  
MEET THE GREEK FRATERNITIES  
AND SORORITIES**

Alumni Lounge, 12 noon - 1:30 p.m.  
Faculty can announce to students that this is an informational session on the history of Greek fraternities and sororities on campus. Students from each organization will be present to answer questions.

**FEB. 21  
CLOSING RECEPTION**

Lower Level Doan Center, 5 - 7 p.m.  
Speaker to be announced. Reservations required; call ext. 5663.

For further information about any of these events, contact the Office of Minority Services at ext. 5663.

**Theatre Department Stages "The  
Good Doctor"**

The SVSU Department of Communication and Theatre will present *The Good Doctor*, a comedy with music by Neil Simon.

Performances will be held in the Theatre at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3, 4 and 5; a final show is set for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 6. For reservations and ticket information, call ext. 4492 or 5627.

**SVSU Art Faculty Exhibit Work in  
University Art Gallery**

Representing a wide variety of mediums and artistic styles, art department faculty works of art, which will be on display in the University Art Gallery Feb. 3-23, mirror the concerns of contemporary artists in America today.

The show will include pieces by Terry Basmadjian, Gary Bublitz, Sara Clark, Barron Hirsch, Hideki Kihata, Gayle Koehler, Paul Kowalski, David Littell, Marlene Pellerito, David Rayfield, Bruce Winslow and Matthew Zivich.

**There will be an opening reception from 3-5 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 9 in the gallery.** Refreshments will be served.

During the winter, the gallery will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1-5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays. For further information on this show, call ext. 4391.

**Library Conducts Internet Information Sessions**

The Zahnnow Library Reference Services staff is sponsoring a pair of information sessions for faculty and staff. The topic will be how the library is using the Internet (remote access to library catalogs, various databases, ListSrvs, Freenets, FTP and E-Mail). The first session starts at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 11. A repeat session will begin at 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 24. Anyone interested in attending should call Anita Dey, ext. 5635, or Scott Mellendorf, ext. 5634, to reserve a seat.

## Mark Your Calendar for Health Fair

"Health Yourself - 1994" will brighten up those dull February days while enabling you to learn more about your personal health and how to improve it. The two-day event will be held in Brown Concourse from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15 and Wednesday, Feb. 16. Admission is free of charge.

This year more than 20 community and campus agencies and groups will be available to provide information on the latest health issues and on your personal health status. You will be able to test the level of wellness of your heart and lungs, explore exercise and recreation options, check your blood pressure and blood glucose levels, learn stress management techniques, discover where to find help for drug addictions and domestic violence situations, and much more.

For further information, contact Health Services at ext. 4272.

## Volunteers Sought for Exercise Physiology Course Testing

While some courses require students to conduct research in the library, other courses offer people as research subjects.

The predicament for students in PHE 376 (Physiology of Exercise) is locating enough volunteers to complete their testing.

"We have a high demand for subjects considering there are three sections of this class being offered," said Eric Viele, a lab assistant in the Ryder Center Human Performance Laboratory.

"Each student must test five subjects to complete the research," Viele explained. "The testing will be of a volunteer nature, with each subject's scores being held totally confidential."

Among the tests being administered by the students are Hydrostatic Weighing (underwater method for determining body composition); Isokinetic Leg Strength Test (measurement of strength ratios between the quadriceps and hamstrings); Wingate Bike Test (for anaerobic power and capacity); the Maximal Oxygen Consumption Test ( $VO_2$  max); and the P-170 Bicycle Test.

Individuals who are interested in participating in the tests should call the Human Performance Lab, ext. 7319 and leave their name and phone number with the lab assistant. Hours for the lab are 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 to 5 p.m. on Mondays; 12 noon to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays; 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays.

The instructor for the course, Jennifer Bridges, also is available to answer questions at ext. 7324.

## Campus Happenings

- The next **Voices in the Valley** series presentation will feature Ellen Bryant Voigt, who will read from her works of poetry, at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 9 in Zahnow Student Lounge.
- Renowned folksong writer and singer **Tom Paxton** will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 10 in the University Theatre. For ticket information, call ext. 4170.
- The **Valley Film Society** will screen *City of Women* (Italy: Federico Fellini, 1981) at 7:45 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11 in the theatre.

## Across Campus

- The campus community extends sincerest condolences to the family of Charles T. Brown, professor of music, who passed away January 11, 1994. A memorial service was held Thursday, Jan. 20 at St. Boniface Church in Bay City. Memorials may be sent to the St. Boniface Church Development Fund or to the SVSU Foundation for a scholarship fund in memory of Brown.

## THE OLLENDORFF



From the Collection of  
Monica Ollendorff, Reference Librarian

**On display in the Wickes Showcase January 19 - February 14**  
Ollendorff's dolls are gifts from her late father, Henry, who traveled around the world on business. The displayed dolls represent two-thirds of her collection.

## Professional Profile

- **Barron Hirsch**, professor of art, has been asked to serve as a presenter in the Living Arts program at the Saginaw Center for the Arts and Sciences. He has discussed his work and lectured to 200 students on the development of his paintings from the Mexican series.
- **Norma Zivich**, director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, recently was elected as vice president for program for the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE). **Zivich** has been a board member since 1993, serving as secretary.

## High Five

- The SVSU men's basketball team reclaimed a share of first place in the GLIAC with a 70-64 victory over Northern Michigan University on Saturday. Brandon Asher, a 6-foot-6, 220-

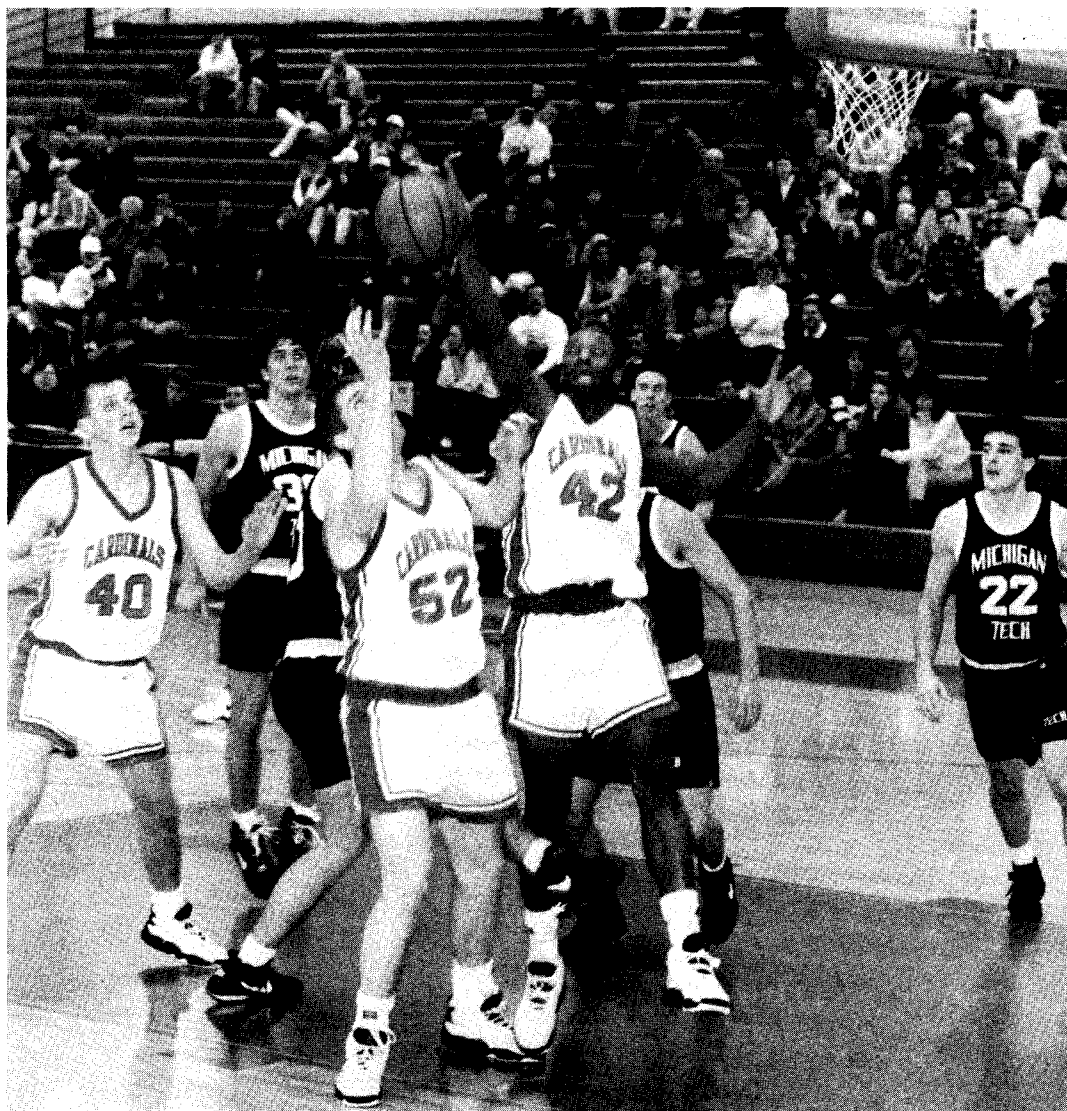
pound center poured in 21 points and added nine rebounds in the game. Forward Kevin Hankerson chipped in 15 points and nine rebounds. SVSU hosts 6-3 Oakland University this Saturday in a battle for sole possession of first place. Game time is 3 p.m. in O'Neill Arena.

- The women's basketball team had one of its best offensive outings Saturday as the Lady Cards dismantled visiting Northern Michigan 93-61. Senior center Char Oesterling made 9 of 15 shots, 4 of 6 from the 3-point line and 4 of 4 from the free-throw line for her game high 26 points. She also had eight rebounds. The Wildcats, usually a high-scoring team, were held to their lowest point total in two seasons. SVSU's 4-5 league record is good enough to contend for one of four post-season GLIAC playoff spots. Oakland University comes calling in O'Neill Arena this Saturday at 1 p.m.

The next meeting of the 4th Friday Club is Jan. 28 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the President's reception area, third floor Wickes Hall.

Everyone is welcome.

**CLEANING THE GLASS —** Senior forward Kevin Hankerson (42) goes up for a rebound during a game last week against Michigan Tech University. Freshman forward Brian Paluk (40) and senior center Paul Abenth (52) also have rebound position. The Cards won the game, 96-83.





# STAFF MEMBER

## OF THE MONTH

### John Plachta

Programmer/  
Analyst,  
Computer  
Services

February 1994

As a high school student, John Plachta found computer games intriguing. Eventually that early addiction led to a degree and then a career in computer information systems.

"I found it interesting to figure out how things worked and how I could create something using a computer," he says. "I decided to try pursuing this interest in college, and it has worked out pretty well."

A native of Standish, Plachta wanted to attend a nearby college rather than leaving home to attend a large school. He picked SVSU over Northwood because the new buildings (Brown, Zahnow and the Science Building) were nearing completion when he enrolled in 1986.

Plachta worked in SVSU's Computer Services department as a part-time student employee, and was hired full time in October of 1989. He holds a B.S. in Computer Information Systems from SVSU.

Among the full-time programmer/analysts providing support to administrative units, Plachta works with Scholarships and Student Financial Aid, the Admissions Office, and Institutional Research. He helps staff in those areas learn how to use the "Query" language

to create reports or extract information they need from the data on the central MIS. If needs are more complex, Plachta will create a program to produce and organize the needed information.

When SVSU shifted to the new management information system two years ago, Plachta wrote programs that converted some of the student data from the old system to the new. "There were about 14,000 student records to convert," he notes.

Shifting to the new MIS entailed learning a new computer language, Information/BASIC, which Plachta describes as "an enhanced version of BASIC for the PC." SVSU's previous system used COBOL.

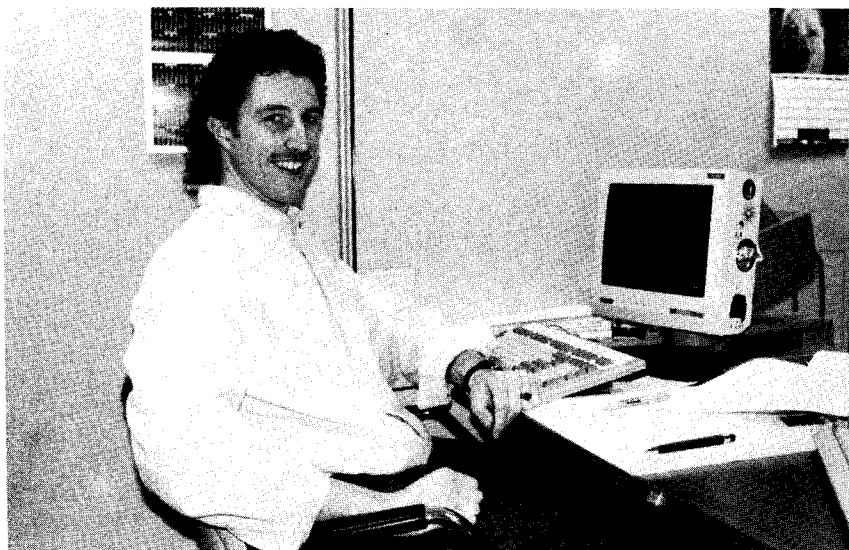
More recently, Plachta has rearranged the award letters sent to notify students of their financial aid allocations. "I also work a lot with the Pell Grant area," he says, "making sure all amounts balance."

Plachta notes that the new system did not contain a module specifically designed for Institutional Research. "I was able to develop programs for that, and I've also written four programs to provide information for the cost study the office is required to do."

Plachta says he enjoys working with different departments. "Sometimes I have work going with all three at once. I like the diversity of that. I especially enjoyed working with the cost study and learned a lot from that."

At home, Plachta still plays an occasional game on his PC, but is more likely to use its capabilities to catalog his collection of CDs and sheet music. He plays the guitar "just for fun" and also likes racquetball and golf — "although golf can be frustrating."

And he's looking forward to May 28, when he will wed Michelle Rexius. The pair met on campus, where Rexius is completing the final few courses for a bachelor's degree.





# INNER VIEW

FEATURING FACULTY OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

## Stepping Out in Style

When he's not in a conventional classroom teaching people, Ken Wahl is likely to be found in an arena instructing horses. Both professions are lifelong interests for Wahl.

"I have loved horses all my life," Wahl says. "My father raised Shetlands (ponies) when I was born. I believe he had one of the first Shetlands in Michigan that was imported from the Shetland Islands."

Thus, Wahl got an early introduction to the world of horse shows. "Right from childhood I did a lot with the ponies; I used to go to the county fairs."

Wahl's professional teaching career also started early—at age 19. "I bought a horse the first year that I taught school," he notes, "and I always have had horses."

The Wahl stable includes three breeds; four when you count a pony that is double-registered as a Hackney and a Pinto. In addition to the Hackneys, there are Shetlands and Morgans. It's obvious that horses are a family affair and that Wahl is particularly proud of his sons' achievements.

"The boys developed a real love for horses," he says. They grew up helping Ken and his wife, Mary, take horses on the show circuit and, in Ken's opinion, have surpassed their parents in show skills.



"They gave up their amateur status really young and went professional and have done very well in the national shows. Our younger son, Mark (enrolled at SVSU), concentrates in the English saddle classes, and our older son, Mike (a senior at Northwood), does Western."

Wahl explains that they board and train several horses, mainly Morgans and Arabians, in addition to caring for their own. The Wahls' Linwood arena is equipped with lights and a lounge, so the younger Wahls can alternate training sessions with studies for their college courses.

"It takes a tremendous amount of consistent training (to prepare a horse for competition)," Wahl says. Each horse is worked five or six times a week.

Each year the Wahls enter horses in some of the regional shows to prepare for the stiffer competition in the nationals. Over the years they have accumulated an impressive number of ribbons and trophies, some won by horses they own and others by horses they have trained. "We start right after school is out in the spring and continue through the national shows in October," he says.

Ask Wahl if he has a favorite among the horses he has owned, and he's likely to tell you "Knight's Happy Dutchman." He describes Dutchman as a "small, but powerful" spotted Hackney who is capable of "moving so high—he can really strut. He has won five national championships."

Now about 19 years old, in his heyday Dutchman was so popular that he drew standing ovations at the shows. "At Ohio they would book him in for the six o'clock show because the crowd liked to see him," Wahl says. He estimates that the Ohio show is the second largest regional in the U.S.

Competition in the show ring prods breeders and trainers to strive for constant improvement, and Wahl believes that "horses are getting better and better."

