June 27, 1995

Acclaimed Author of African-American Children’s Books Visits SVSU

“I like to write books for folks age nine through 99, and I like to write about African-Americans so that readers of all colors can get a truer viewpoint of who we are, and how

Fallon Accepts WPC Presidency

John A. Fallon, vice president for public affairs, will be leaving SVSU to accept an appointment as president of William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa. William Penn is a small liberal arts, Quaker-affiliated college. Fallon will become its 24th president when he assumes the post in August.

Now in his eighth year at SVSU, Fallon has held a series of increasingly responsible positions, the last six as vice president. In this capacity, he has been responsible for enrollment management, admissions and financial aid, community and public relations, development, marketing research, continuing education, government relations, alumni relations, business outreach and conference activities. He has served on numerous University committees and several task forces.

In announcing Fallon’s resignation, President Eric Gilbertson said, “John Fallon is a person of extraordinary talent and determination, as well as extraordinary decency and integrity. We are deeply grateful for his many important contributions, and we will feel a special pride in the successes that William Penn College will surely achieve with this leadership.”

important our history, past and present, is to America and the world.”

The words are those of Eleanora E. Tate, award-winning author of children’s books. Not only has her work received critical acclaim, but one of her books, Just an Overnight Guest, was converted to an award-winning, made-for-television movie. Another book, The Secret of Gumbo Grove, was published as a play in 1993.

A graduate of Drake University’s School of Journalism, Tate worked as a reporter for the Iowa Bystander, a weekly black newspaper, as well as the Des Moines Register and Tribune newspapers. Other books she has authored include Thank You, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Retold African Myths: Front Porch Stories at the One-Room School and her most recent book, A Blessing in Disguise.

Tate’s June 21-22 visit was the result of a cooperative arrangement between the Office of Multicultural Programs and four area school districts—Buena Vista, Midland, Saginaw and Saginaw Township Community Schools.

Born in Canton, Missouri, Tate now lives in Morehead City, North Carolina with her husband, Zack Hamlett III.

Eleanora Tate discusses her writing style with students in teacher education courses taught by Elaine Stephens and Jean Brown.
SVSU Grad Receives $25,000 Milken National Educator Award

Frank Miracola, a 1984 master’s degree graduate of SVSU, recently received a $25,000 award from the Milken Family Foundation during a three-day education conference in Los Angeles.

A teacher at Armada Elementary School in Armada, Michigan, Miracola was among 150 recipients of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards. Announcement of the unrestricted prize originally was made last October when Robert E. Schiller, state superintendent of public instruction, surprised Miracola and four other Michigan educators with word of their selection for the awards.

The Macomb County teacher’s skills were brought to the attention of the State Department of Education for “extensive and innovative use of computers in the classrooms, including linking his class, via e-mail, with students in Italy.”

Co-sponsored in Michigan by the State Board of Education, the program is designed to give public recognition and financial reward for outstanding teachers, principals and other education professionals. Michigan is among 30 states taking part in the program and has participated for the past five years.

Brothers Michael and Lowell Milken are co-founders of the foundation. A total of $3.75 million was awarded to outstanding educators during the conference.

Women to View Internet to “Think Globally and Act Locally”

An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 women are expected to attend the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women September 4 through 15 in Beijing, China. Discussions are taking place now on the Internet and in other forums planning for the conference and bearing upon related international issues.

A presentation designated to acquaint mid-Michigan women and women’s organizations with the workings of the Internet and the World Wide Web is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, July 13 in the Marble Lecture Hall.

Johanna Frohm, academic services staff training coordinator at Delta College, will provide an overview of the Internet. The presentation will offer different types of information, including discussion lists, newsletters, digests and home pages.

The program is sponsored by SVSU faculty interested in women’s studies, in cooperation with the offices of the deans of the colleges of Arts and Behavioral Sciences, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, and Education; and by the Zonta Clubs of Saginaw and Midland.
Professional Profile

• Three faculty members in the Department of Management/Marketing presented papers and a workshop at the 5th Michigan Regional Organizational Behavior Teaching Conference sponsored by Eastern Michigan University.


  Robert Cheek, associate professor of management, presented two papers titled “An Integrated Approach to Capstone a Course for Professional Commencement” and “Acculturation of Effective Training Methods for Republic of China Learners.”

  Gail Sype, assistant professor of management, presented a workshop on “Teaching Cultural Diversity: A Report from the Field” with Linda Wicander, Central Michigan University, and Marie McKendall, Grand Valley State University.

• Diane Krider, assistant professor of communication and theatre, presented a paper titled “The Experience of Women in a Public Relations Firm: A Phenomenological Explication” (second author, Peter Ross, Central Michigan University) at the Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association, May 25-29 in Albuquerque. This paper was ranked the number one competitive paper and was presented on the Top Three Competitive Paper Session. Krider also presented a second paper titled “The Intercultural Dimensions of Organizational Communication Textbooks: A Review and Critique” (first author, Peter Ross, Central Michigan University) at the same conference.

• Thomas Renna, professor of history, read a paper titled “Love and Pain in the Writings of Late Medieval Women Mystics” at the 5th Congresso Internazionale di Studi Sulle Utopie, held May 22-27 in Rome, Napes and Macerata, Italy. Renna presented his paper on May 23.

Did You Know?...

• The University will be closed Tuesday, July 4 to observe Independence Day. Classes will be held Monday, July 3 and Wednesday, July 5, and the University will be open for business as usual on these days.

• Ryder Center will be closed during the July 4th weekend.

• Faculty and staff members are invited to serve as mentors to freshman students. Mentors are asked to contact “student protégés” twice a month by phone or in person. Attendance at four luncheons also is a program requirement. Mentor applications are due by July 15. For an application and/or further information, contact the Office of Academic and Student Support, 120 Wickes Hall, ext. 4070.

• Members of the campus community are invited to join in a fund-raising effort to pay $1600 in travel expenses for Jean Baptiste Munyandambi, a visiting lecturer from Rwanda who will teach African Literature and Literature Interpretation at SVSU during the 1995-96 academic year. Those wishing to make a contribution should send a check, made payable to the SVSU Foundation, to Phyllis Hastings, 319 Science Building.

SVSU Colors and Logo Rides the Rails with Huron and Eastern

A 1,200 horsepower diesel locomotive owned by the Huron and Eastern Railroad currently is being prepared for a new coat of paint. Huron and Eastern is making repairs to the 35-year-old locomotive and recently began painting the engine with the logo and bright red and blue colors of SVSU. When complete sometime in August, the engine will be named the “Village of Richville” and also will bear the number 121.

“When painting is complete, the engine will undergo further mechanical repair and rehabilitation to assure that it’s in good working order,” according to Phillip Kus, chief mechanical officer for the railroad.

“It had been sitting for several years in a field in Tennessee and was going to be scrapped before we bought it. It was one of the last engines of its kind built by General Motors,” Kus said.

For additional information about the locomotive, please contact Ralph Iden, director of communications, Huron and Eastern Railroad at (517) 269-9519.
Accent on Alumni

- Three of the ten teachers recently accorded the “Crystal Apple” award by The Saginaw News hold degrees from SVSU. Alma Cooke, third grade teacher at Handley School in Saginaw, earned an M.A.T. in 1989. Thomas Hardy, who teaches humanities at White Pine Middle School in Saginaw Township, holds a B.A. in English and an M.A.T. Phyllis Steele, fifth grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary School, received a B.A. from SVSU. The Crystal Apple award recognizes outstanding teachers who are nominated by their students. Winners are selected by a panel of judges.

- Amy Weidenfeller was appointed as a software consultant for Rehmann Robson & Co., Saginaw. She holds a bachelor’s in business administration.

- James M. Aspin, C.P.A. and a 1987 grad, joined Stone Transport, Saginaw, as controller.
The Far Side cartoon hanging on John Flores’ desk shows a picture of an 1880s cowboy riding a horse that has short, squat legs. The caption below the picture reads “Juan cruises through town on history’s first low-rider.”

While Flores sees the lighter side to one aspect of Hispanic culture, he also is devoted to helping minority students succeed in college and beyond.

As coordinator of the Michigan College and University Partnership (MICUP) program, Flores is responsible for assisting minority students who transfer to SVSU after finishing their associate’s degree at Delta College.

“Half of my day on Monday through Thursday is spent at Delta where I focus more on recruitment,” Flores said. “Here at SVSU, I focus more on the retention rate of students in the program.”

Flores personally meets with students who have a C- or lower grade point average to determine what can be done to raise the student’s GPA back to about a B average.

Flores was a natural choice for his position, since he completed an associate’s degree from Delta in 1987, then transferred to SVSU where he earned his B.B.A. in accounting in 1990.

Following graduation, he happened to be looking for job openings in SVSU’s Placement Office when he learned of an opening in the Minority Services Office.

“Actually, coming from Delta and experiencing the transfer process made me jump at the offer,” Flores said. “I thought that was something I’d be really interested in—working with people.

“To me, it’s exciting to see students who are coming from a very dependent state of working with high school counselors, teachers and parents to where now they have to be more accountable and responsible for their actions.

“To help students develop, succeed, accomplish their goals and eventually graduate is something I really enjoy about my job,” Flores said.

In addition to his work with the MICUP program, Flores serves on numerous campus committees. Among them are the All-University Freshman Retention Committee, the Minority Student Outreach Committee, the Student Affairs Professional Development Committee, the Bilingual Advisory Committee, the Hispanic Heritage Month Planning Committee and the Recognition Scholarship Selection Committee.

Flores serves as advisor to the Student Alliance for Latino Support Activities (SALSA) and as treasurer for the Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education. He also works with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

An intensive recruiting effort at Delta has increased the number of students in the MICUP program from 135 before the campaign to more than 460. Approximately 60 SVSU students presently are participating in the program. Flores estimates that 29 students have graduated with bachelor’s degrees since 1990 as a result of their participation in the program.

“With this job, you can’t get bored. Each person who walks through the door is an individual with his or her own set of circumstances and factors that make that person unique. That keeps me fresh,” Flores said.

In his spare time, Flores spends time with his son, Anthony, who just turned three years old.
Tap into Lynn Herkstroeter’s voice mail, and you’ll be greeted in the two languages she teaches before you hear her message in English. It’s also her subtle way of letting you know that French is her primary foreign language.

“People often think my primary language is German, but my doctorate is in French,” she says. “For instance, I know more about French literature because of my graduate school study.”

She says her first interest in languages grew out of her home environment. “Both my parents were German immigrants, so I grew up around German-speaking people. When I was 10 I was put into a gifted program, and French was the only foreign language offered, so I started studying it at an early age.”

She notes that her parents came from different parts of Germany with different dialects, so they had to speak high German to each other. That exposure gave her more versatility with the language.

Herkstroeter began teaching at SVSU in 1973. She says interest in foreign languages seems to be on the rise. “There is quite a large increase in the beginning level, but we have larger enrollments all over,” she says. “Some students use foreign language for filling the General Education requirements.”

She sees the trend as a positive step. “A lot of people think they don’t have to learn a foreign language because others will learn English. That is a very arrogant attitude. As Paul Simon said, ‘You can buy in any language, but if you want to sell you need to speak the language of the country.’ It puts people at a disadvantage if you are not willing to learn their language.”

As is the case in many fields, Herkstroeter is finding that technology is having an impact on teaching methods. “I’ve had access to the Internet since fall 1994. It’s quite time-consuming, but it’s worth it when you find these wonderful things,” she says.

Recently she discovered the program schedule for the international channel (TV), which carries French-language programs, among others. “Now Sarah Braddock and I know what’s being broadcast when; before it was kind of haphazard.”

She tapes the programs she wants to use for class. “I run them three times: once without sound so the students notice visual cues; the second time with sound, and the third time with questions in advance so students are looking for things. They seem to learn best that way.”

Herkstroeter notes that audio tapes have been used for some time and still are an important teaching tool. The Internet provides additional resources. “We get news from the French embassy three times a week on the Internet, for example,” she says.

CD-ROMs offer another teaching aid. “They have both text and spoken words. I’m hoping to have money to buy a library of CDs.”

Not surprisingly, travel to Europe ranks high on Herkstroeter’s list of leisure activities. “I’ve been there about eight times. I really enjoy going to countries where I speak the language. You get to know the people on a very different level than as a tourist.”

She also practices T’ai Chi, a form of Chinese exercise “similar to dance and somewhat meditative.”
June 19, 1995

Control Board Authorizes Public School Academy in Traverse Bay Area, Approves 4.03% Budget Increase for FY-96 and Okays Borrowing $1.2 Million to Continue Energy Saving Projects

Under provisions of legislation enacted by the Michigan Legislature enabling the establishment of public school academies, the Board of Control approved plans to establish the Traverse Bay Community School. The academy expects to begin classes in September, 1996.

The approval marks the first contract offered by SVSU’s governing body to an organization wishing to operate a public school academy. The contract has yet to be signed by the Chair of the SVSU Board of Control, as the authorizing body, and representatives of Traverse Bay Community School. Traverse Bay will have seven to nine members on its Board of Directors who will directly oversee and be responsible for the operation of the school.

Michael Farley, organizer of the Traverse Bay Community School initiative, said, “Five members already have agreed to serve on the board and both the Traverse City School Board and Grand Traverse County ISD Board are supportive of the academy concept.

“The academy will operate to help students develop personal responsibility for their education. All parties see creation of the academy as a mutually beneficial partnership,” according to Farley.

Farley said he is attempting to purchase a 400-acre site approximately 12 miles from Traverse City that formerly served as a nursing care facility. If approved, Farley said the academy will serve approximately 90 students in a 20-mile radius.

The Board also approved a 4.03 percent increase in the University’s operating budget for fiscal year 1996 to $36.16 million. The increase includes a 3.6 percent increase in the state appropriation of $18.487 million, and a 5.04 percent increase in tuition and fees of $827,000.

Undergraduate courses will cost $97.05 per credit hour, up from $92.80 in fiscal year 1995.

General service fees will be $8.10 per credit hour, up from $7.30. Fees for undergraduate professional courses will increase from $99.70 to $106.20 per credit hour.

The Board approved expenditure of up to $1.4 million for energy reduction projects and authorized the University to borrow up to $1.2 million to continue work on energy saving projects around campus. Among the projects to be undertaken is replacement of all magnetic ballasts in interior fluorescent lights with electronic ballasts. The conversion is expected to reduce wattage used by 40 percent and save approximately $80,000 per year.

The 49 exhaust fans in the Science Building and four in Pioneer Hall will be re-engineered for greater efficiency. In Wickes Hall, supply and retention fans will have new controls installed that will enable them to be shut down at night. Exit lights in buildings across campus will have new elements installed that will extend their operating life from 3,000 hours to around 30 years. Consumers Power Company and the U.S. Department of Energy are expected to provide grants to help defray the costs of the projects.

Energy saving projects already completed include replacement of all exterior lighting and installation of a chiller loop in Wickes Hall. Savings realized by installation of more energy-efficient equipment is expected to repay the note within four years.

In other action, the Board approved reappointment of Mrs. D. Eugene Thompson (Anne) and Mr. Don Cargill and appointment of Mr. Richard Strickland and Dr. Judith Kerman to the Board of Directors of The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Gallery.

President Gilbertson and members of the Planning Task Force gave an oral report on the recently completed document, “Constancy to Purpose.”