Math Resource Center Opens

SVSU students have a new source of help for alleviating attacks of math anxiety. Monday, Oct. 23 marked the opening of the new Math Resource Center in Pioneer Library, located on the second floor of Pioneer Hall.

The Center is a key element in an expanded student support system in mathematics at SVSU, according to Tom Kullgren, dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

"Our goal is to improve student success in mathematics and consequently increase retention," Kullgren said. "We want to raise the student success rate in math without compromising standards."

The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday each week when classes are in session. Two professional tutors will assist students in Math 081, 082, most of the 100-level courses, and 261 and 262, Kullgren said. Help in some courses may be limited to certain hours until the new center is in full operation, he said.

Marcella M. Lachance and Robert E. Rynberg will head the instructional efforts. Lachance, a Midland resident, holds a B.A. in mathematics with a minor in secondary education. She has taught at schools in St. Louis (MO) and has tutored math for intermediate and high school students in Midland.

Rynberg holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics. He also has high school teaching experience, as well as tutoring experience.

Tutoring will be offered on a walk-in basis. The Pioneer Hall location was chosen for its close proximity to classrooms.

Robert E. Rynberg and Marcella M. Lachance will head instructional efforts in the new Math Resource Center in Pioneer Library, located on the second floor of Pioneer Hall.
Wall Street Whiz Next Forecasting Forum Speaker

The principal speaker at the Second Annual First of America Bank/SVSU Economic Forecasting Forum will be Laura Pederson, a financial consultant and author.

Pederson became a millionaire at the age of 22, four years after taking an entry-level job on the American Stock Exchange. Within that period she was promoted to a full-fledged options trader. At 20, she was the youngest person in stock market history to get a seat on the ASE and by 21 was a partner in a Wall Street firm.

She also has authored two books, *Play Money: My Brief But Brilliant Career on Wall Street* and *Street Smart Career Guide: A Step-by-Step Program for Career Development*.

The forum will begin at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2 in O’Neill Arena. A reception will follow Pederson’s presentation.

Jazz Flutist to Appear at SVSU

Master flutist Galen Abdur-Razzaq will be the featured performer in the next King/Chavez/Parks (KCP) Series sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Abdur-Razzaq also studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He has been performing, arranging, composing, directing and instructing for more than 25 years.

In addition to making visits to SVSU classes where he will discuss the history of jazz; Abdur-Razzaq will perform for the campus community at 12 noon Tuesday, Nov. 7 in Marble Lecture Hall. Admission is free of charge.

Cardinal Marching Band Holds Annual Indoor Concert

The SVSU Cardinal Marching Band will present its 20th annual indoor concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8 in the University Theatre.

Music from the band’s football halftime shows will be featured. Among the selections are music from *Star Trek*, *The Lion King*, several big band classics and *The Land of Make Believe*, a Chuck Mangione hit.

Complimentary tickets are available to SVSU faculty and staff. To request tickets in advance, contact the Department of Music at ext. 4159.

Award-Winning Novelist Joan Bauer to Speak at SVSU

Award-winning novelist Joan Bauer will discuss the role and importance of humor in fiction during a visit to SVSU on Monday, Oct. 30. Her talk begins at 4:30 p.m. in Doan Center.


Bauer will be signing books during a reception following her lecture. *Squashed* and *Thwonk* will be on sale in the SVSU Bookstore. Admission to the lecture is free of charge. For more information contact Jean Brown, ext. 4073, Elaine Stephens, ext. 4317 or Norma Zivich, ext. 4075.

SVSU “Extravaganza” Offers Fun and Education for Kids

“If you choose to accept this assignment, it will be your job to figure out which pen, if any, was used to write the ransom note.”

That’s among the challenges being thrown out to area students in grades 4 through 10 by organizers of the November 11 Science and Mathematics Extravaganza for Kids at SVSU. The session on Crime Lab Chemistry is one of the many choices students will have when they spend a Saturday on the SVSU campus. The crime lab session asks them to use scientific methods to assist police in determining who might have written a ransom note on plain white paper.

“Children who participate in the Extravaganza will have a fun-filled and exciting day, experiencing hands-on math and science activities here on campus,” said Walter Rathkamp, director of SVSU’s Center for Science and Mathematics Education. “We are looking forward to this day as an opportunity to provide area students with the best in hands-on math and science.”

Students can register for three separate sessions, each an hour and 15 minutes in length, that will be scheduled between 9 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. The $15 registration fee covers all three sessions, plus lunch and materials.

For more information contact Rathkamp at ext. 4114. Registrations will be accepted through October 27. Space is limited.
Michigan Universities Hold Charter Schools Information Conference

A two-day conference is expected to help lay groundwork for statewide development of additional high quality charter schools by the fall of 1996. SVSU, Central Michigan University and Grand Valley State University will conduct the conference beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, and continuing through noon Friday, Nov. 3 at McGuire’s Resort in Cadillac.

Also participating in the conference as presenters will be representatives of the Michigan Partnership for New Education, the Michigan State Department of Education and the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

The conference, “The American Charter School: A National Phenomenon that Responds to a Michigan Need,” is expected to focus on the history of the charter school movement and steps that must be taken to develop a successful charter school in the State of Michigan. Other presentation topics include a national overview of the charter school movement, success stories of three Michigan charter schools now established as public school academies, application procedures at SVSU, CMU and GVSU, legal issues and more.

Heading the list of representatives from SVSU will be Wayne Vasher, director of school-university partnerships. “We want to introduce people to the process of planning, making application for and receiving a charter,” Vasher says.

The cost of the conference, which is limited to 100 participants, is $25. For additional information contact Vasher at ext. 4195.

Room Service Opens Nov. 3 at SVSU

It has been called "one of the greatest comedies of all time." A pretty strong endorsement considering all the comedies produced through the ages. But Room Service, with its variety of frantically comic roles by Allen and John Murray, stands among the best.

The story involves an unconventional producer living with several of his actors in a Broadway hotel that is managed by his brother-in-law. Chaos ensues as the producer dodges creditors, appeases a naive playwright and struggles desperately to hold onto a potential investor.

Cast members include Shawn Adrian, Ken Anderson, Ric Roberts, Mark Harbec, Jerry Dennis, Steve Levine, Aimee Thompson, Matt LeMay, Kristine Ferrio, Eric Wielinski, Kirk Bovee, Jared Hautamaki and Jerry Butzyn.

The play opens at the SVSU Theatre Friday, November 3 at 8 p.m. and runs November 4, 10 and 11, also at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m., November 5 and 12. Faculty and staff may request complimentary tickets by calling ext. 4492.

Professional Profile


- Barron Hirsch, professor of art, will have a one-person exhibition of his paintings at the Start Gallery in Birmingham from Oct. 24 through Nov. 21. He will give a talk from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 28 in which he will discuss his work and its relation to the Mexican Celebration of Day of the Dead. The Start Gallery is at 211 N. Woodward Avenue. The event is open to the public.

Have You Heard?

• The Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Gallery had a triple-digit attendance day on Oct. 12—its first since May. Average daily attendance is about 33, with annual attendance averaging about 10,000.

• Faculty interested in teaching at Shikoku University in Tokushima, Japan, for summer 1996 should contact the Office of International Programs, ext. 4473, for information about applying to the program. Application deadline is Nov. 7.

• Bay Valley Hotel and Resort will host a College Night reception for Delta and SVSU faculty and staff from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7. Complimentary refreshments and hors d’oeuvres will be served. RSVP to Bay Valley by Nov. 3, 686-3540.

Across Campus

• The campus community extends sincerest condolences to the family of Michael D. Fettig, an SVSU freshman art major from Saginaw, who passed away recently. Funeral services took place Oct. 6.

Transitions

Please note the following personnel changes in your Faculty/Staff Directory Addendum:

SVSU WELCOMES ..........................

• Virginia Hansen, school tour coordinator, Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Gallery, ext. 5637

• Marcella Lachance, tutor, Math Resource Center, ext. 4144

• Michell Miscisin, residence halls director, ext. 4258

• Robert Rynberg, tutor, Math Resource Center, ext. 4144

• Amy Willman, police officer, Public Safety, ext. 4120

SAME FACE, NEW PLACE .......................... 

• Tamie Grunow, personnel assistant, ext. 4108

• Jeanné Kraysier, coordinator, Children’s Center, 753-8631

THEY’RE MOVING ON ..........................

• Ralph Coppola, director, Sponsored Programs

• Heather David, GIS computer operator

• Sandy Madison, administrative secretary, Sponsored Programs

• Peggy Protage, personnel assistant

Campus Happenings

• Humanities Lecture Series—7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, Ruben Daniels Lifelong Learning Center. Charles Hoover will present “The French Connection.” Admission is free.

• S.E.X. Week—1:30, 7 and 10 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, Lower Level Doan Center. The Western Michigan University “Foreplayers” will present a series of skits about relationships, alcohol and substance abuse, sexual assault, etc.

• S.E.X. Week—12 noon Wednesday, Oct. 25, Lower Level Doan Center. Colleen Stahl will discuss “Child Molestation: Protection for Students and Teachers.”


• Night at the Cinema—7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, Marble Lecture Hall. Dunm and Dumber will be screened. Free admission.

• Racism Weekend Workshop—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5. A free workshop in Lower Level Doan Center to discuss racial issues.

• Festival of Unity—6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, Lower Level Doan Center. “Voices of Unity” will perform. Refreshments served.

High Five

• Women’s Track—Andrea Kieser was named to the United States Track Coaches Association 1995 Outdoor Track & Field All Academic Team. She was the only woman from a Division II school in Michigan to receive the award.

• Men’s Cross Country—finished third at the GLIAC Championships at Katke Golf Course in Big Rapids.

• Volleyball (16-11, 4-8)—lost to Michigan Tech on Saturday but defeated Lake Superior State on Friday.

• Tennis (3-8)—routed Northwood 7-2 on Friday.

• Football (5-2, 5-2)—defeated Indianapolis 42-6 on Saturday. The Cardinals overcame a slow start offensively to total 414 yards of offense in the game.

WICKES SHOWCASE, through November 1995

THE INTERIOR 4 OCTOBER 24, 1995
When John Curry came to SVSU in October 1975, he felt that he had found a home.

"Saginaw Valley just fit," he says. "The people here were just really great to work with, from (then) President Jack Ryder right to the students. There was team spirit here."

In the ensuing 20 years, Curry has done more than his fair share to keep that team spirit afloat. He’s known around campus for his humor, and even on the busiest day finds time for chatting with faculty, staff and students who come to Doan Cafe for a snack or a meal.

Curry says he got into the food service field by accident. "I was waiting to get into a college co-op program with Bethlehem Steel," he says. "I was interested in a career in mechanical drawing."

While waiting for the semester to begin, Curry took what he thought would be a temporary job with Szabo Food Service. "Initially I worked at the Western Electric plant," he says. "Then I was asked to go to Fairfield University (CN) as night manager for their food service."

"I had nothing to lose, so I accepted. Once I got into that, I was hooked. There went the mechanical drawing," he laughs.

Despite an occasional rough day, Curry says he’s never regretted his decision. He particularly enjoys the human relations aspects of food service, he says. But he also appreciates the variety that comes with the career.

"The fun thing about the job is that it has just about every aspect of business. You create; you take a raw product and turn it into a menu. You have to price the items so they are affordable, but still recover the cost of producing them.

"Then you have to market your product, and provide service. When you have those things in hand, you also devote time to staff training. And you also must find time for public relations, such as providing fun activities for students to help them cope with the winter doldrums."

Curry notes that the renovation of Doan Center has brought many improvements, but acknowledges that it caused him some worry (John worried—picture that) before it opened. "Everything was changing," he explains. "I wondered if we could do it." Eventually, he developed a support system among his colleagues, and was able to find people who could offer tips for every situation.

Response to the food court has been excellent, he says. "Now we don’t get complaints; we get suggestions. ‘Could you add this, or would you try that.’ Students enjoy the choices they have.

"Last year our biggest challenge was getting commuter students into the Cafe. This year our cash sales are up 25% and everyone is beginning to realize that Doan isn’t just for dorm students."

The next big challenge will be the opening of West Complex with its conferencing facilities. John plans to lean on his support system again if he needs advice. "I’ll have to have the Cafe running like a top and turn that over to an assistant manager," he says.

John and his wife, Pat, are Bay City residents. They have two sons, and one of them is following in Dad’s footsteps—he’s assistant manager at the Texan in Bay City.
Rainbows
and
Writing

Life for Carlos Ramet has been a rainbow blend of cultures and experiences.

The son of a Spanish father and Austrian mother, Ramet was born in England, but grew up in the U.S. As a high school student, he spent a year in Mexico as part of a student exchange program.

Later he taught for Indiana University through their overseas program in Malaysia. While there he met his wife, who is Malaysian/Chinese.

"Planning family gatherings for the holidays is a challenge," he smiles. "We have relatives in three different countries."

Given his background, it's small wonder that Ramet considers traveling a favorite pastime. "We have been to more than 35 countries," he says.

His first-hand knowledge of several cultures often is reflected in his research projects and his writing.

"Currently I’m working on a series of articles on a British mystery writer. I hope to revise them for book publication," he says.

Ramet explains that his interest in creative writing grew out of interest in the arts.

“I was always interested in the arts,” he says. “I studied music, and I did some oil painting and some sculpture. Living in the Los Angeles area, I was attracted to filmmaking, and selected an undergraduate degree in film production and English literature. I worked on some documentaries and feature-length films as a production assistant,” Ramet says.

Later, he moved away from film production and concentrated on writing. "If you write fiction, you have more control," he notes. "Filmmaking is more collaborative. That can be good, but you often lose control of a project."

Ramet describes his writing style as "being on the border between serious and popular. That is what got me interested in my current research project—the British author works in that grey area also."

Apostle's Creed, a 1991 short story by Ramet, details the dilemmas facing a North African factory worker living in France. "He was working 'on the black' (without papers), and he tries to reconcile his situation in France with his home background."

Since joining the SVSU faculty in 1991, Ramet has been teaching creative writing, as well as other English department courses. "When you look at student work, there always is a gem there, but often a lot of dross around it. My goal is trying to get students to recognize the gem and develop it."

He also teaches ESL (English as a Second Language) courses. His ESL classes include international students whose language abilities placed them there, as well as a few foreign-born spouses of area residents, or other community members who wish to learn English. "I've had all the Shikoku University students," he says, "and some Taiwanese MBA and some Chinese nursing students."