SVSU selected as Epiphany site

SVSU has been selected as one of 35 sites nationwide to participate in the “Epiphany Project.” And, while the project bears no direct connection to the Christian festival observed in January, it’s possible to detect something resembling missionary zeal among the six SVSU Epiphany Project team members.

SVSU’s project team members attended a summer institute to learn more about the project itself, as well as develop tools and techniques to share with their colleagues. Team members are Diane Boehm, writing program director, Sally Cannon, writing coordinator in the English Department, Lynne Graft, computer and writing coordinator in the English Department, Robert Lane, chair of the Political Science Department, Leslie Whittaker, professor of English, and Carol Wolfe, assistant professor of teacher education.

Funded by the Annenberg/CPB Project, Gallaudet University and George Mason University, the Epiphany Project explores ways to use technology to enhance teaching and learning. Efforts focus on using electronic text to facilitate learning.

Computers are changing academic culture down to its roots, according to national project directors Trent Batson and Judy Williamson. Batson is the director of academic technology at Gallaudet University and Williamson is administrator of the Epiphany Project at George Mason University.

They believe universities must develop new mechanisms to support change in teaching that adopt the power of computers. Through the Epiphany Project they plan to develop models for change and provide resource materials in print and on the World Wide Web.

As an official Epiphany Project site, SVSU and its team members will work toward several primary goals. First, they will assist in developing an action plan for the University, which will require remaining within the project for at least a year. They plan to collect and share data and strategies for the effective use of technology. Team members will demonstrate effective uses of technology within their own department and work as liaisons to other departments.

The SVSU experiences will be shared with the Epiphany Project network, as well as other colleges and universities.

For more information about SVSU’s involvement in the project, contact Boehm at ext. 7728 or E-mail dboehm@tardis.svsu.edu.
SVSU student fulfills dream to carry on legacy

Alicia Rowe had always dreamed of carrying on the legacy of Alpha Sigma Alpha in her family. And now that she has founded a local colony of the women’s fraternity at SVSU, her dream is well within reach.

“Alpha Sigma Alpha was the first women’s fraternity founded in the 20th century,” Rowe said. “It was founded in 1901 at Longwood College in Virginia.”

Rowe, 19, is a junior from Grand Blanc majoring in nursing at SVSU. Her mother, Josephine, is an Alpha Sigma Alpha (ASA) alumna from Central Michigan University.

“My mother got some phone numbers for me from her ex-classmate and lifetime ‘sister’ in Florida,” Rowe said. “I then contacted ASA National Headquarters in Missouri and was sent bundles of information.”

Rowe found 21 other women who expressed an interest in “Greek life.” After meeting with representatives from ASA national headquarters in early April 1996, the students signed a contract for colonization and officially were installed on April 19.

“A colony is the starting ground for a chapter,” Rowe explained. The members will learn about ASA heritage and rituals and complete other requirements that will result in initiation as a chapter.

“In order to charter, we must have a minimum of 40 women and all must maintain a 2.60 grade point average,” Rowe said. Currently, 22 women with an overall 3.22 GPA have signed up. Kathy Lopez, a staff member in the Office of Admissions at SVSU, will be the group’s advisor. Rowe’s mother will serve as alumna advisor.

Rowe indicated new members can sign up during a fall rush that will take place September 3-5 on campus. The group also is in the planning stages for a variety of philanthropic and fundraising efforts.

“We will be sponsoring and organizing the parade for Homecoming week on campus,” Rowe said. “We hope to see all campus organizations and other community organizations get involved and participate. It will definitely be an exciting week.”

Examples of community service projects undertaken by other chapters of the sorority include working with the mentally handicapped, volunteering for Special Olympics, and financially supporting the S. June Smith Center for mentally handicapped children.

“Before we were installed as a colony, we took part in a philanthropic project,” Rowe said. “With the Knights of Columbus in Grand Blanc, we raised money for mentally handicapped children during their annual Tootsie Roll drive on March 30.

“During the six hours that we helped, we raised more than $1,500 that went to local organizations, including the Genesee County Center for Autism, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Grand Blanc Special Education Program.”

Rowe, a 1994 Grand Blanc High School graduate, is a University Scholar and was a Residential Scholar for the past two years. She is involved in a number of campus organizations and activities, including as a student representative for SVSU’s Student Association.

SVSU participates in Safety Olympics

Officers from SVSU’s Public Safety Department were part of the “Safety Olympics” sponsored by the Saginaw Children’s Zoo July 22 and 23.

Officer Marc Strain was on hand with his bicycle, offering instruction in bike safety. Strain is part of the Community Policing program at SVSU, which stresses personal interaction with members of the campus community and includes bike patrol of campus.

Members of the SVSU Public Safety Department also provided information on their RAD (Rape Awareness Defense) classes, which are open to the public. Other safety-related information also was distributed. In addition, the department displayed its 4X4 Jeep, equipped for police work. Youngsters are attracted by the vehicle, according to Officer Beth Rusch.

Rusch distributed gold-foil-wrapped chocolate coins to children as an added incentive to hear safety messages.
Craig T.
Maxwell

If Craig Maxwell were asked to describe his philosophy of police work with an adage, it might be the one about an ounce of prevention.

Under Maxwell’s direction, SVSU’s Department of Public Safety has developed a “Community Policing” program that concentrates on heading off serious problems.

“Community policing is a change in philosophy from the more traditional responses of law enforcement,” he says. “We take a very broad view of the community and actively solicit input in terms of what problems the community wants to address. What are the concerns?

“We try to solve problems before they become bigger problems. When we approach our mission in that fashion, we are able to get positive reaction from people in the community.”

Implementing community policing concepts takes the emphasis off “cops” patrolling to catch and arrest or ticket lawbreakers, Maxwell says. Instead officers may find themselves working in situations that don’t seem directly related to law enforcement.

They may conduct intervention training for others, or provide peer counseling, or simply be available as a visible, friendly presence in the community.

“In the last four or five years since we began the community policing program in the dorms, we have been pleased that we have been able to interact with other departments on campus and provide more service to the students,” Maxwell says. “We station officers in the residence halls in the evenings, and participate in a listening program.

“We provide a counseling service in terms of referrals. We also help Residence Hall Assistants as much as we can with their responsibilities, and provide training before the academic year opens.”

In the past year, the department began branching out and adding similar programs in Ryder Center.

Maxwell notes that, while SVSU never has had a high incidence of crime, statistics show a decline in larcenies and serious crimes in recent years. He believes increased security in the Great Lakes dorms, which limits access by off-campus individuals, has helped head off incidents.

The community policing philosophy frequently extends beyond campus boundaries. Last week officers from SVSU participated in the “Safety Olympics” conducted at Saginaw Children’s Zoo. Earlier the department was represented with other area agencies promoting the “Safe & Sober” campaign at Fashion Square Mall.

“We recognize that our students come from all over the area,” Maxwell says. “It’s great to meet them in their own communities.”

He notes that the high proportion of commuter students at SVSU creates intense pressure for convenient parking. “We realize it is difficult for students, especially Fall and winter semesters,” he says. He points out that an additional 930 parking spaces will be open near West Complex in the fall, and says he hopes that is the only change.

Last year student parking was moved from F Lot to D Lot. “I’m glad that we did it from a safety standpoint, but it sure caused some confusion at first,” he laughs. “I spent most of the first two weeks in the parking lot.”
Right Writing

Jim Geistman likes to do things well. In fact, if he can’t give an activity his best shot, he’d prefer not to do it at all.

Geistman has carried that attitude into the classroom, where he’s worked with students to improve their writing skills. And he’s about to enter his second year as advisor to the Valley Vanguard, continuing his efforts to help students produce a high quality publication.

“Previous advisors were not closely involved with the paper,” Geistman says. “Their main responsibility was to critique the paper after it had been published.”

Last summer a task force of faculty, student and staff members studied SVSU student publications with an eye toward improving them. Publication of the Vanguard was suspended until the committee’s work was completed.

Recommendations of the task force resulted in changing the role of the newspaper’s advisor, among other revisions. The position now carries a modest stipend, and requires that the advisor post and keep office hours in the Vanguard office, with a required minimum of four hours per week.

“I believe the advisor has to have more of a hands-on role,” Geistman says.

The change brought positive results, Geistman believes. “I was able to head off a couple of problems, and after the second issue focus on positive things. With the advisor being there and being called upon, students started taking a little more care.

“We recruited some very good people. The paper now is more readable; it is something people can actually pick up and learn some things about the campus community,” he says.

“Bud (Kanyo, current editor) is continuing that. He is a clear writer, and he is interested in involving a lot of people who are good writers. He has made good contacts with the journalism class.”

Geistman finds the advisory work enjoyable. “It is fun working with students,” he says. “They tend to be rather idealistic—and sometimes unrealistic—at age 18 to 22. Many have incredible abilities.

“Writing for the paper is not just writing for a grade. A lot of people are going to see this, so it is more of a ‘real-world’ situation. Writing takes on a more serious role.”

Geistman teaches freshman composition (English 111 and 112) as well as some 200-level English classes. He started on an adjunct basis in 1985 and has taught full time for the past several years. He sees improvement in the preparation of incoming freshmen, especially in the last two or three years, he says.

“Last summer I taught in Kay Harley’s summer institute for area teachers, and I was very impressed with their abilities and philosophy.” He believes that improved teaching has brought the improved results he sees in entering students.

Although Geistman admits he doesn’t devote enough time to it, he occasionally pens a poem. Some of his earlier work was published in the Green River Review.

Geistman and colleague Lynne Graft edit the Literacy Link, a periodic newsletter devoted to improving writing pedagogy. They are planning to expand the publication next year.

In between all these activities, Geistman schedules daily workout sessions in his home gym. “I find it brings wonderful benefits in the way I feel and my energy level,” he says.
Professional Profile

- Gayle Koehler, assistant director of special projects, displayed two of her works in the Art in Public Places exhibition held at the Saginaw Township Hall. Koehler also returned recently from a two-week experience with Art Study Giverny in Giverny, France, where she studied painting in Monet's gardens and in the French countryside.


- Karen Selby, assistant professor of teacher education, recently completed judging of the 1996 Carter G. Woodson book award. The award was established in 1974 by the National Council for the Social Studies to promote outstanding nonfiction trade books that provide a multicultural or mutiethic perspective. The winner of the elementary award this year is Songs from the Loom; the winner of the secondary award is A Fence Away from Freedom. As a social studies educator and faculty member, Selby has been pivotal in working towards the promotion of the use of literature in the teaching of the social studies in K-12. Selby is a member of the National Council of the Social Studies and the Michigan Council for the Social Studies.

- Stephen J. Yance, assistant professor of social work, presented a workshop at the annual conference of the International Association of Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Services in Detroit on June 21. The workshop, titled “Developing an Ethical Culture for Community Partnerships,” identified the risks of exploitation associated with community living and consumerism and provided participants with a process for agencies to facilitate the discussion and resolution of ethical dilemmas for staff and consumers. Experiences in developing programs with Midland-Gladwin Mental Health agencies were shared.

Have You Heard?

- The Shannan M. Thompson Memorial Golf Classic will take place Monday, August 5 beginning at 12 noon at Bay Valley Golf Course. The cost is $100 per player with proceeds going to fund the memorial scholarship. Faculty and staff interested in playing or donating to the scholarship fund are asked to contact Jim Dwyer at ext. 4209.

- The second annual Thomas H. Busch Memorial Golf Classic will be Saturday, Sept. 7, with shotgun start at 12 noon at Valley View Farm Golf Course in Saginaw. Entry fee is $60, with all proceeds contributed to a scholarship fund for SVSU students. For further information, contact Emmie Busch in the SVSU Foundation Office at ext. 4052, or Joe Vogl in Ryder Center at ext. 7306.

- Copies of the 1995 Report of Annual Giving are available in the SVSU Foundation Office. To request a copy, contact Rachel Jersevicz at ext. 4384.

- Reserve parking permits for 1996-97 will be available at the Department of Public Safety beginning August 15. Current permits expire September 15. The permits, which are $20, can be purchased at the Parking Bureau Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Those with permits will have access to F and K lots. Permits also are available by mail. If the letter and permit application have not arrived in your mailbox by August 9, contact the Parking Bureau at ext. 4140.
Transitions

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

New Faculty:
- Jesse Donahue, assistant professor of political science, ext. 4364
- Eric Gardner, one-year, temporary assistant professor of English
- Michael Gilbert, assistant professor of mathematics, ext. 4318
- Larry Hatcher, assistant professor of psychology, 791-7341
- Sandy Mixer, instructor of nursing
- Gretchen Owocki, assistant professor of education, ext. 4345
- David Schall, lecturer of mathematics
- Steven Sepanski, assistant professor of mathematics
- David Stanton, assistant professor of biology, ext. 4176
- Scott Youngstedt, assistant professor of sociology

Promoted Faculty:
- Laureen Reed, lecturer of physics, ext. 5621
- Marian Shih, assistant professor of physics, ext. 4135
- Tom Zerger, assistant professor of mathematics, ext. 4334

New Staff:
- Julie Bash, teacher, Children’s Center, 753-8631
- Tami Jacobs, teacher, Children’s Center, 753-8631
- Mary Catherine Nicholson, personnel assistant, Personnel Office, ext. 4108
- Julie Spierken, programmer/analyst, Computer Services, ext. 5665
- Rey Wojcik, electronic communication specialist, Information Services, ext. 4054
- Jose Ruiz, custodian, Physical Plant, ext. 4279
- Sharon Schumacher, custodian, Physical Plant, ext. 4279

Moving On:
- Gary Apsey, director of alumni relations and associate development officer, SVSU Foundation
- Stephanie Leibfritz, instructor of nursing
- Allison Anadi, assistant professor of criminal justice

Across Campus
- The campus community extends condolences to Marlene Gotham, Wickes Hall custodian, on the loss of her brother, Gerald Carbeno, who passed away Monday, July 15. Funeral services took place July 17. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a charity of their choice.

Accent on Alumni
- Kathy Dwyer (B.A., marketing, 1987) is an executive assistant at Bay Area Community Foundation. She is responsible for developing marketing and promotional material, including annual publications and overseeing general office procedures.
- Maryanne Eagle (B.A., accounting, 1995) has joined the staff at Rehmann Robson, Saginaw, as a software consultant in the Information Technology Division.
- Karen R. Jorgensen (B.A., sociology, 1990) graduated from Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine on May 11. She has relocated to Lexington, KY, to complete a four-year residency in psychiatry.
- Becky Lanham (B.S.N., 1987) is working for The Women’s Practice, Midland, as a nurse practitioner intern.

The Interior is published bi-weekly when classes are in session fall and winter semesters and periodically through the summer. Items should be submitted to the Office of Information Services, 270 Wickes Hall, 790-4055.

University departments sponsoring activities or events listed in The Interior will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities when contacted at least three days in advance.

recycled paper