February 4, 1997

"National Teacher of the Year" to discuss writing at SVSU

Mary Beth Blegen, the 1996 National Teacher of the Year, will be sharing her insights with Saginaw Valley students and teachers in February.

Blegen, who will arrive on campus Tuesday, Feb. 18, will speak on "Families, Schools and Communities: Working Together to Shape the Future" at 6:30 p.m. in Curtiss Hall banquet rooms A and B. Members of the campus community are invited to join area educators, school administrators and school board members to hear Blegen describe the experiences that led to her selection as 1996 National Teacher of the Year.

After visiting local schools between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. the following day, Blegen will return to SVSU for a 4:30 p.m. reception, where she will speak about her development as a writing teacher and focus on ways in which new teachers can engage students in writing across all subject matter areas. Local youth groups also have been invited to join this event.

On Thursday, Blegen will meet with representatives from Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola Intermediate School Districts in the morning. In the afternoon she will attend selected SVSU education, English and history classes for question and answer sessions.

From 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Blegen will conduct a professional development session on "Writing as a Tool for Learning" for members of the SVSU faculty.

Blegen’s Saginaw visit will conclude Friday with participation in the Michigan Writing Projects Leadership Conference, which begins at 9 a.m. in the Curtiss Hall Conference Center. She will present the keynote address for the event hosted by the Saginaw Valley National Writing Project (SVNWP), directed by Kay Harley, professor of English. Approximately 150 administrators, curriculum directors and teachers from across the state are expected to attend. The conference, which includes several workshops and roundtable sessions, focuses on "Growing Leaders: Promoting Writing in our Schools and Community."

Blegen has taught in Worthington High School, located in southwestern Minnesota, for more than 30 years. During that time she has seen the community evolve into one that no longer is solely white, middle class and conservative. The students in her classes now may come with English as a second or unfamiliar language. She is credited with responding to these changes with understanding and leadership.

"In Mary Beth’s classroom learning becomes real," said Dr. Ernest Fleishman, senior vice president of Scholastic Inc. "Her ability to help students understand the complex relationships that exist in the world merits her selection as National Teacher of the Year."

Blegen received the award in a White House ceremony conducted by President Clinton in April 1996. Since the conclusion of the 1995-96 school year she has served as spokesperson for education to the nation and the world.

For more information about Blegen’s appearance, call the College of Education at ext. 5648.
SVSU to acquire new technology for library

Faced with an aging electronic system for cataloging its library holdings and accessing databases at other locations, SVSU has chosen a new software system to perform these tasks. The new system will be acquired and placed into operation over the next several months.

“All technology has a life-span,” noted Jean Houghton, director of SVSU’s Melvin J. Zahnow Library. “The useful life of our current Dynix system is nearly over.” She said response time is slowing down and the hardware that operates the system is becoming worn.

During the past year, Houghton and several members of her staff have investigated several alternatives, including an upgrade to the present system. Eventually they selected the system proposed by Innovative Interfaces, Inc. as the best solution for Zahnow Library. “Ours is an academic library,” Houghton pointed out. “It was important to us to have a system that will support and enhance our teaching mission.”

She said the Innovative system is used by 18 public universities in Ohio and by the University of Michigan-Dearborn, among others.

As SVSU progressed through the search for a new system, administrators faced a dilemma, Houghton said. “In 1980 SVSU was a founding member of the Valley Library Consortium, which links our library, many of the public libraries and the libraries of community colleges in the region. Since VLC has decided to purchase an upgrade to the present system, we will be discontinuing our active affiliation with VLC.

“It was a difficult decision; we treasure the regional affiliation. However, we still will be able to ‘talk’ to each other even though we have different software,” she said. She added that the new system will have the protocol to create ‘virtual consortia’ and connect with libraries and databases throughout the world.

Separating from the VLC will give the SVSU library more flexibility to add features that benefit the academic community, she said.

SVSU’s member contract with VLC expires June 30. However, the VLC leases space for its central computing system from SVSU and may remain in that location for as long as two years.

Two members of the Zahnow Library staff, Laura Kinner and Tom Zantow, will perform many of the tasks associated with implementing the new system, Houghton said.

Former TV-5 news anchor to kick off Black History Month at SVSU

Allison Payne, formerly the nightly news anchor for WNEM-TV 5, will open Black History Month activities at SVSU. Currently a news anchor for WGN-TV in Chicago, Payne will be guest speaker at a Tuesday, Feb. 4 luncheon in Curtiss Hall banquet room A.

Payne’s career as a television journalist began in Toledo, Ohio where she started as an intern and soon was hired full-time at WNWO-TV.

Her reporting work at WGN has earned Payne numerous awards, including an Emmy in 1991 for the segment “Mother’s Day When Mother’s Gone.” Other honors are from the Chicago Association of Black Journalists, which in 1992 gave her the Mark of Excellence Award for “Latino Chicago: The Power Puzzle,” and a 1991 Peter Lisagor Award for “Children of Dependency.” She also is the recipient of two Silver Dome Awards from the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs, there is a $2 charge for the event. Reservations are required; call ext. 4397.
SVSU Regional Math-Science Center receives grant

The Regional Mathematics and Science Center at SVSU has been awarded a $5,000 grant from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium. The funds will be used to develop four thematic K-12 teaching units on space science, according to Walt Rathkamp, director of the Center.

“We will provide teaching units appropriate for grades K-2, 3-4, 5-8 and 9-12,” Rathkamp said. “These units will be aligned with state and national standards in science.”

Each teaching unit will include a module or kit stocked with equipment and supplies for incorporating the unit into classroom instruction. “The Center will have the kits available for checkout and will handle restocking so they can be utilized up to three times per year by area teachers,” Rathkamp said.

Rathkamp indicated the Center will provide in-service training to help teachers make the best use of the kits in their classrooms.

The project is designed to provide increased awareness, knowledge and hands-on experience with space science to students and teachers in SVSU’s service area. Grant funds should be available to the Center in February.

For more information about the Space Science Project, call ext. 4117.

Professional Profile

• Matthew Margres, professor of psychology, presented a paper titled “Establishing a Subject-Pool and Related Procedures for Undergraduate Research Projects” at the January 3 meeting of the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. The presentation reviewed SVSU’s ethical review process as well as the Psychology Department’s human-subjects pool, and served as a starting point for a 90-minute discussion/workshop.

• Janet E. Rubin, professor of communication and theatre, has been awarded Associate status as a researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Among the honors included in this meritorious distinction is access to research materials not available to the general public.

Also, Creative Approaches to Elementary Curriculum, a text co-authored by Rubin and Margaret Merrion, has been published by Heinemann. Merrion is the dean of fine arts at Ball State University. The book, which is their third co-authored text, uses creative drama and music in the teaching of arts education, health, language arts, math, physical education, science, social studies, technology and multicultural education.


Rusch also was appointed president-elect for 1996-97 and president for 1997-98 of the Michigan Consortium on Substance Abuse Education.

• Elaine Stephens, professor of teacher education, reported that more than 60 area K-12 educators attended a January 22 professional development seminar in Curtiss Hall. Bill Thompson, professional development specialist for the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, spoke on “The Next Generation of Teacher Evaluation and Staff Development.” The seminar was co-sponsored by a Goals 2000 consortium of regional educational service centers and SVSU.

• Jerry A. Woodcock, vice president for administration and business affairs, has been appointed by the Central Association of College and University Business Officers (CACUBO) to its Host Committee, which oversees all meeting functions for the association. CACUBO is a non-profit organization that represents chief business officers at more than 600 higher education institutions throughout the north central region of the U.S.
Wood engraver's work to be displayed in University Art Gallery

Illustrations by Rosemary Covey, a world-acclaimed artist for her mastery of the wood engraving arts, will be on display February 5-26 in the University Art Gallery.

Wood engraving, a popular printmaking technique at the turn of the century, survives today as a viable medium for a small but dedicated group of artists and illustrators, according to Barron Hirsch, director of the gallery. "With one-person exhibitions in New York, Washington, Zurich, Geneva and Buenos Aires, Rosemary Covey remains one of the most respected of these artists," Hirsch said.

"Her figurative images describe social and political events, subjects from literature and her own personal experiences," he said.


A companion exhibit will feature a group of woodblock prints from SVSU's permanent collection of Japanese woodblock prints contributed by Louis W. Doll. "The two exhibits will offer viewers an interesting contrast of techniques used with the same medium."

The University Art Gallery is open Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m. Other times may be arranged by calling Hirsch at ext. 4391 or Sara Clark at ext. 5684.

Have You Heard?

• Health Services expresses appreciation to all who donated at the January 22 blood drive. A record 109 donors gave 86 pints.

• The Campus Life Team is accepting applications from anyone interested in participating in the sixth annual Valley Festival of the Fine Arts Saturday, March 22. Application forms or additional information are available by calling Nancy Whalen, 103 Arbury, at ext. 4159. Deadline for applications is Friday, Feb. 7.

Across Campus

• The campus community congratulates Kari Golden, admissions clerk, and her husband, Ari, on the birth of a daughter. Neve Elizabeth (7 lbs., 20 in.) was born Sunday, Jan. 19.

• The campus community extends condolences to the family of SVSU students Carol and Kimberly Keipinger, who passed away Saturday, Jan. 25. Funeral services were held January 30 in Frankenmuth.

Campus Happenings

• Valley Film Society—8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7 in Marble Lecture Hall. The Double Life of Veronique will be screened. Admission is by season pass, available at the door.

• BHM Gospel Choir Concert—5:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9 in the SVSU Theatre. Admission is free of charge.

• BHM Lecture—2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11 in Founders Hall. Scott Youngstedt will present a talk on contemporary West Africa. Admission is free of charge; refreshments will be served.

• Entrepreneurs Club—6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 in Curtiss Hall. Debbie Beffrey will discuss "Collections: The Necessary Evil." Reservations required; call ext. 4388.

High Five

• Men's Basketball (13-7, 8-4 GLIAC)—took sole possession of second place in the GLIAC following a 66-62 win at Hillsdale College Saturday.

• Women's Basketball (13-7, 6-6 GLIAC)—still remains tied for third place in the GLIAC following a 67-64 loss at Hillsdale Saturday.