



THE INTERIOR

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February 18, 1997

SVSU recital hall named for Saginaw music educator

Rhea E. Miller will be remembered for touching the lives of countless music students during a teaching career that spanned more than four decades.

Two weeks ago, the University announced its intention to name its new recital hall in the Performing Arts Center in Miller's honor. A brief dedication ceremony will take place beginning at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, followed by a concert featuring cellist Peter Rejto.

"Rhea Miller has devoted a lifetime to teaching and supporting music education in Saginaw and throughout the community," said President Eric Gilbertson. "She joined the Saginaw Public Schools in 1926 and taught there until her retirement in 1965.

"This University frequently has been the beneficiary of Miss Miller's generosity to students and the community. She established the Rhea E. Miller Music Education Scholarship Fund here, which provides multiple annual scholarships for talented students.

"Also, through her generous support, the Rhea Miller Concert Series was established at SVSU in 1993," Gilbertson said.

Miller, a native of Eaton Rapids, graduated from Albion College with a Bachelor of Music degree. After teaching in Illinois and Minnesota she earned an A.B. degree from the University of Michigan before coming to Saginaw to teach vocal music and piano. She also directed the Girls Glee Club at Arthur Hill High School.

In 1988 SVSU accorded Miller an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree. She also is the recipient of the University's Distinguished Service Medallion. She served as a long-time

board member and president of the Saginaw Community Concerts Association, as well as on the board of the Saginaw Art Museum.

Miller, who celebrated her 100th birthday Thursday, Feb. 13, passed away at her home Saturday.

Funeral services took place at 10 a.m. this morning at St. John's Episcopal Church in Saginaw. Those planning to make an expression of sympathy may wish to consider St. John's Episcopal Church, Saginaw Valley State University or Delta College.

"We are indeed indebted to Miss Miller for her commitment to promoting the performance and appreciation of music in this community," Gilbertson said. "It is particularly fitting to name our new recital hall in her honor. The performances that take place there will be a tribute to her devotion to music."

Rejto's appearance will be the inaugural concert in the new recital hall, and his second at SVSU. Just over two years ago, Rejto brought the Rhea Miller Concert audience to its feet with his captivating interpretations of music for the cello.

Hailed as one of America's premier cellists, Rejto has appeared throughout the U.S. and abroad in hundreds of recitals and concerto performances. The son of the late Gabor Rejto, a renowned Hungarian cellist, Rejto has won national and international honors. His instrument is a rare Dominicus Montagnana made in Venice in 1721.

Guest performing with Rejto will be clarinetist Jane Carl. They will be accompanied by pianist Michele Cooker. Admission to the concert is free of charge. To make reservations, call the Department of Music at ext. 4159.



Rhea E. Miller

Acclaimed poet to read works at SVSU

Poet, playwright, novelist, essayist, political activist and teacher Amiri Baraka will appear at SVSU at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26 in the Rhea E. Miller Recital Hall. Admission is free.



Baraka

Baraka is recognized as one of North America's most influential and prolific African American artists. He has published volumes of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama and anthologies.

Baraka founded Totem Press in 1958, which first published works by Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac and others. Throughout the next four decades he edited several important literary magazines and journals and was in the vanguard of the black arts movement. His first play, *Dutchman*, won a 1964 Obie Award.

Baraka and his wife, Amina, are co-directors of Kimako's Blues People, an arts space in Newark. He also performs with his group, Blue Ark, melding jazz, poetry and dance in a program titled "Black History Music."

Baraka's visit is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs under the KCP Visiting Professors Program. Voices in the Valley, a

cooperative poetry project of SVSU, Delta College and the River Junction Poets, also is collaborating in sponsorship. Books by Baraka will be available for sale at the reading.

ASE/SVSU partnership to benefit local employers

The American Society of Employers (ASE), Mid-Michigan Region, and SVSU's Office of Continuing Education have formed a partnership to bring continuing education programs to mid-Michigan employers.

The alliance offers the mid-Michigan business community training programs conducted by experienced professionals who specialize in fields such as labor law, human resource management, industrial safety and health, compensation and benefits, work force issues and other areas.

ASE is a not-for-profit employer service organization that is dedicated to human resources management. The Southfield, Michigan-based society was founded in 1902 by Detroit area business leaders in a united effort to solve mutual problems.

The joint programs offered by ASE and SVSU will expand the array of professional development programs already offered through SVSU's Office of Continuing Education. Its Michigan Leadership Development Institute offers training for current and potential leaders. The Center for Manufacturing Improvement offers training specifically for area manufacturers including ISO and QS 9000, Activity Based Costing and environmental compliance. The Business and Industrial Development Institute and the Small Business Development Center offer entrepreneurial programs and courses.

For more information about training seminars, contact BIDI at ext. 4048.

Public Safety offers R.A.D. class

The Department of Public Safety will offer a Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) class from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, March 21 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 22.

R.A.D. is a comprehensive self-defense approach to women's safety that heightens a woman's awareness, improves her alertness, and encourages avoidance. Participants will gain greater self-confidence and realization.

The cost of the class is \$20 per person. To register call Marc Strain at ext. 4157 or Bethany Rusch at ext. 4133.

**fourth
club
friday**

Friday, Feb. 28
4:30-6 p.m.
President's
Reception Area

Refreshments
Served

Everyone
is welcome
to attend



Former TV5 news anchor Allison Payne spoke about her love of Saginaw during SVSU's Black History Month Luncheon February 4 in Curtiss Hall. "You have to move forward," Payne said of her decision to leave Saginaw for her current position at WGN in Chicago. "My father always said to work hard, always give your best, never take 'no' for an answer when you know the answer is 'yes,' and when life gets tough, pray." Payne said she is completing her seventh year at WGN this month.



STAFF MEMBER

OF THE MONTH

**Daniel M.
Strasz**

**Coordinator,
Freshman
Programs**

March 1997

Dan Strasz brings a unique perspective to his role of helping SVSU freshmen survive the transition to college. He comes from a family steeped in the SVSU tradition and can, if he wishes, bounce ideas off several siblings and assorted relatives.

"Let's see, including me, that makes eight from my immediate family," he says, ticking off brothers and sisters who have graduated from or attended classes at SVSU. "And my wife, Tracy, also has a degree from SVSU."

Strasz completed a bachelor's degree in political science in 1986. That summer he interviewed and was hired for a staff position in state government, but before he started the director who hired him was replaced by a new director who put a hold on all positions.

Back home without a job, Strasz was told about an opening in the SVSU Admissions Office. He called to apply.

"They were in the recruiting season," Strasz recalls. "I interviewed on Friday, and Jim Dwyer called on Monday to offer the position. He asked when I could start, and I told him 'Anytime.' He said, 'Can you be here by 2 p.m.?', " Strasz laughs.

That was September 1986, and he's been on the job ever since.

In 1994 Strasz left the Admissions Office to

become Coordinator of Placement and Cooperative Education. Soon after the Student Services division was reorganized and Strasz was named Coordinator of Freshman Programs.

"We focus on student retention," Strasz says. "We help students be successful. We have been looking at what we are doing and how we are doing it. Now I am beginning to do more research on our freshmen. We want to know who stays, who goes, and why they leave."

Because orientation can be crucial to student success, Strasz and his staff are coordinating the orientation programs for new students and their families. "We work very closely with the Admissions Office," he says.

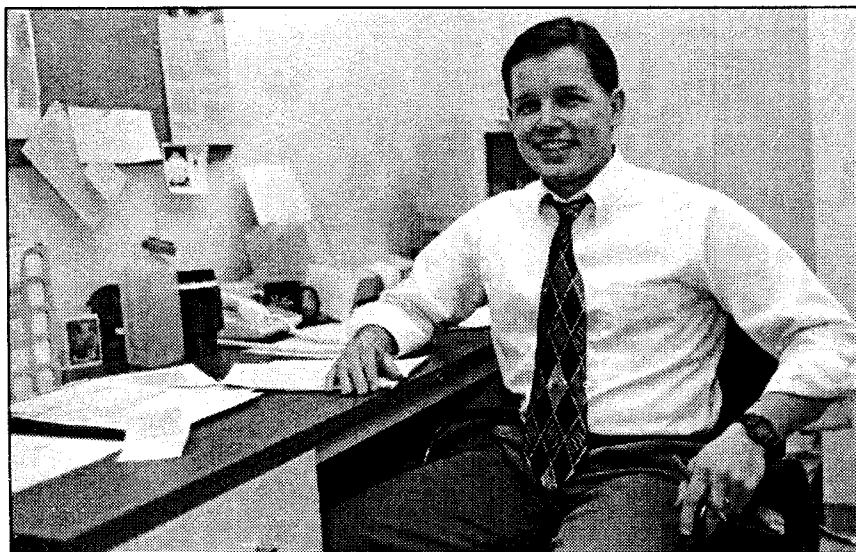
Orientation now is mandatory for all new students, and it is focused on the academic aspects of the SVSU experience. "It includes course placement testing, academic advising and registration for classes," Strasz says.

He notes that various units in the division are involved in orientation. "The new format works well for the student services staff, and it seems to work well for students. Transfer students and parents who have had children enrolled in other schools tell us they like our approach. It gives them all the help and information they need and is very focused."

Strasz credits Bob Maurovich and Kevin Hurlahe for providing leadership to change student programs. "There is a lot of room for change and growth here, and a lot of things we can do to serve students and utilize our resources well," Strasz says.

He notes that one change has involved obtaining information early in the semester to identify students who may be headed for academic difficulty. These students then receive help to succeed in the problem courses.

This fall Strasz wrapped up an M.Ed. degree. Like many SVSU students, he completed requirements while working and raising a family. The Strasz' have a four-year-old daughter and an 18-month-old son.





INNER VIEW

FEATURING FACULTY OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Taking the team approach

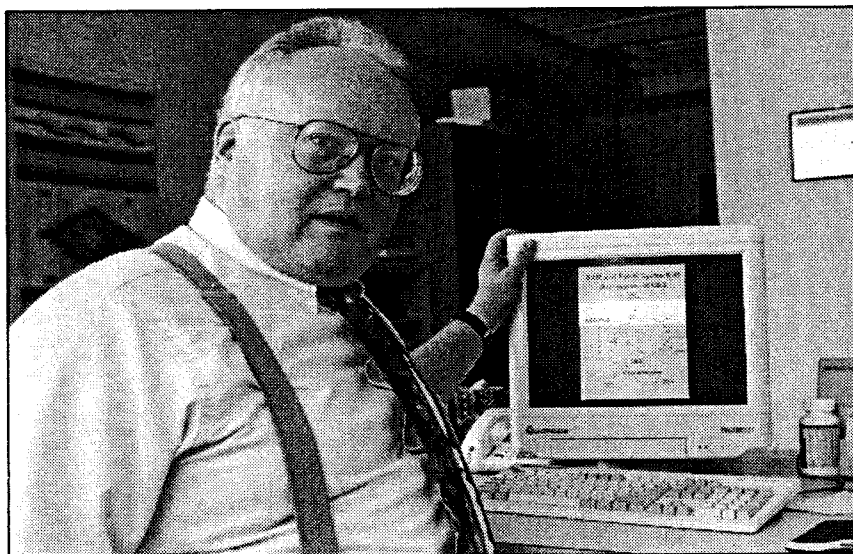
SVSU faculty and administrators hoped to attract someone to the Dow Endowed Chair in Chemistry who not only could challenge students, but also would inspire faculty colleagues. They appear to have found that magic combination in the person of Dr. David H. Swenson.

He joined the SVSU faculty in August 1996. A skilled researcher with a strong background in environmental chemistry, Swenson's approach focuses on involving a broad range of people in his projects. He reaches across disciplines to assemble teams that carry out the various aspects of a successful research project.

And he does it all with engaging good humor and a dash of humility. "I'm basically lazy," he jokes. "I want to get others to do the real work."

Students quickly learn, however, that Swenson is no easy taskmaster. During the first class period each semester, he spells out his expectations. "I let them know that I'm not interested in their ability to memorize facts and spew them back on an exam," he says. "My goal is to teach them to think and to communicate."

"Students need to understand that they will be hired, not on the basis of a diploma, but on what they can do and their ability to think critically."



A typical research team will include faculty, students and professional staff. He cites the "heavy metals" project as an example.

"George Eastland is the principal investigator," he notes, "and I am co-PI. Our assistant is senior chemistry student Kevin Wiese. Bruce Hart from our Independent Testing Lab is involved." He goes on to credit chemistry professors Peter Moehs and Bert Plaush for their assistance and notes that French exchange student Benoit Humbert has contributed to the project.

The heavy metals project is funded through a \$64,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. It is an extension of an earlier project started through Dean Kullgren's leadership, Swenson says.

Swenson also is assembling a team for another project, new to SVSU and as yet unfunded. The research explores the causes and possible treatments for Down Syndrome.

"We are setting up and working as though funding will not be available. I am just beginning to approach the people that I would like to bring on board for this research."

Swenson wants the SVSU project to conduct further research into the genetic causes of the syndrome and to establish a study examining the results of nutritional intervention. The team he envisions to do this work could involve faculty from the nursing, chemistry and biology departments, among others.

Another project will study the metabolism of pollutants from zebra mussels affecting the Great Lakes. Here he hopes to involve faculty from biology and electrical engineering and a chemistry student.

"I also think it would be a lot of fun to take a look at fossilized bacteria," he says. "Scientists think they observed them in the fragments of meteorites from Mars. I think we might discover them in Petoskey stones or the fossilized insects in amber." Swenson already has several SVSU people in mind to work on that project.

Professional Profile

• **Daryl F. Bernard**, center clerk for the Regional Mathematics and Science Center, had an article titled "Science and Mathematics Extravaganza for Kids" published in the Spring 1997 edition of the *MSTA Journal* (Michigan Science Teachers Association). Other Center staff members also contributed to the article.

• **Jean E. Brown**, professor of teacher education, is the author of the lead article in the latest issue (Vol. 18, No. 4) of the *English Leadership Quarterly*. "Leadership and Intellectual Freedom: The Battle for Control of the Public School" examines current issues in censorship and the efforts that can be taken to meet the challenges. Brown wrote the article during her recent sabbatical.

• **Matthew Margres**, professor of psychology, performed a two-hour series of demonstrations in sensation and perception for the 7th and 8th grade students of Saints Peter and Paul Elementary School, Saginaw.

• **Hong Y. Park**, professor of economics, presented a paper titled "International Sourcing of Firms in the U.S. and Foreign Direct Investment" and discussed a paper titled "International Comparisons of Hourly Compensation Costs and Unit Labor Costs for Production Workers, 1980-1995" at the 1997 Annual Allied Social Science Association meetings January 4-6 in New Orleans.

Park also refereed two papers titled "Transaction Costs and Export Channel Evaluations by Korean Small Manufacturing Enterprises" for the *Contemporary Economic Policy Journal* (Western Economic Association-International), and "The Effects of APEC and Northeast Economic Cooperation on the Economic Integration of Two Koreas" for *Multinational Business Review*.

• **Charles Pelzer**, professor of biology, has been invited to become a liaison at SVSU for the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). The Institutional Liaison Program was initiated to increase the level of networking among faculty colleagues from primarily undergraduate institutions. CUR is a national society dedicated to the advancement of scientific research by students and faculty at primarily undergraduate institutions. The organization currently has some 4,000 individual and more than 250 institutional members. The disciplines served by CUR include biology, chemistry, mathematical and computer sciences, physics and psychology.



Dr. Gretchen Mooningham, far left, listens as students recite their pledges for induction into Alpha Chi National College Honor Society. Fifty-one students were eligible to attend the February 2 ceremony in Founders Hall. Mooningham is faculty advisor for the SVSU chapter, which is one of more than 300 at four-year colleges and universities in the nation.

• **David K. Pugalee**, assistant professor of teacher education, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Research Council for Diagnostic and Prescriptive Mathematics February 7 in Oklahoma City. The paper, "Mathematical Literacy: A Study of Student Performance in Solving Algebraic Word Problems," was co-authored with William S. Palmer, professor of English education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Have You Heard?

• An **open house** for student services offices will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 on first floor Curtiss Hall. Refreshments will be served.

• The name of the Community Corporate Challenge has been changed to "**Community Corporate Games.**" This year's games will start March 1 and run through September. Two new events, 4-on-4 basketball and a softball tournament, have been added. For more information on participating in the games, contact Mike Holliday at ext. 7710. Anyone interested in representing SVSU should sign up at least four weeks in advance of a specific event.

Audio/Visual Services Hours

Library — Open until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday

Curtiss Hall — Open until 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, effective February 24

Both locations are open until 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

The Department of History is planning to present William Hoffmann with a scrapbook of letters from former colleagues and students who wish to congratulate him on his retirement from teaching at SVSU. Send letters by March 15 to Robert Braddock.



Let the fun begin! John Curry and staff decorated the tables New Orleans style for the February 11 Mardi Gras party that kicked off the University Division of SVSU's "Campaign for Distinction." The festive atmosphere celebrated SVSU's accomplishments and outlined future goals to be achieved by endowments. The University Division, chaired by Board of Control member Dr. Thomas Rush and supported by a 24-member campus committee, seeks employee participation in the campaign.

Across Campus

- **Monica Ollendorff**, librarian, has announced her engagement to James Carr. An April 18, 1997 wedding is planned.
- The campus community extends condolences to the family of SVSU student **Patricia L. Shei**, who passed away September 17, 1995. SVSU received confirmation of her death February 3, 1997.
- Congratulations go out to **Rosalie G. Riegle**, professor of English, on the arrival of her first grandchild, John Troester Lennon, who is named after the late Fr. John Troester.

Transitions

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

SVSU Welcomes

- **Kay Warmbier**, academic advisor, 249-1667
- **Richard Burns**, custodian, 790-4279
- **Dan Hernandez**, custodian, 790-4279
- **Gary Kwaiser**, custodial specialist, 790-4279
- **TeriJo McPeak**, custodian, 790-4279
- **Dan Cherry**, grounds, 790-4148
- **Gerald Stevens**, grounds, 790-4148

Same Face, New Place

- **Gary Brasseur**, academic advisor, 249-1667
- **Susan Brasseur**, administrative assistant, Conference Bureau, 249-1967

New Phone Number

- **Sandy Mixer**, nursing, ext. 7026

Campus Happenings

- **BHM Lecture** — 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18 in Founders Hall. Brazeal Dennard will discuss "Black Music in the U.S.: 1690-Present."

Admission is free. Refreshments served.

- **Third Wednesday Poetry Workshop** — 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at Studio K.
- **Valley Film Society** — 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 in Marble Lecture Hall. *Fritz, the Cat* will be screened.
- **Roosevelt Ruffin Lecture Series** — 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25 in Founders Hall. David J. Torrez will discuss "The Mural at SVSU: *Dawn of Education*." Admission is free. Refreshments served.

High Five

- **Men's Basketball** (15-9, 10-6 GLIAC) — tied a school record for three-point shots (11-24) in a 94-56 win at Northern Michigan University Saturday.
- **Women's Basketball** (15-9, 8-8 GLIAC) — lost 85-70 to Northern Michigan, who is ranked 8th in NCAA Division II.

Grand Valley State University visits SVSU Thursday, Feb. 20. Game time is 5:30 p.m.

- **Track** — participated in a non-scoring meet at Michigan State University Thursday. For the men, Mike Barker set a school record in the shot put with a throw of 52-2½. J.R. Kirk won the long jump with a leap of 22-9. For the women, Angie Sneider won the long jump at 17-11¾ and Liz Mulvaney placed first in the shot put with a 43-10 toss.
- **SVSU's student athletic trainers** compiled a 3.38 overall grade point average during fall semester. Out of the 15 trainers in the program, seven made the Deans' List and three made the President's List.

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, 276 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.



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