April 21, 1998

GM fund to assist electrical/mechanical engineering majors

General Motors Corp. continues its support of SVSU programs with its newly-created Endowed Scholarship in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. The endowment was created by the Community Relations Committees representing General Motors operations in Saginaw and Bay counties.

“General Motors believes that technology is an indispensable tool in the competitive equation and that well-trained people are the key to continued corporate success,” according to the endowment agreement. “Therefore, the purpose of this fund is to assist area students to attend SVSU in pursuit of electrical or mechanical engineering degrees.”

GM also has funded many other projects at SVSU, including its most recent purchase of a computer-aided design (CAD) workstation in Pioneer Hall ($50,000); a special funds drive during 1985-87 to finance programs in engineering, the Zahnow Library and the Arbury Fine Arts Center ($250,000), and Pioneer Hall Construction from 1978-80 ($150,000).

Grants from the endowment will be made to full- or part-time students enrolled in an academic program leading to a degree in electrical or mechanical engineering. Recipients will be selected based on academic achievement and evidence of the desirable qualities of character and leadership. Students must have demonstrated excellence in high school or previous undergraduate work and show potential for successful completion of an SVSU engineering program. Financial need may be considered in the process.

In order to encourage and support the enrollment of new students to the program, the endowment further stipulates preference may be given to “first-time-in-college” students or “first-time transfer” students. FTIC students must enroll in Engineering Careers and Concepts (ECE 101 or ME 101) during their first year of study.

The scholarship may continue from year to year depending upon the satisfactory academic performance of the recipient (3.0 grade point average).

SVSU Commencement ceremonies set for May 9

Nearly 580 students will complete requirements for bachelor’s and master’s degrees, making them eligible to participate in Commencement ceremonies at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9 in O’Neill Arena.

In addition to conferring degrees, an honorary Doctor of Humanities will be presented to Alan Ott, retired president and chief executive officer of Chemical Financial Corp.

Also, alumna Janet Botz will be recognized as SVSU’s 1998 Distinguished Alumna.

Recipients of SVSU’s Warrick Award and Landee Teaching Excellence Award also are recognized at the ceremonies.

Every year, SVSU faculty and staff have the opportunity to bestow the Alumni Scroll to graduating members of their immediate family. To make arrangements, contact Emmie Busch at ext. 4052.

Campus Dining Services will offer its annual Graduate/Alumni Brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Doan Center Dining Room. Cost is $9 for adults, $4 for children under 10 years.
Dedication, service by faculty, staff and community leaders praised at All-University Awards Banquet

SVSU recognized the achievements of outstanding faculty and staff as well as community leaders during its annual All-University Awards Banquet, held April 17 in Curtiss Hall.

Heading the list of faculty honorees was **David E. Barker**, professor of modern foreign languages (French), who received the prestigious Landee Teaching Excellence Award. The Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research went to **Janet E. Rubin**, professor of communication and theatre. The House Family Award for Teacher Impact was awarded to **Mary A. Hedberg**, assistant professor of history. **C. Timothy Weier** was given the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award for his part-time teaching role in the math department.

The Ruben Daniels Community Service Award — SVSU’s highest recognition of community service and involvement by an employee — was presented to **Mary W. Solterman**, a nursing instructor. Co-recipients of the Terry Ishihara Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Involvement were **Scott M. Youngstedt**, assistant professor of sociology, and **Kathy López**, coordinator of graduate admissions.

An SVSU Distinguished Service Medallion was awarded to **Donna Roberts**, former corporate secretary and assistant general counsel of The Dow Chemical Co., who recently retired from SVSU’s Board of Control.

**Dorothy Langdon Yates** was presented the Gross Award for Literature, which recognizes exceptional works in regional history or historical/fiction/drama.

Eugene J. Hamilton, special assistant to the president for government and community relations, presided over the event, which also recognized 55 faculty and staff who have each provided between 10 and 25 years of dedicated service. In addition, one professor and two staff members were honored for 30 years of service to the University. They were **John R. Willertz**, professor of history, **Robert T. Becker**, director of athletics, and **Paul S. Gill**, assistant director of scholarships and student financial aid.

**Donna J. Roberts** was appointed to, and has served as secretary of, the SVSU Board of Control. Roberts also is a member of the SVSU Foundation Board of Directors, is an emeritus member of the Board of Fellows, and served on the Annual Fund Committee and The Campaign for Distinction. As co-chair of this Campaign’s Midland Division, Roberts inspired donations in excess of $250,000.

**David E. Barker** joined the SVSU modern foreign language faculty in 1971 and is a professor of French. Barker has been a member of SVSU’s Faculty Association executive board and served on a number of its committees, including graduation, grant, budget, library and international studies. He also has served on various evaluation teams and various search committees for new faculty members. Barker also has been chairman of the University’s Department of Modern Foreign Languages on several occasions. Since 1995, he has served as marshal for the biannual Commencement Exercises. Barker is a sponsor of Alpha Mu Gamma, the foreign language honorary society, and of Alpha Phi Omega, national service organization, in addition to service as a member of the Honors Program Committee.

**Janet E. Rubin** began her teaching career at SVSU in 1983. She is a professor of communication and theatre and has directed many student plays throughout the years. Rubin has served as chair of the department of communication and theatre and has been an executive board member with the Faculty Association. In addition to her accomplishments as a theatrical director and professor, Rubin is renowned as a scholar of children’s theatre and K-12 arts education. She has published numerous articles and collaborated on five books concerning the use of creative arts in education. Rubin’s two most recent collaborative works led her into specialization of the use of theatrical works in teaching about the Holocaust. Rubin has been named an associate of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

**Mary A. Hedberg**, assistant professor of history, arrived at SVSU in 1993 with a specialty in Colonial Mexican History and continues to teach courses relevant to that area, as well a world civilization and American history classes. Hedberg has served on a number of evaluation teams at SVSU, search committees and on the Honors Committee and in various faculty development projects. She was a major contributor to the history department’s most recent self-study and helped develop the assessment plan for history majors. Hedberg works with the University Wide Assessment, of which she has been a major player since her appointment in 1994. Hedberg has presented conference papers as a Latin Americanist and those that reflect new teaching and research interest in women’s history. She was awarded a number (See Awards, Page 6)
Professional Profile

• Jean Brown and Elaine Stephens, professors of teacher education, recently attended the Spring Conference of the National Council of Teachers of English in Albuquerque, N.M. Their latest book, *United in Diversity: Using Young Adult Literature in the Classroom*, was introduced. The book, which is the eighth they have co-authored, is published by NCTE as the most recent volume in their Classroom Practices series.

• Anna R. Dadlez, professor of modern foreign languages (Polish), delivered a speech titled “Civilian Victims of Oppression” to the senior class at Nouvel High School on April 3. The presentation focused on World War II while making clear that some of its patterns of cruel and unjust use of power are readily discernible in more recent times.

• John Jezierski, professor of history, was named a Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellow of The Huntington (Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens), located in San Marino, Calif.

• Charles Pelzer, professor of biology, gave a presentation titled “Basic Genetics for Teachers” at the 1998 Human Sexuality Institute in Bridgeport. The purpose of the workshop was to train staff from Bay, Arenac, Saginaw, Tuscola and Genesee counties to teach Human Growth and Development/Reproductive Health in Michigan public schools under Public Act 226. Seventy teachers attended the March 4 event at the Candelite Banquet Center. Pelzer also delivered a talk titled “DNA: Its Role in Modern Medicine” at a Kiwanis International meeting in August at the Horizon Conference Center in Saginaw.

• Janet E. Rubin, professor of communication and theatre, recently made a presentation at the International Drama in Education/National Association for Youth Drama conference in Cork, Ireland. Rubin’s topic was using drama to teach about the immigrant experience and was a part of a program titled “Drama in the Exploration of Social Issues.” More than 250 delegates from 24 countries attended the juried conference.

• Paul Teed, assistant professor of history, Diane Boehm, director of university writing programs, Gary Lange, assistant professor of biology, and Janet Negayda, assistant professor of occupational therapy, collaboratively presented a paper titled “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Teaching and Critical Thinking: A Model” at the 53rd Annual Conference of the American Association of Higher Education, March 21-24 in Atlanta, Ga.

• Harriet Tillock, professor of sociology, co-chaired a seminar on “Elder Abuse and Exploitation of Persons with Dementia,” March 13 at SVSU. Tillock also presented a paper titled “Causes and Concerns about Alzheimer’s Disease” at the annual meeting of the National Council on Aging, March 31 in Washington, D.C. Tillock also chaired a session on “Older Women Cross-culturally” and presented a paper titled “The Historical Status of Older Women Worldwide” at the annual meeting of the Michigan Women’s Studies Association, April 4 at SVSU. Tillock also was a recipient of the 1998 Women’s Honors Awards, presented at the Eleanor A. Frank Multipurpose Center, April 8. Recognition was received from the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners, state legislators, and Rep. James Barcia.

Have You Heard?

• Faculty who wish to have their portraits taken for the 1998-99 Faculty/Staff Directory should contact the Office of Information Services before the end of the winter semester. Any faculty who have not had a portrait shot in the last five years are encouraged to make an appointment. Portrait appointments for SVSU staff will be scheduled later this summer. For more information, call ext. 4039 or 5641.

• SVSU will host the third annual P.A.C. Party from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 14 at Ted’s Party Hall, 5660 Bay Road, Saginaw. A $10 contribution includes food, drinks and entertainment. Door prizes also will be given out, including two nights at the Grand Traverse Resort and Detroit Lions merchandise. For more information, or to make advance reservations, call ext. 4068.

• The sprinkler systems in Ryder Center, Curtiss Hall and Founders Hall will be tested from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, April 26. For more information, call ext. 4080.

Did you know . . .

• Jan Blecke, professor of nursing, is a trustee of the Bay Area Community Foundation. She was elected the foundation’s secretary in 1987 and also serves on its grants committee.

• Bob Becker, director of athletics, is a member of the Kishville Lions Club and the Saginaw Gus Macker. He also was president of the Saginaw Arthur Hill Letter Lancers.

From the Community & Professional Organization Affiliation Survey, retained in the office of Gene Hamilton, Special Assistant to the President, Government & Community Relations. For more information, call ext. 4066.
Botz named Distinguished Alumna

Janet M. Botz has been selected as recipient of SVSU’s Distinguished Alumni Award for 1998. Botz will be recognized at Commencement Saturday, May 9.

Botz is a 1974 graduate of SVSU. A former Midland resident, Botz was recently named European area director of communications for Dow Corning Corp. She relocated to Brussels for the position.

Botz has been with Dow Corning since 1980, where she began as a salesperson. She moved to positions in marketing and finance before being named manager of internal communications in 1993. Botz’s career in journalism began in 1974 with The Saginaw News.

Botz was a member of the SVSU Alumni Board of Directors and SVSU Foundation Board of Directors. She was chairperson of the Alumni Division of the Campaign for Distinction.

In addition to her service to SVSU’s Alumni Board and SVSU Foundation Board, Botz has been a member of the Saginaw Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, a member and officer for the board of directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Midland County, and chaired Dow Corning’s United Way efforts with 3,500 employees.

SVSU award honors student tutor

Everybody needs somebody sometime ... as the song states. Sometimes that somebody comes as an academic “angel” — someone to guide you and help you better prepare for a college course or life’s experiences. Mayme Hamilton was one such angel for her children, neighbors and others who were referred to her for help. It is in Hamilton’s honor, and to her credit, that her children established the Mayme Hamilton Tutoring Award at SVSU through its Campaign for Distinction. And SVSU sophomore Pamela VanHaitsma is the first student to be recognized for her contributions as a tutor to her peers at the University. VanHaitsma, an English major, is from Marion. She is a tutor in SVSU’s Writing Center, directed by Diane Boehm.

“I am immensely proud of the many ways Pam uses her talents as a writer and as a writing tutor to contribute to the success of other students,” Boehm said. “Last semester she logged 96 tutorial sessions — all the while remaining cheerful, focused, and insightful, giving students the best feedback possible.”

A team of staff reviewed a number of nominees for the honor. They were Robert Maurovich, Thomas Kullgren, Diane Boehm and Kim McDonald.

Hamilton, 91, continues to tutor. She is credited with helping one son, five grandsons and a great granddaughter receive degrees from SVSU. Her family established the Mayme Hamilton Tutoring Award in 1997 to honor Hamilton for her “dedicated service in helping others and recognizes the efforts of outstanding tutors on the campus of SVSU so that her legacy can continue.”

VanHaitsma will receive a $500 award toward tuition and fees for the 1998-99 academic year. A plaque will be presented by the Hamilton family on April 22.

SVSU offers study/travel opportunity to Vietnam

SVSU is sponsoring a study/travel program to Vietnam, directed by Eric Petersen, professor of history. Recent economic conditions in Southeast Asia have reduced the cost to $2,985, which includes all travel expenses (air & ground), hotel accommodations and almost all meals.

The trip is scheduled from July 8 to 19. SVSU credit is available if desired (tuition cost is additional). The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, April 21. A deposit of $300 is required by Friday, April 24. Financial aid may be available if participants are receiving SVSU credit. For more information, contact Petersen at ext. 4305, Woody Pelton at ext. 4473 or Ed Minnock at ext. 4002.

Robotics contest brings math and science students to SVSU campus

Knowledge of math and science will combine for an engineering show of robotics technology during the 12th Annual Student Robotics Automation Contest, A Manufacturing Challenge, May 2 at SVSU. Nearly 50 teams of 500 students will compete in the contest, sponsored by Robotic International of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Teams will compete in the day-long event in Ryder Center. Forty-three schools from nine states are registered for the event. Students will apply their knowledge of math and science to develop a robotic automation project in any of 10 different competitions.

Participants in the competition also will have the opportunity to tour Saginaw’s Delphi Steering Systems plant to see first-hand a manufacturing operation.
Retired banking official to receive honorary Doctor of Humanities

Alan Ott, retired president and chief executive officer of Chemical Financial Corp., will receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree during SVSU’s May 9 Commencement ceremonies in O’Neill Arena.

Ott’s banking career began at the First National Bank of Manistique. While still in high school, he worked as a part-time bookkeeper at the bank and upon his graduation, became an assistant cashier. Ott’s association with First National resumed after his service in the Korean War, until he accepted a position as cashier at Citizens State Bank in Clare (now Chemical Bank Michigan). He was elected to the board in 1961, at only 29 years of age.

Ott currently serves on the SVSU Foundation Board of Directors and played a significant role in the Campaign for Distinction. He is a member of the Foundation Board’s Finance and Investment Committee.

In 1962, Ott accepted the position of cashier at Chemical State Savings Bank in Midland, where his performance earned him a promotion to vice president just two years later, and membership on the board of directors by 1969. When the bank’s president died suddenly in 1972, Ott was chosen as successor by the board of directors.

Ott lead the organization of Chemical Financial Corp. in 1974 and became the company’s first president and CEO. During the next 22 years, he personally negotiated the acquisition of 17 banks, helping to invent the modern super community bank. Ott retired as an employee of CFC in 1996 and continues to serve as non-executive chairman of the boards of both the corporation and the bank.

Ott’s commitment to higher education and community involvement includes several roles in volunteer activities, including serving as a trustee of the Michigan Molecular Institute, Albion College, the Michigan 4-H Foundation, the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, the Elsa U. Pardee Foundation and the Midland Community Center’s operating board. Ott is a member of the board of directors of the Midland County Economic Growth and Development Corp. and the Economic Development Corp. of Midland County. He also is a former director of the United Way.

SVSU’s maintenance crew recently received its second “Golden Wrench Award” in three years. The crew received the award from Trane (Trane Air Conditioning), which annually presents the award to customers who obtain the highest score in a competition judged by field technicians.

To earn the award, field technicians evaluate Trane service agreement holders in several categories: owner/operator preventive maintenance program, equipment operating logs, operator knowledge of equipment, mechanical room appearance, retrofitting and updating of HVAC equipment, energy conservation improvements and environmental impact considerations.

Members of the maintenance team include John Neumeyer, Mike Andrzelewski, Jason Rasmussen, Dan Taylor and Bill Demand.

SVSU maintenance programs received 95 of 100 possible points. The crew received the award during a March luncheon ceremony in Flint.

“It directly impacts energy savings by having well-maintained equipment,” said Bob Tutsock, director of Physical Plant. “There is cost savings if the equipment runs efficiently.”

SVSU was considered among several colleges, corporations, state of Michigan offices and other private enterprises.

“I certainly appreciate the efforts of the HVAC staff and for their conscientious work performance,” Tutsock added.