March 23, 1999

Roberts Fellowship to develop future leaders

Ten Saginaw Valley State University students annually will have the opportunity to experience international travel and advance their leadership skills through the newly-developed Roberts Fellows Program.

Named in honor of Donna Roberts — a former member of the SVSU Board of Control and of the Board of Fellows, and a current member of the SVSU Foundation Board — the Roberts Fellowship seeks a select group of undergraduate students who have exhibited both scholarship and leadership potential. Successful candidates will be supported through a year-long program of both academic course work and extracurricular activities, designed to develop their potential as future political, economic and civic leaders.

Roberts, a respected attorney, business leader and philanthropist, recently retired from The Dow Chemical Company as secretary and assistant general counsel. Honored by many area organizations, Roberts’ lifetime of achievement and service is a model of excellence in responsible leadership.

“It is fitting that this unique scholarship program be named in honor of Donna Roberts,” President Eric R. Gilbertson said. “She worked very hard to develop her quite remarkable leadership skills, and now has provided support for the development of others with high potential.”

Roberts Fellows will complete 12 credit hours of specified course work and supervised international travel to add a concentrated focus on leadership to their graduate studies. The fellowships will fund those academic credits, required course materials and expenses associated with the international experience.

Drew Hinderer, professor of philosophy, is chairman of the Roberts Fellows Program. Hinderer will seek the support of fellow faculty and staff members to identify students for the program. Students must have between 70 and 100 credits, generally a minimum grade point of 3.0.

During the fellowship year, “fellows” will meet monthly for informal seminars and discussions with regional political, business and civic leaders. During the spring semester, the fellows will travel abroad with a faculty or staff mentor. A trip to Asia is planned for Spring 2000.

Alumni of the program will be encouraged to remain involved through their “senior year,” serving as mentors to the current year’s participants. At least one annual meeting of alumni of the program will take place — both to welcome new Roberts Fellows as well as to benefit from the friendships and relationships developed between current and past participants.

Along with an application, applicants must provide a 600- to 1,000-word essay explaining personal and professional goals, and two recommendations from University faculty, staff and administration, and from community leaders with knowledge of the applicant’s performance and potential as a leader. Applications will be reviewed for academic accomplishment, a record of University/community service, and other evidence of potential for leadership.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to urge eligible students to apply for the program. Applications are available from Hinderer, or by calling ext. 4041.

Friday, April 9 is the deadline for reservations to the All-University Awards Banquet. To RSVP, call ext. 4068.
ValleyFest features fun with science, art and technology

SVSU's annual ValleyFest will include much of what returning guests have come to anticipate – but several new activities as well. ValleyFest '99 will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 27 in Curtiss Hall.

Adding to the featured popular events, such as the Dancers' Revue, the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum and the science and technology programs, will be presentations by Dr. ZAP, "Spaced Out" and also performances by the Collegium Musicum, the Joyful Pipers and the Joyful Noise Dulcimers. A special showing of the Woven Forest – an interactive environmental sculpture intended to stimulate and facilitate dance, drama, story telling, poetry and other creative arts activities – will be in the Alumni Lounge of Curtiss Hall.

Exhibits of art work by faculty, staff and visual art students will be on display. In addition, faculty, staff and students will provide musical performances between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

There is no charge for entrance to ValleyFest and most activities. Some activities in the Fun Arts Factory may have a nominal materials' fee.

The ValleyFest Planning Committee expresses appreciation to ArtSmart for its significant support of ValleyFest. Additional information on ValleyFest is available through the Campus Life Center at ext. 4170.

Poet, literary biographer at SVSU

Melba J. Boyd, writer, producer and director of The Black Unicorn, is scheduled to speak at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 31 in Founders Hall.

The Black Unicorn is a documentary on the life and poetry of an American poet who revolutionized the American literary tradition through the establishment of Broadside Press in 1965. The film will be shown at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 1 in Room 143 of SVSU's Science Building. The showing is part of English 300, Writing in the Professions, and is open to the public.

Boyd's appearance as part of Voices in the Valley for March, is sponsored by SVSU's Office of the Dean of Arts and Behavioral Sciences and the Dow Visiting Scholars & Artists Series. A special note of thanks to Boyd for permitting the screening of The Black Unicorn. For additional information, call ext. 4063.

International management expert to appear March 29 through April 1

David A. Ricks, distinguished professor of international business at Thunderbird, The American Graduate School of International Management, will visit SVSU March 29 through April 1. Ricks' appearance is part of SVSU's Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists and the Wickson/Nickless Distinguished Lectureship in Business programs.

Ricks' public appearance is slated at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 30 in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. He will address "Avoiding Blunders in International Business."

Ricks formerly was vice president of academic affairs at Thunderbird. He has been a professor of international business at Ohio State University. He also was director of faculty development in the International Business Program at the University of South Carolina, where he served as the director of the Ph.D. program in International Business and the acting director of the master's of international business studies program.

Ricks has written 10 books, his most recent, Global Management, International Business and Blunders in International Business. He also is the author of numerous articles and papers. His most recent works appear in such publications as the Strategic Management Journal, the Journal of International Business Studies and the Columbia Journal of World Business.

Ricks is a Fellow of the Academy of International Business and consults in the fields of international management and international strategy. He trains individuals for overseas assignments and speaks to groups about blunders in international business.

To RSVP for the March 30 program, call ext. 4064.

Across Campus

• The campus community extends condolences to Jonathan Leonard, professor of electrical and computer engineering, on the recent loss of his mother.

• Ted Nitz, former personal counselor, passed away Friday, March 12 in Florida. He was 67. Details of a memorial service were published in the Saturday, March 20 edition of The Saginaw News.

• Congratulations go out to Julie (Spiekerman) Reinbold, who was married March 4.
Expert on race and sports to speak at SVSU

Harry Edwards, the nation’s leading expert on race and sports, and the chief organizer of the 1968 Olympics boycott, will be a Dow Visiting Scholar at SVSU this month. Edwards will lecture in various classes, as well as give a public lecture as part of the Dow Visiting Scholars & Artists Series.

His public speech will be at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 25 in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. Edwards will discuss “End of the Golden Age of Black Athletic Participation.”

Edwards, a sports sociologist, is a professor of sociology at the University of California-Berkeley. He serves as a consultant with producers of sports-related programs on NBC, CBS, ABC and PBS television networks.

Edwards is a staff consultant for the San Francisco Forty-Niners and the Golden State Warriors. He is a consultant with the National Association of Black Assistant Coaches and a member of an advisory board to the Institute for Social Responsibility at San Jose State University.

Edwards has written four books and many articles, including several in sports journals and periodicals.

In addition to Edwards’ public speech, he will address several SVSU classes in sociology, social work, nursing, physical education and teacher education. He also will participate in a faculty roundtable and a panel discussion with area athletes.

For additional information on Edwards’ appearance, call Karen Selby, assistant professor of teacher education, at ext. 4189.

Have You Heard?

• The deadline for nominations for the Faculty Association Awards is Thursday, March 25. Scholarly activity and university/community service are the two categories for awards. Forms are available at third floor faculty secretory stations in Brown and Curtiss Halls and the Science Building. Send completed nomination forms to Marcia Shannon in 325 Curtiss Hall.

Campus Happenings

• University Art Gallery — The Midland Artists Guild will have works on display through April 5. Gallery hours are noon to 4:30 p.m. Monday, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, and noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Blood Drive — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 24 in the Alumni Lounge. To make an appointment to donate, contact Health Services at ext. 4271.

HIV Awareness Seminar — 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 26 in 129 Curtiss Hall. Sponsored by the Student Social Work Organization, this event will review current information on HIV. Also, two panels from the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in Zahnow Library March 25 and 26.

The Comedy of Errors — 7:30 p.m. March 25, 26 and 27 in the Performing Arts Theatre; and 2 p.m. April 2, 3 and 4 in the Amphitheatre. For more information, call ext. 4261.

Faculty/Staff Luncheon — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8 in the Emeriti Room. Cost is $3.95 per person.

Economics Society Forum — 2 p.m. Thursday, April 8 in the Performing Arts Theatre. Jean-René Gehan, consul general of France-Chicago, will discuss “European Challenges After the Launching of the Euro: A French View.”

Developing Leaders From Within — 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday, April 15 in Curtiss Hall. A workshop recommended for A/P staff. To register, contact Tamie Grunow at ext. 4111.

Honors Convocation — 4 p.m. Thursday, April 15 in the Performing Arts Theatre. A reception will follow in Groening Commons.
Professional Profile

• Diane Boehm, Director of the University Writing Program, served as a “Creative Writer in the Schools” at Sterling Elementary during Spring Break. She worked with three classes of sixth graders to compose and revise “growing up” stories, and with two classes of fourth graders to write about Michigan history. The program concluded with a family event in which family units wrote or illustrated pages for a family book. “Creative Writers in the Schools” grants are funded by ArtServe Michigan.

• Donald Himmelsbach, adjunct English faculty, has a short story, “Heroes,” appearing in the Pike Creek Review.

• John Jezierski, professor of history, served as co-curator for “The Detroit Publishing Company: Looking Across the River,” which is on exhibit through May 2 at Devonshire Mall in Windsor, Ontario. The exhibition, which focuses on The Detroit Publishing Company’s images of Canada and Detroit, includes a collection of postcards, lantern slides, large-scale panoramas, cyanotypes and ephemera. Jezierski provided a walk-through tour of the exhibit Feb. 20. An opening reception took place March 6. The Museums Assistance Program Department of Canadian Heritage provided funding.

• Jeffrey Koperski, assistant professor of philosophy, will present a paper, “God, Chaos, and the Quantum Dice,” at Theology and the New Physics, a Calvin College conference in Christian Scholarship sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The conference runs April 15 through 17.

• Patrick Pan, associate professor of mathematical sciences, gave an invited colloquium talk at the University of New Hampshire during spring break. His topic was “On Some Similarities Between Function Algebras and Nest Algebras.” Also while at UNH, Pan conducted joint research with colleagues.

• Carlos Ramet, associate professor of English, presented a paper at the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters Annual Meeting on “Indian English in Context.” The study, which examined stylistic aspects of short stories by Khushwant Singh, was co-authored by Dr. Edward Noronha of the University of Mysore, India.

Ramet also had a short story accepted for publication in Chiricú, an Indiana University journal.


• Matthew Zivic, professor of art, had one work accepted for showing at the Bloomfield-Birmingham Art Center’s Annual Exhibition. “Yo, Petrushka” is a painted relief depicting the classical Russian folk tale updated to represent the O.J. Simpson murder mystery. The juror was Nancy Mitchnick, New York artist and holder of a senior lectureship at Harvard University, Boston.

Zivic also has two works in the Saginaw Art Museum’s 1999 All Area Photo Show. “30 Croatian Cravats II” is a self-portrait that celebrates Zivic’s 60th year on Earth; and “Homophobia,” or every artist’s nightmare, won the One-Person Show Award. Juror was Don Desmett, executive director for the Art Center of Battle Creek.

Transitions

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

SVSU Welcomes

• Robert Beauchamp, electrician, Physical Plant, 790-4274

• Patricia Ferguson, technical assistant, Continuing Education, 249-1966, C142, pferg@svsu.edu

• Cheryl Sylvester, custodian, Physical Plant, 790-4279

Same Face, New Place

• Deborah Albrough, senior secretary, second floor Wickes Hall, 790-5654, dal@svsu.edu

• Vickie Jaskiewicz, senior secretary, Physical Plant, 790-4175, vlj@svsu.edu

Name Change

• Julie (nee: Spiekerman) Reinbold

High Five

• Baseball (8-6, 4-0) — swept a pair of doubleheaders against Westminster College over the weekend. The Cards won 4-2 and 16-9 Saturday, and 7-3 and 6-2 Sunday.

• Softball (15-4) — came home with a 4-1 record after playing five games in Indianapolis Friday and Saturday.

• Tennis (6-1) — defeated Alma College 7-2 Saturday.

• Golf — finished third at a four-team tournament in Lexington, KY.
Lights! Camera! Action!

Brian Mudd may not shout those classic film-making instructions from his director’s chair; however, his department can produce multimedia television programs with the recent opening of the video production studio in Curtiss Hall.

Mudd, head of audio/visual services and technology center, and his staff have invested countless hours preparing for the day when SVSU will offer students a “classroom without walls” learning environment.

“Basically that means we will make available to any instructor the technology tools for the classroom,” Mudd said. “A ‘classroom without walls’ will enable professors to bring different types of media to the students — including video tape, Internet, CD ROM, cable TV documentaries, satellite downlinks and other multimedia sites on the World Wide Web.”

Mudd, who joined the Zahnow Library staff in May 1987, said numerous changes have taken place since Curtiss Hall and the Performing Arts Center opened in 1996.

“It used to be that our services involved keeping an inventory of A/V equipment that had to be moved from Point A to Point B on campus,” Mudd explained. “Now we’re attempting to equip classrooms with data display technology that faculty can use for their lectures and presentations.

“It offers a much more organized and, I think, interesting presentation for the students,” he continued. “I believe students are arriving on our campus who have higher expectations of what will be available to them in the classroom. They expect more than a lecture where all they do is take notes.

“Studies also show that higher levels of learning take place when information is accompanied by visuals that emphasize key teaching points,” Mudd said.

By Fall 1999 semester, Mudd expects to equip six more classrooms with projection systems, along with a dozen more rooms that will have some form of A/V technology.

“The key here is that we are bringing all of the instructor interface to one location in those classrooms,” Mudd said. “From one location, the instructor can access the Internet, display computer data from a lap top, run computer audio, and present different types of video format.

“In addition, we’re making all of it very user-friendly. It doesn’t make any sense to invest in technology that nobody understands how to use,” Mudd said.

Service also remains a central part of Mudd’s department — the staff will provide training to faculty, staff and students who need to create multimedia presentations.

The challenge for Mudd and his staff is to keep up with advances in technology that seem to move at light speed.

“What you buy today will be replaced within six weeks by a product that is faster and better,” Mudd said. To maximize resources, Mudd said he always purchases technologies that are “upwardly compatible.”

For further information on Zahnow Library services, visit www.svsu.edu/itc.
Teaching in the Fast Lane

For 15 mechanical engineering students, the best part of their involvement in the student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers is the cool car they get to race. For faculty advisor Brooks Byam, the best part of his involvement is the students themselves.

“I’ve always loved colleges and the college atmosphere, so when I got the opportunity to teach at Michigan State, I discovered I had found my niche,” Byam said. “Being here definitely reinforces that decision.

“I guess I’ve been a student so long, I can relate to them.”

SVSU is Byam’s first faculty assignment. He is pursuing his doctorate at MSU and taught classes there part time. Byam’s role as advisor to SAE is to provide the continuity, guidance and direction the students need.

“The students need to design the car and engineer it,” he said. “They not only gain knowledge of automobiles and engineering, but gain valuable leadership skills.”

And the final product will compete against those from more than 100 other schools during an annual competition in May at the Pontiac Silverdome. SVSU’s students will compete alongside traditional engineering powerhouses such as MIT and the University of Michigan – and perform well, Byam said.

“This is really a feather in SVSU’s cap,” Byam said. “The event is a very prestigious competition and it’s such a rich project for what it teaches our students.” Last year, SVSU entered a car for the first time in the history of the competition. Some of that vehicle’s engineers returned for a second shot.

“What I really enjoy is when the car breaks down and everyone jumps in to fix it,” said returning senior Brett Deneut. “You have to make quick decisions.”

“The adrenalin just shoots up,” Byam interleaved.

“It’s scary when you first jump in the car – you don’t know what it’s going to do,” Deneut said.

The students divide into five teams, each responsible for one aspect of the car: engine, drive train, suspension, controls and frame. They meet twice a week to develop the car – Thursday nights and all day Saturday.

Freshman Dan Deussen said, “I saw the car, thought it was cool and wanted to work on it.”

“We’re trying to get into more of the high tech things,” senior Luke Cruff said. A “veteran,” Cruff is the team captain.

“What people don’t realize,” Byam said, “is that the automobile is one of the most complex machines the general public uses.”

Byam said he enjoys the challenges as much as the students – and one of the biggest challenges he faces is learning about racing and high performance cars. Byam worked at NASA in Virginia while pursuing his master’s at George Washington University – much different than racing cars. He said he is hopeful another member of the campus community – a racing enthusiast – will come forward to advise the students in auto racing.

A native of Grand Ledge, Byam resides in Saginaw Township – and spends his weekends working on his doctorate at MSU.