

# Interior

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July 6, 1999

## Foundation Board names Renna 1999 Rush Lecturer

The SVSU Foundation Board has named Thomas J. Renna, professor of history, the 1999 lecturer for the Thomas and Hilda Rush Distinguished Lectureship. Thomas and Hilda Rush of Midland created the Rush Endowment as part of the Campaign for Distinction. The 1998 lecturer was Walter Rathkamp, executive director of the Center for Mathematics & Science Education and the SVSU Regional Math/Science Center.

Renna will discuss "Jerusalem for Christians, Jews and Muslims" at 4 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4 in Founders Hall.

Renna joined the SVSU faculty in 1970. He received his Ph.D. from Brown University, and attended Université de Dijon in France. Renna received his master of arts degree from the University of Nebraska, and spent a summer in Université de Laval, Quebec. He received his B.A. from the University of Scranton.

Renna received the House Family Award for Teacher Impact in 1992, the Professorial Merit Award in 1991, the Faculty Association Award for Scholarship in 1986 and the Landee Teaching Excellence Award in 1984. He also received a Research Fellowship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture in 1987, and National Endowment for the Humanities grants (1987, 1985 and 1973).

Renna regularly teaches World Civilization to AD 1500, Ancient Near East to 300 BC, Ancient Rome, Early Middle Ages 300-1500, High Middle Ages 1050-1320, Renaissance Europe and France 1500-1815. He reads Latin, French, Italian and German. Renna is widely published in professional, religious and scholarly journals, including *Michigan Academician*, *American Benedictine Review*, *Cîteaux*, *Studia Monastica* and *Augustinian Studies*. He also

has published two books, *The West in the Early Middle Ages* (1977) and *Church and State in Medieval Europe 1050-1314* (1974). Cistercian Publications will publish his most recent book, *The Idea of Jerusalem in Monastic Thought*, in December.

Renna also has lectured extensively on numerous topics in medieval studies, religion, mysticism and peace.

The Rush Lectureship recognizes and rewards SVSU faculty and staff who, by their creation or development of significant scholarly or artistic work, have distinguished themselves and brought recognition to the University. The Rush Endowment provides resources for an annual presentation by a faculty or staff member in an academic convocation.



Thomas J. Renna

## Fourteen named Roberts Fellows by Foundation Board

The SVSU Foundation Board Tuesday, June 8 approved the naming of 14 students as Roberts Fellows. The 14 were recommended by President Eric R. Gilbertson after consulting with members of the Roberts Fellows Steering Committee, based upon nominations from SVSU faculty and staff. This first group of Roberts Fellows will travel to Asia during Spring 2000, following completion of a program of study, which includes meeting monthly with other Fellows and various political, business and civic leaders throughout the region. The fellowships fund the 12 academic credits, course materials and expenses associated with the international experience.

The Roberts Fellows Program is 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 provides a select group of undergraduate students who have exhibited both scholarship and leadership potential with an international travel opportunity. The 14 candidates will be supported through a year-long program of both academic course work and

See Roberts Fellows, Page 2 ►

**Roberts Fellows** (Continued from Page 1)  
extracurricular activities, designed to develop their potential as future political, economic and civic leaders.

The first class of Roberts Fellows includes: Kathryn J. Anthony, elementary education; Alicia Fulgencio, mechanical engineering and Spanish; Theresa Green, social work; Debra Rae Hart, English; Brian Hogle, international studies; Pamela Logghe, elementary education; Heather Matula, political science; Anne Musson, graphic design; Kristopher Newbauer, history and political science; Megan Smekar, biochemistry and French; Angela Turner, occupational therapy; Kimberlee Willoughby, accounting; Kelly Wrocklage, economics and finance; and Amy Mei-YeeWu, occupational therapy and psychology.

To be eligible for the Roberts Fellowship, students had to have completed between 70 and 100 credit hours with a 3.00 grade point average.

### **SVSU signs Agreement with Canadian college**

The College of Science, Engineering and Technology and the Office of Transfer Student Programs and Services have been working together to promote transfer into SVSU. On June 14, administrators from SVSU and from Fanshawe College (London, Ontario) met at SVSU to sign an international agreement,

which formalizes the transfer of credits from the Canadian college to the University.

SVSU will accept select control engineering, mechanical engineering (mobile equipment) and electronic engineering technology credits from Fanshawe for transfer toward bachelor of science degrees in electrical engineering or mechanical engineering.

"We are glad Michael

Golding (chair of Fanshawe's electrical/electronics technology division and dean of the School of Technology) led the way for Fanshawe and we thank SVSU for this opportunity," said E.L. (Ted) Smith, acting chair of Fanshawe's manufacturing sciences division.

SVSU members from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology present were Thomas Kullgren, dean of the college;

Jonathan Leonard, chair of the department of Electrical Computer Engineering, and Enayat Mahajerin, chair of the department of Mechanical Engineering.

### **"Christmas In July" project planned**

Saginaw Valley State University employees will partner with Great Lakes National Bank for "Christmas in July," Saturday, July 31. Volunteers will assist a senior citizen in repair and clean up of her home from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jim Muladore, controller and assistant vice president of administration and business affairs, is coordinating SVSU's participation. Muladore stressed no special talents are needed to help.

"This is a good opportunity to do something worthwhile in the community and to represent SVSU," he said. "It's a personally satisfying experience."

SVSU faculty and staff have consistently participated with the program in previous years.

### **Relay for Life team members needed**

Walkers, runners and roller-bladers are needed for the SVSU Relay for Life team. Faculty and staff are welcome to devote any amount of time to raising funds for the American Cancer Society Friday and Saturday, Aug. 20 and 21.

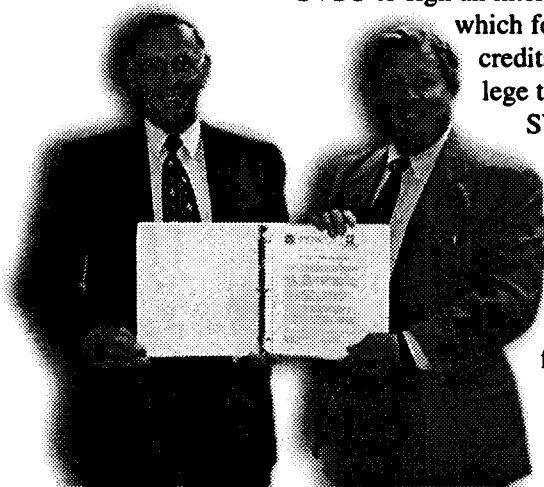
"This event not only supports cancer research and funds programs that help pay for vital patient services, it also is packed full of entertainment, food, games, prizes and camaraderie," said Sue Browning, administrative assistant to the vice president for academic affairs.

Activities include a candlelight ceremony honoring survivors and in memory of those lost to cancer.

"All of us at SVSU have been touched by the effects of cancer, either through personal experience or via a friend or loved one," Browning added. "Many members of our own SVSU family have been victims and/or survivors of this major health problem."

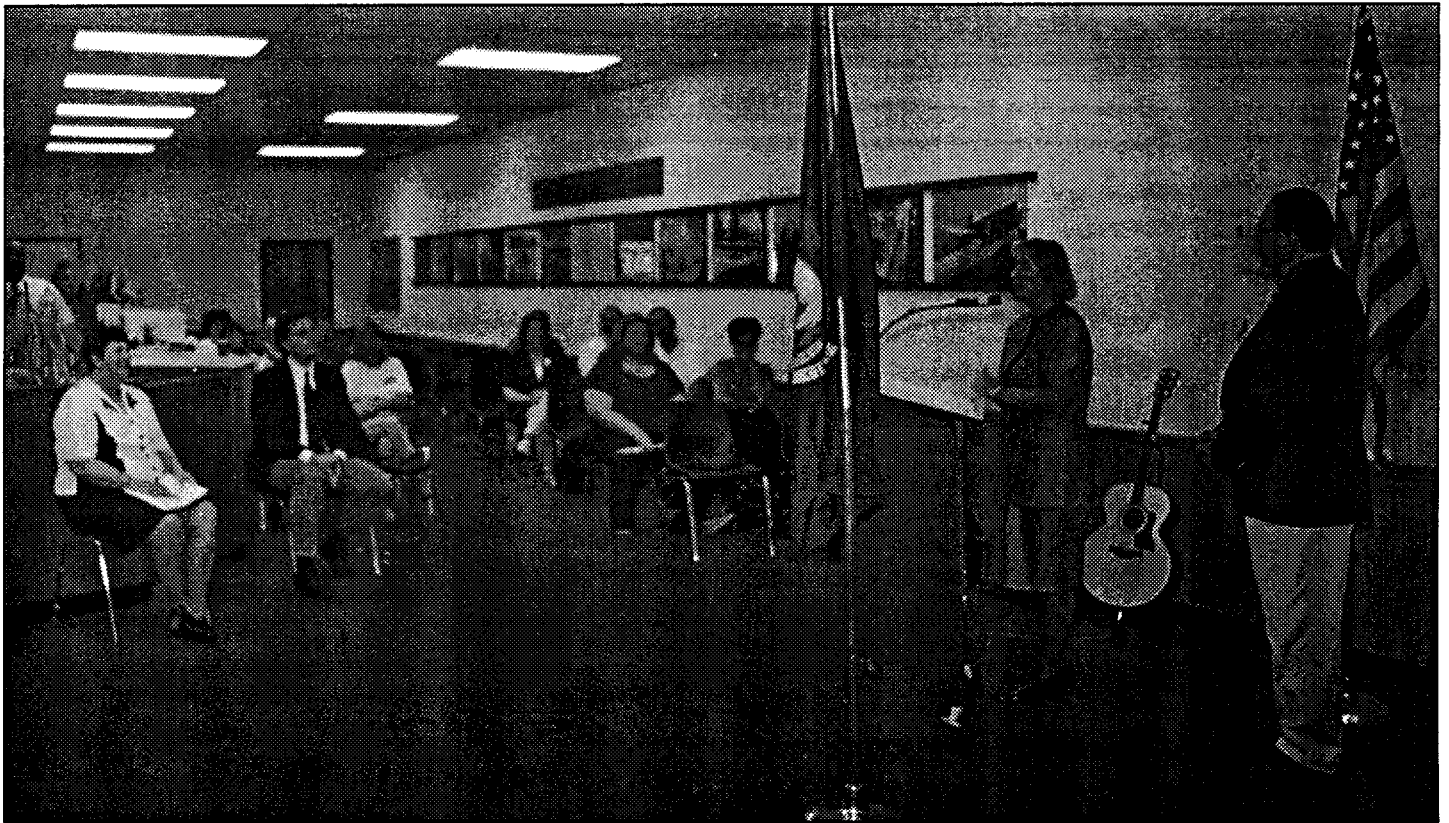
To join the team, or for more information on this 24-hour family-oriented event, call Browning at ext. 4669 or Richard Payne at ext. 4042 by Friday, July 23.

**Health Services  
will be closed  
from July 6 to  
Aug. 23.**



**E.L. (Ted) Smith** from Fanshawe College and Thomas Kullgren signed the new articulation agreement June 14.

**Contact the Office of  
Information Services at  
ext. 4039 to schedule a  
portrait sitting for the 1999-  
2000 Faculty/Staff Directory.**



**SVSU visitors to the Northwest branch of the Secretary of State Office will feel right at home. As part of Candice Miller's mission to have all branches reflect their resident communities, the office at 4404 Bay Road (near Best Buy) is decorated with an SVSU theme. Campus photos, sports paraphernalia, a flag and "SVSU" inlaid carpet all**

**are part of the decor. An open house and dedication ceremony took place June 25. Joining Miller was President Eric Gilbertson, State Rep. A.T. Frank, State Sen. Mike Goschka and students Brie Wilga and Ange Mrozinski. Wilga sang *My Country 'Tis of Thee*, with Mrozinski providing flute accompaniment.**



**The Dr. Walter T. James Memorial Garden outside Curtiss Hall was dedicated June 25. James was among the first faculty members on campus in 1968 and also served as interim president in 1974. James, who died in 1998, would have celebrated his 80th birth-**

**day June 25. Joining President Eric Gilbertson and Robert S.P. Yien, vice president of academic affairs, was James' widow, Eleanore, and their son, David, and members of the SVSU faculty and staff who worked with James.**

# OUT ABOUT

- **Larry Kickham**, professor of accounting, is the vice president of finance for the Saginaw Choral Society, and is a member of the AAA, AICPA, MACPA and IMA.
- **Richard Payne**, executive assistant to the president, is a board member for the Bay Area Community Foundation, for which he also is a member of the executive committee and chair of the asset development committee. Payne also is a member of the Great lakes Center Foundation.

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. 4068.

*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, or send E-mail to [infoservices@svsu.edu](mailto:infoservices@svsu.edu).

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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## Professional Profile

- **Ava Lewis**, assistant professor of nursing and project administrator for an NCAA National Youth Sports Program, received a grant for the program from the Saginaw County Youth FORCE (a youth advisory council through the Saginaw Community Foundation).
- **Helen Raica-Klotz**, English lecturer, presented "15 Minutes of Fame: Short But Effective Student Writing Conferences" at the Michigan Writing Across the Curriculum Conference on May 22.

## Across Campus

- The campus community extends condolences to **Lori Flaherty**, women's basketball coach, whose father, John Flaherty, died in late June.
- Condolences also go out to **Lorraine and Kirker Kranz**. Lorraine's mother, Ruth Miller, died June 8.
- **Jason Rasmussen** and his wife, Wendy, have a new baby girl. Amanda Joy (7 lbs., 2 oz.) was born June 23.

## Transitions

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

### SVSU Welcomes

- **Shawn Wilson**, residence hall director, Housing and Residential Life, C113
- **Karla Zinnecker**, residence hall director, Housing and Residential Life, C113, 790-4258, [zinn@svsu.edu](mailto:zinn@svsu.edu)

### Same Face, New Place

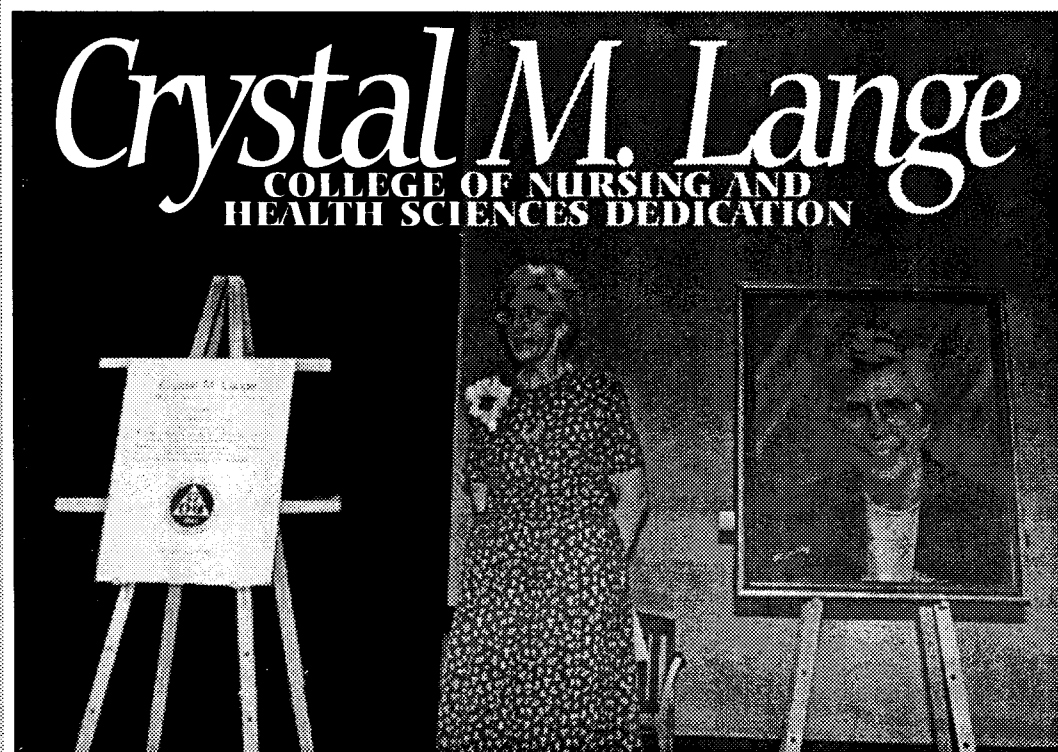
- **Lisa Douglas**, international admissions counselor, W141, [ldouglas@svsu.edu](mailto:ldouglas@svsu.edu)

### Retiring

- **Diana Frederick**, assistant professor of mathematical sciences
- **Donald Wiseman**, professor of accounting

### Moving On

- **Siamack Bondari**
- **Ellen Fennick**
- **Michelle Johnson**
- **Margaret Jones**
- **William Whiteley**



The Board of Control June 18 dedicated the Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Lange founded the College of Nursing and served as its dean for 20 years. She has been with SVSU 23 years. The Board plans to take formal action naming the College during its August meeting. The dedication ceremony was attended by several members of Lange's family, the campus community and the Tri-Counties. (Photo by Gabe Sauvie.)



# Staff Member

## OF THE MONTH

**Gary  
Brasseur**

**Assistant  
Director of  
Admissions**

**July 1999**

**G**ary Brasseur knows exactly when and why he chose Saginaw Valley State University.

Following his graduation from high school in Saginaw Township, Brasseur said he was certain about his college choice, and it wasn't SVSU.

"I thought I was all set to go away to college, but my parents wanted me to look at schools closer to home," said Brasseur, who reluctantly accompanied his parents on a June visit to the SVSU campus.

But after one hour with an admissions representative, Brasseur said he had completely changed his mind and was sold on SVSU.

"What I do now — sitting and talking with students and their parents — is also what convinced me to come to Saginaw Valley," he said. "It started out as, 'Well, I'll go here for a year,' but once I got here, I loved it and didn't want to leave."

Brasseur went on to complete his B.A. in political science, which he thought would be good preparation for law school.

"My father is an attorney, and I have other family members who graduated from law school, also. But after going to law school for

about 18 months, I realized being an attorney was not what I wanted to do."

After leaving law school, Brasseur returned to SVSU where he accepted part-time positions in the Bookstore and the Office of Minority Student Services in January 1996. A year later, he transferred to Academic Advising and in June 1997 joined the staff in Admissions.

Now that he sits on the other side of the table, Brasseur said he relies on his own experiences to advise incoming students.

"I worked full time while going to school full time, but I still made time for extracurricular activities," he said. "When I talk to students about SVSU, I encourage them to get involved in at least one activity every semester."

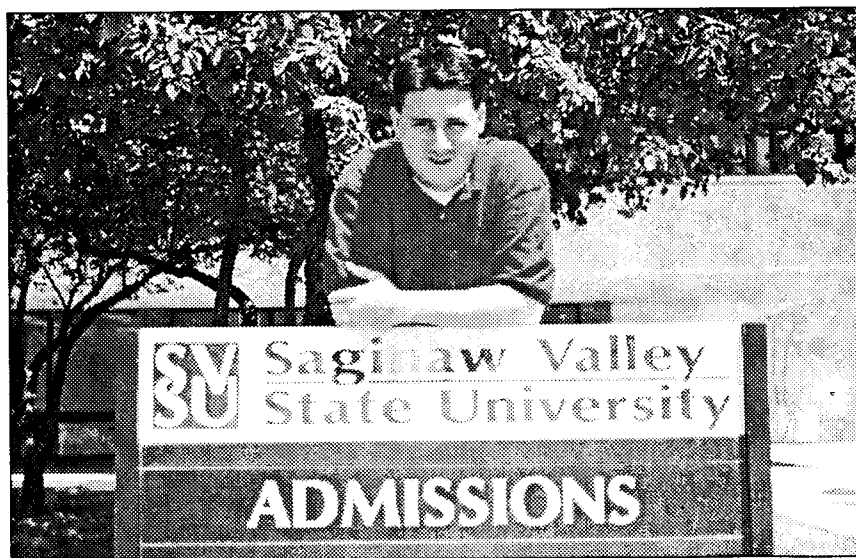
"In today's job market, having just a bachelor's degree isn't enough. Employers will ask: 'What have you done beyond what classes you took?' Getting involved in activities shows leadership and initiative, which distinguishes you from others who are standing in line behind you with the same degree."

Brasseur said he is proud to be part of the team that helped bring in a record number of new freshman students at the University. He noted that one of the keys to achieving the increase is the ability to directly offer scholarships to students.

"Having the scholarships in our office gives us a little more flexibility with recruiting," he said. "When we talk to a student who has great academic potential but can't afford college, it helps when we can say that we may have a scholarship available for them."

SVSU awarded more than \$700,000 in scholarships to incoming freshmen this year, and Brasseur said he is confident the department can break the record for FTIC students again next year.

Brasseur and his wife, Susan, who works in the Conference Bureau, are expecting their first child in October. Away from the office, the Brasseurs are busy remodeling their new home.



# InnerView

Featuring Faculty of Saginaw Valley State University

## English Takes on History

Students beware! If you think an English literature class means all reading and no writing . . . think again. Actually, if you intend to take ANY class with Eric Gardner, sharpen that pencil because writing is an essential element. So is history.

History? Taught by an assistant professor of English? That's right!

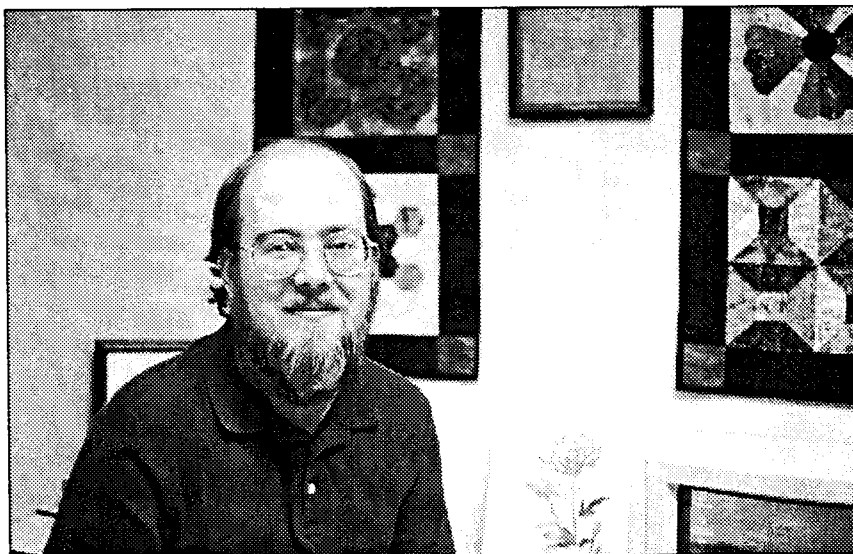
"Students write in all my classes," Gardner said. "Even the multimedia folks write traditional papers, in addition to writing for a web site."

He also incorporates history into his English classes, and not just from the 19th Century literature classes he teaches.

"We study from history to better ourselves," Gardner said. "We study the historical way people would read or write."

A third generation teacher, Gardner joined the SVSU faculty in 1993. He also is director of the Writing Center, working hand-in-hand with Diane Boehm, director of the University Writing Program.

Gardner's family history of teaching began in the 1920s when his grandmother taught in a one-room school house. Both his parents are retired teachers and his brother teaches. (Quilts made by his mother adorn Gardner's faculty office on third floor Brown.)



The English faculty position is Gardner's first teaching assignment since completing his Ph.D. in 1996 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His first contact with a university writing program came when he was a tutor and then interim director of the program at UIUC.

So when the writing center project was developed in 1997, Gardner jumped on board. He said it was his chance to work one-on-one with students in a non-classroom environment.

"There's no grading involved so they perceive me as a coach or ally," Gardner said. "(The Writing Center) is very much a place where folks of different backgrounds can practice communicating with one another."

"Being in different places shapes how we communicate with one another and lots of (faculty) integrate writing into their curriculum."

It is this interdisciplinary approach to the Writing Center that prompted Gardner and his colleagues to embark upon a web development project with students. Funding is through an SVSU Foundation Grant.

Faculty from English and history, and administrative/professional staff members work with students on an SVSU history web site. The site also will incorporate some material from Basil Clark's history of SVSU, *The Early and Formative Years*.

"The most exciting thing is we all get to work together on a project outside the classroom," Gardner said. "The students take what they learn in the classroom and use it on the project. They get to work with faculty as colleagues and create a real product with some value."

Gardner not only teaches history and writing – he lives it. Currently, he is deeply entrenched in a project about Mary Webb, a Black actress from the 19th Century. Gardner said he hopes his own experiences with research will inspire his students accordingly.

"I hope students involved in the project and all my classes find the same exciting moments of discovery I have with my Mary Webb work."

Gardner and his wife, Jodie, a librarian, are renovating their home in Saginaw Township. Both avid readers, the two also enjoy gardening.

FOUNDATION

# Board Report

A Report of the Saginaw Valley State University Foundation Board

June 8, 1999

## Foundation Board Appoints Rush Lecturer, Names Roberts Fellows

The Saginaw Valley State University Foundation Board Tuesday, June 8, approved Thomas J. Renna, professor of history, as the 1999 Rush Lecturer. The Board also approved the naming of 14 students as the first class of Roberts Fellows. (See related articles, Page 1.)

Three new endowments were approved and two were renamed. The Wolverine Bank Endowed Scholarship, the Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association Scholarship and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 557 Endowed Scholarship were created. The Department of Accounting renamed the John A. Clindenbeard Accounting Scholarship and the Chrysallis Endowment was renamed to reflect the name of the Chrysallis Center.

The Board approved a Foundation Resource Grant to fund a collaborative project between faculty and students in the development of a web site, detailing SVSU's history.

The Nominating Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the naming of Thomas Rush of Midland to a community member position on the Board through 2000. Rush was a Board of Control appointee, but his position with that board expired July 1.

The Board also appointed Harold J. "Tim" Blanchet Jr. Blanchet is a partner with the firm of Braun Kendrick Finkbeiner PLC. A resident of Saginaw, he is past president of the Saginaw YMCA and Child and Family Services. He also has volunteered with committees of Saginaw Township Community Schools and the Saginaw Township Soccer Complex. Blanchet is a board member and officer with Anderson Eye Institute. The Saginaw Elks Club named him its Citizen of the Year. Blanchet is a member of and continues to serve on the State Bar.

Rush and Blanchet fill seats vacated by the resignation of A.S. "Sarge" Harvey and the death of Melvin J. Zahnow.

Also:

- The Board was updated on progress for the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Commemorative Sculpture Campaign. The campaign will help finance Phase II of the Museum expansion.
- The Board received a report on the Center for International Studies and Services from Robert S.P. Yien, vice president of academic affairs; and Robert C. Braddock, director of the center and professor of history.
- Thomas Kullgren, dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, reviewed the success of SVSU's SAE Formula Car project. Kullgren was accompanied by Luke Cruff, captain of the SAE team.
- President Eric R. Gilbertson discussed programs on campus and plans for the 1999-2000 academic year.
- Members of the Board attended the dedication of the Lillian R. Zahnow Amphitheatre, which immediately followed the meeting.

**This is an unofficial report of Foundation Board activities.**