



Softball season begins this week

See how the girls fared in Florida during spring break

Full coverage on page A7

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Performance Enhancement

SVSU students exhibit talent in multiple instruments at their percussion performance

By Stacy Wilson
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

Students, parents, and staff flooded the main floor and balcony of the Rhea Miller Recital Hall on Feb. 28 to enjoy a performance by the SVSU percussion ensemble.

The performing SVSU students consider music a significant part of their lives.

"The first time I picked up sticks was in the fifth grade band," music freshman John Vincent said.

Ever since then Vincent has practiced with various instruments in addition to the drums.

In the performance, Vincent played the toms, marimba, and chimes, but his favorite instrument to play is the snare drum.

"I've had a lot of practice, so I can play it all," he said.

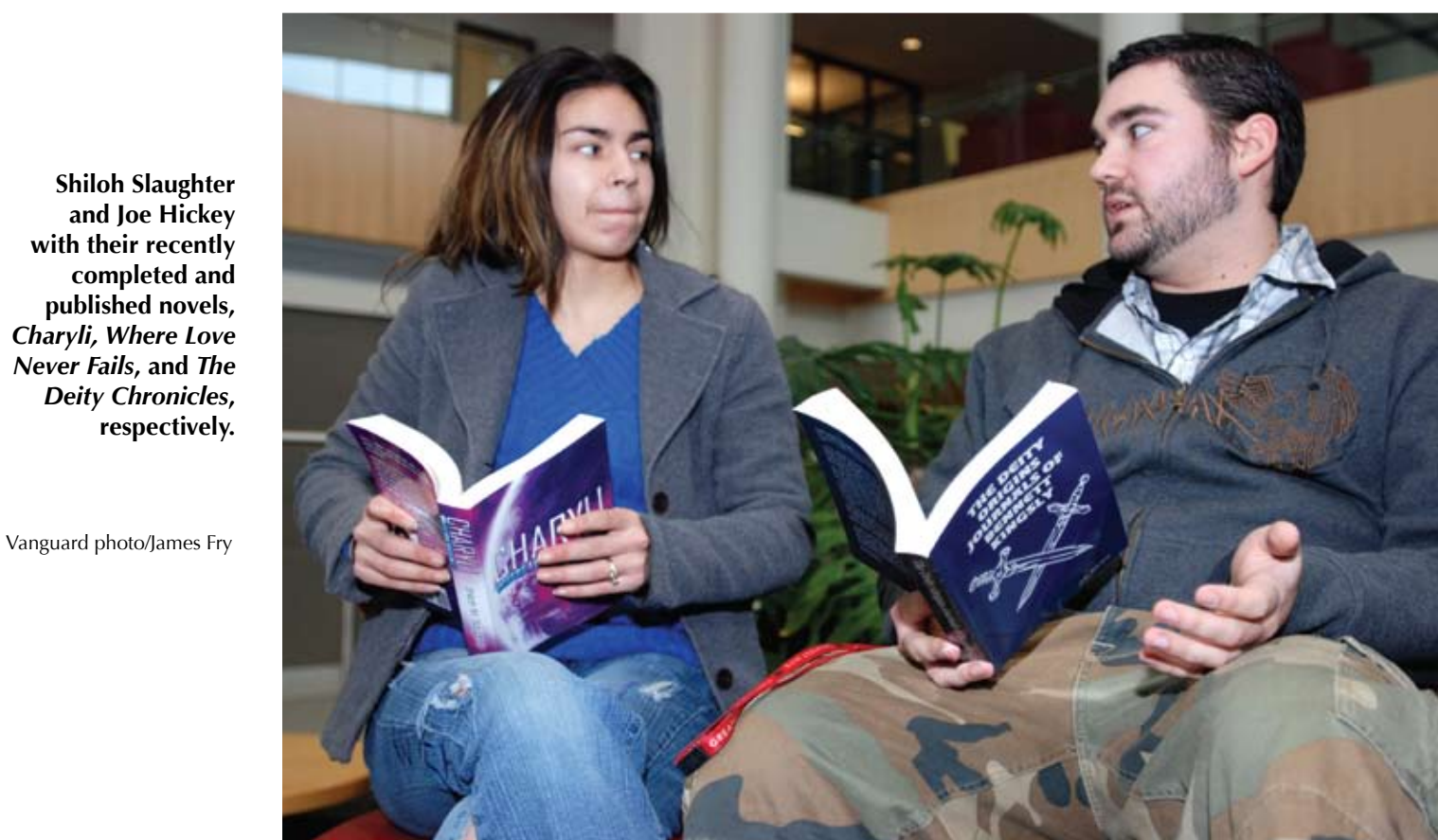
The saying "practice makes perfect" describes Vincent's routine. He practices daily at school, plus an additional one and a half to two hours of solo practice.

"I always used to listen to music with my dad. I was very young and he motivated me," Vincent said.

Another percussion group, Loop 2.4.3, will perform in concert Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

(From top to bottom)
Percussionists Dave Valasek, Diane Meyer, Amy Christianson, and Dustin Mallory perform at Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Vanguard photo/Doug Julian



Shiloh Slaughter and Joe Hickey with their recently completed and published novels, *Charyli, Where Love Never Fails*, and *The Deity Chronicles*, respectively.

Vanguard photo/James Fry

SVSU creative writing majors apply their skills and publish novels

By Chad Baker
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

Senior Joe Hickey and junior Shiloh Slaughter, both creative writing majors, have gone above and beyond the typical college student's workload of school and a part-time job by writing and publishing their own novels.

Slaughter's novel, *Charyli, Where Love Never Fails*, unites two lovers from Earth in another dimension known as Charyli.

Hickey's novel, *The Deity Chronicles*, also takes place in another dimension and deals with a young boy finding out that in the new dimension, he has the potential to become a god. He then must deal with the responsibility and danger behind that power.

"I only get to write maybe one or two hours a day while I'm going to school," Slaughter said. "The majority of this book was written while I was off for a semester, when I wrote for maybe six to eight hours every day."

See **BOOKS**, page A3