

# INTERIOR

## Organizational changes made to improve campus safety

Two veteran employees have assumed new responsibilities as part of the University's continuing commitment to campus safety. Craig Maxwell has accepted a new post as director of university health and safety, while Ron Trepkowski has assumed the position of interim director of University Police.



Maxwell



Trepkowski

building design and maintenance. He will also be involved in planning for emergency and critical incident preparedness. Maxwell spent the past 11 years as director of Public Safety and had been with the department for more than 26 years.

"We believe the campus community would be best served with the consolidation of non-police safety initiatives and responsibilities into one position," Muladore said.

Trepkowski will oversee University Police (formerly Public Safety). He has nearly 25 years experience in the department, most recently serving as a lieutenant.

"Our environment requires more than basic police services for the achievement of our safety goals," said James G. Muladore, vice president for administration and business affairs.

Maxwell will be responsible for workplace and occupational safety initiatives, environmental compliance efforts, and technical support for

## SVSU hires communications strategist

SVSU has hired Jan Poppe as assistant to the vice president for public affairs in university communications. Her primary responsibilities will be to develop and implement communication and marketing strategies for the University.

"We're fortunate to have Jan join SVSU," said Lucille Beuthin, vice president for public affairs and executive director of the SVSU Foundation. "Jan has a wealth of valuable experience and possesses the skills and talents necessary to move our communications to a higher level."

Poppe has more than 25 years of marketing, management, public relations and advertising experience. She served as vice president of sales and marketing for the Saginaw County Convention and Visitors Bureau from 1993 to 2001. Most recently, Poppe ran her own marketing consulting firm, JRP Communications.

"I've lived in Michigan for 11 years and have witnessed the incredible growth of SVSU," Poppe said. "Now to be part of the next stage of the University's development is an extraordinary and



Poppe

challenging opportunity. I'm ready to get started."

A resident of Midland, Poppe has a record of community involvement. She is a member and immediate past president of the Saginaw Rotary Club. She is also active with the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum, the Saginaw Choral Society and the Midland Downtown Development Authority's "Cool Cities" committee.

Poppe has a master's degree from SVSU and a bachelor's degree from Edgely College (now part of Xavier University, Ohio). She began her new role May 24.

**Those interested in a new portrait for the 2004-05 Faculty/Staff Directory should contact the Office of University Communications at ext. 4086 to make an appointment.**

June 2, 2004

### IN THIS ISSUE

- **TIAA-CREF offers workshops**  
• Page 2
- **Fitness Seminars offered**  
• Page 2
- **Conversation Partners sought**  
• Page 2



# Up Close & Personal

## Professional Profile

• **Nancy Colwell**, assistant professor of mathematical sciences, was elected treasurer of the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America at its annual meeting at Oakland University May 7 and 8. Additionally, six members of the department presented papers: Hamza Ahmad, "Centralizers in the Matrix Group and the General Linear Group;" Cyrus Aryana, "Riemann's Approach to the Study of Algebraic Functions and their Integrals;" Nancy Colwell, "Integral Roots of Integral Polynomials;" Bing Liu, "Using Technology in Teaching College Algebra and Trigonometry;" Steve Sepanski, "Some Random Thoughts on Stochastic Music;" and Tom Zerger, "Geometry Can Be Complex." Also in attendance were Hasan Al-Halees, Jennifer Betcher, Curtis Grosse, Joseph Matti, Gretchen Mooningham, John Mooningham (past chair of the Michigan Section), Patrick Pan, and Andrew Tierman.

• **Farid Hallouche**, assistant professor of computer science and information systems, recently had an article titled "Capstone Experiences: Lessons Learned in Mastering CS Competencies" accepted for presentation at the ACM's Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges (CCSC): Midwest (MW), Oct. 1 and 2 in Kalamazoo. The article was co-authored with Scott James, John Hansen, Moe Bidgoli, and Randy Hock.

• **Debra Lively**, associate professor of teacher education/elementary, early childhood and special education, presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's International Conference April 17 in New Orleans. Her presentation, titled "Comparing mother-child interactions in an inclusive playgroup setting," discussed differences found in the ways mothers communicated with their young children, with and without special needs in an inclusive playgroup setting. In addition to her CEC presentation, Lively was the featured speaker for the Massachusetts Speech and Hearing Association Conference, SKI-HI in Massachusetts on April 23 through 25 and May 15 through 17. SKI-HI is a nationally recognized parent infant program designed to enhance early interventionists' understanding of best practices in delivering services to families with young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Lively is one of 10 national trainers for this program. On May 7, Lively presented to Calhoun County's early intervention program Project AHEAD. This program assists early interventionists in delivering services to families who have young children with special needs (non-categorical) at home and in a child care setting.

• **Thomas Renna**, professor of history, has been involved in a number of scholarly projects. His latest publications include "Die Jerusalemvision der Kreuzfahrer: Den Himmel auf Erden erobern," *Welt und Umwelt der Bibel* (Stuttgart; 3/2003); "Veronica Giuliani and the Stigmata Tradition," *The Cord* (54; 2004); "St Nicholas of Tolentino and Augustinian Hagiography," forthcoming in *Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies* (Mellen Pr.); and book reviews in the journals *Cathara*, *Church History*, *Journal of Utopian Studies*, and elsewhere. Renna also will present papers (by invitation) in October 2004 in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, and Tolentino, Italy (in Italian).

The Interior is published biweekly when classes are in session fall and winter semesters and periodically through the summer. 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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## Interior Publication Schedule

- June 22
- July 13
- Aug. 3
- Aug. 24
- Sept. 7

Submission Deadline:  
Noon on the Friday  
before the publication date.  
Send items by e-mail  
to: tmi@svsu.edu.

## Condolences

The campus community extends condolences to:

- **Derek Levasseur**, bookstore shipping/receiving/custodial maintenance/grounds, on the loss of his mother-in-law, Gloria Stener, who died May 6.
- **Joseph Matti**, professor of mathematical sciences, on the death of his mother, Catherine Matti, who passed away May 11.

## New Cardinals

Congratulations go out to **Jeanette Garpel**, audio visual assistant, and her husband, Robert, on the birth of a son, Jacob (8 lbs., 7 oz.), who was born May 5.

## TIAA-CREF offers workshops

TIAA-CREF announces an opportunity for individual counseling sessions Tuesday, June 15 in C116.

To schedule an appointment, contact Linda Baker at (800) 842-2044, or visit [www.tiaa-cref.org/moc](http://www.tiaa-cref.org/moc) to schedule an appointment online.

## Fitness seminars offered

Campus Recreation is hosting a free fitness seminar series that will focus on weight control, nutrition and exercise. The sessions are free of charge to SVSU faculty and staff.

The seminars will be offered Monday, June 7 and Wednesday, June 9 from noon to 1 p.m., and Tuesday, June 8 and Thursday, June 10 from 5 to 6 p.m.

Enrollment is limited to 15 people per session. Sign up at the Fitness Center front desk or call ext. 7321. For more information, contact K.J. Foster at ext. 7295.

## Conversation Partners sought

The English Language Program is looking for interested faculty and staff to be partnered with international students learning English for conversation and intercultural exchange. For more information, or to sign up for the program, contact Lynda Allen at ext. 4928 or [lallen@svsu.edu](mailto:lallen@svsu.edu).

# Staff Member

## OF THE MONTH

### Kathie Gerard

Senior Secretary, Undergraduate Admissions • June 2004

Kathie Gerard describes her job as “very exciting,” and she likes it that way. Sitting at the front desk of the Admissions Office, she comes in contact with thousands of people each year.

“I get to see all the new students, new parents, and transfer students who are entering the University,” Gerard said. “I deal with the public a lot.”

A self-described “people person,” Gerard works well with constant stimuli.

“I like the craziness of the Admissions Office,” she said. “I enjoy the fast-paced work environment. It’s never slow in here, which makes the day go by fast.”

In the sea of activity around her, Gerard tries to be calm, particularly on those infrequent occasions when someone has a complaint.

“You need a lot of patience with people. That’s a key,” she said. “You have to be ready for any type of person who comes in. Make the customer happy.”

When she isn’t meeting with a prospective student or parent, chances are Gerard is talking on the phone.

“The phone rings hundreds of times each day,” she said.

It would be impossible for Gerard to answer every call herself. She receives support from her coworkers and from a staff of up to 12 students during the school year.

Gerard says the most valuable tool in Admissions is a positive attitude.

“When you’re selling your product, you can’t afford to be crabby,” she quipped. “We try to make everybody happy. That doesn’t always happen, but we try our best to do so.”

In the final analysis, Gerard sees customer service as her top priority and the mission of Admissions.

“We give one-on-one service,” she said. “The counselors are great. We’ve got a good team here.”

In return, Gerard says the feedback she receives from visitors is overwhelmingly positive.

“We hear good things about our small class sizes and beautiful campus,” she said. “People are always commenting on how our campus has grown so much.”

Gerard encourages her friends and neighbors to visit Cardinal Country when searching for colleges.

“A lot of local people should look in their own backyard,” Gerard said. “We have everything to satisfy their needs.”

Gerard enjoys dealing with “big kids” coming to college, but she also likes younger children. She ran a licensed day care in her home before coming to SVSU five years ago.

When she is not interacting with kids on campus, Gerard’s schedule is often dictated by the kids in her house.

“Outside of my crazy life at work, I have one at home, too,” she joked.

Gerard and her husband, Mark, spend much of their time traveling to their daughters’ games. Sara, 17, Danielle, 14, and Megan, 12, are all athletes with busy schedules.

“I don’t have time for any hobbies,” Gerard said. She spends her limited leisure time socializing with family and friends.

Gerard takes her sales pitch home, as well, and has no doubts as to where her daughters will continue their education.

“They will go here,” she said. “There’s no question in my mind. I like this school a lot.”

