

## 2006 Fall Focus

# The Challenge of Religion

*The 2006 Edwards Lecture, Dow Visiting Scholars & Artists Lectures, and the Hoffmann/Willertz Lecture, plus a special full-day symposium, will provide audiences with a fresh perspective on religion and its many challenges.*



HAGERTY



PROTHERO



KOENIG



TRIMBLE



WOLFE



PATEL



RENNA

The series begins with **Barbara Hagerty** presenting the 14th annual William and Julia Edwards Lecture in Philosophy and Religion Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. Hagerty's talk is titled, "Religion, Politics, and the Culture Wars: Notes from a Journalist's Notebook."

Historian **Stephen Prothero** will deliver a lecture, "American Jesus: Icon of a Nation," Monday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

"Spirituality in Patient Care" is the topic of **Dr. Harold Koenig's** address Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Nobel Peace Prize winner **David Trimble** will discuss "Transforming Religious Conflict into a Lasting Peace" Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.

"Who's Afraid of American Religion?" That's the question **Alan Wolfe** will answer during his public lecture Thursday, Oct. 26 at 9 a.m. in Curtiss Hall Seminar Room G. His talk is part of a full-day symposium hosted by SVSU's Center for Politics and Public Policy, titled "Religion and Politics: The Problem of Religious Toleration."

**Eboo Patel** will examine whether religious diversity in America will lead to confrontation or cooperation during his talk, "The Role of Religious Youth in the 21st Century," Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

The series concludes with the fourth annual Hoffmann/Willertz Lecture, given by SVSU professor of history **Thomas Renna**. His talk, "Fundamentalisms in Conflict on the Temple Mount: A Historian's Perspective," will be given Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

All lectures during the Fall Focus series are open to the campus community. Admission is free of charge. For more information, contact the SVSU Box Office at ext. 4261.

# Danny Hsu

## Assistant Professor of History

The first year of teaching is always an adjustment for new faculty, but Danny Hsu has adjusted more than most. After moving to Michigan from southern California, his wife, Lillian, gave birth to their daughter, Megan, just one week before classes began.

“New job, new home, new child – everything is new here,” he said.

Hsu wants students to see the world from a new perspective.

“One of my agendas is to really help students get a sense of the importance of the Asian region and the world in general,” he said.

“Since I teach most of the non-Western classes, a lot of the material is foreign to students, and understandably so,” he said, “but I’ve been very happy to see the level of willingness to expose themselves to this material.”

Born in Taiwan before moving to the U.S. at age seven, Hsu has a firsthand understanding of China, having spent three years there for his doctoral research on Chinese legal reform during the first half of the 20th century. He was based in Dalian, a “smaller city” of 5 million in northeast China’s “rust belt.”

While there, he auditioned to be the anchor of the city’s English television news program, but turned down the job out of a desire to teach in the U.S.

A Mandarin speaker, Hsu has traveled extensively throughout Asia.

“Hopefully, those experiences will add that extra dimension in the classroom,” he said. “I have a stored database of stories.”

Hsu also wants his students to see possibilities available in the Far East.

“I think as China becomes more integrated with the world economy and China has to play more according to world economic rules, that will open up some opportunities for Americans,” he said.

Hsu has a scholarly interest in how people from East and West assimilate into other cultures.

“Why is it that it only takes one generation for an Asian to be in America, and they’re completely switched over,” he wonders. “Yet I’ve seen Americans who have made their living in China for two or three generations, but there is no struggle in losing that American identity.”

Hsu has found SVSU’s identity to be as advertised.

“It really does seem to be a community here,” he said. “That’s what was presented to me during my interview, but coming here and actually experiencing it has been quite nice.”



# Tony Thomson

Director, Student Counseling Center • August 2006

For Tony Thomson, the last 10 years have “flown by.” He cannot hazard a guess as to the number of students he’s seen since becoming director of the Student Counseling Center, but he continues to work hard to see that it remains “a safe, secure, nonjudgmental place.”

Thomson also has taken steps to ensure that his is not the only voice students hear.

“Since 1997, we’ve recruited peer educators on campus,” he explained. “For many years, we had Cardinal Choices, where students educated their peers about health and wellness issues.”

Now, SVSU has aligned with a national organization, BACCHUS, to expand those efforts in seven targeted areas.

“This year, we really re-emphasized peer education efforts,” Thomson said.

More than 20 students signed up to talk to their classmates about issues including alcohol and drug use, mental health awareness, and sexual assault – for both genders.

“The I-in-4 group educates other men about sexual assault. That just doesn’t happen very often,” Thomson said.

While college students may not pay heed to “mature” adults, they will usually listen to each other, according to Thomson.

“These are young people who are at the same developmental stage in their lives and able to share messages in ways in which they’re heard more effectively,” he said.

“These peer educators also serve as an advisory board to the Counseling Center,” Thomson added, “because they have a pulse on what’s going on and what needs to be addressed. They give us great insight into the needs of students.”

Outside the office, Thomson coaches baseball and football teams that include his sons, Trenton and Trevor, who compete despite being diabetic. Last year, Thomson and his wife, Joni, raised more than \$10,000 for diabetes research by participating in a 100-mile bike ride through North Carolina, among other things.

Though the semester is still young, Thomson already has had phone calls in the middle of the night that bring him back to campus to talk to students in crisis. He wouldn’t have it any other way.

“It’s pretty special when you do something every day that you love and enjoy,” he said.

“We do get students who come back and say ‘thanks for helping me get my life back on track,’ and it only takes one of those a semester to make you feel like what you’re doing is worthwhile.”

Thomson poses during the Cards Party with students who are serving as peer educators this year; standing from left are: Steve Lewitzke, Katrina Phillips, Katie Eschenbacher, Crystal Birchmeier, Thomson, Jackie Haase, Jessica Dryer, Meghan Alderson; and kneeling: Kyle McDaniel, Joe Richardson, and Dustin Stolzman.



# Jamie Teddy

Police Officer • September 2006

To protect and serve. It sounds trite – until you're the one in need.

For SVSU police officer Jamie Teddy, the most memorable experience of her relatively young career involved serving the family of a 10-year-old girl and protecting other children from a predator. While working for the police department in her native Bay City, she arrested a child molester who was eventually convicted and sent to prison.

"It was not a pleasant case to work," Teddy recalled.

It did reinforce her decision to choose law enforcement as a career, and she enjoys working in a campus environment.

"Being a police officer here is a lot more gratifying because you get to know people," Teddy explained. "Usually, the people at a university are there to better themselves, whereas in a city, that's not always the case."

Teddy likes the familiarity that comes with her current post.

"It's a good feeling when people recognize me and students want to tell me about a test they just had," she said.

Teddy also interacts with students in organized settings, such as Rape Aggression Defense classes and training exercises with resident assistants.

Teddy often can be found around Ryder Center. "I love to be around student-athletes, because I used to be one myself," said

the former Ferris State volleyball player. An assistant coach with the SVSU volleyball team, Teddy found it especially sweet when the Cardinals recently defeated her alma mater.

Teddy recently returned to the classroom, pursuing a master's degree at SVSU, and while those courses are challenging, they pale in comparison to the education she has received since her daughter, Ava, was born a year ago.

"I had a lot of extra responsibilities last year," she said. "I learned I can do a lot more than I thought I could."

During and following her pregnancy, Teddy's husband, Jason, was serving in Iraq with his national guard unit.

"There was no one to bring me sympathy ice cream," she quipped.

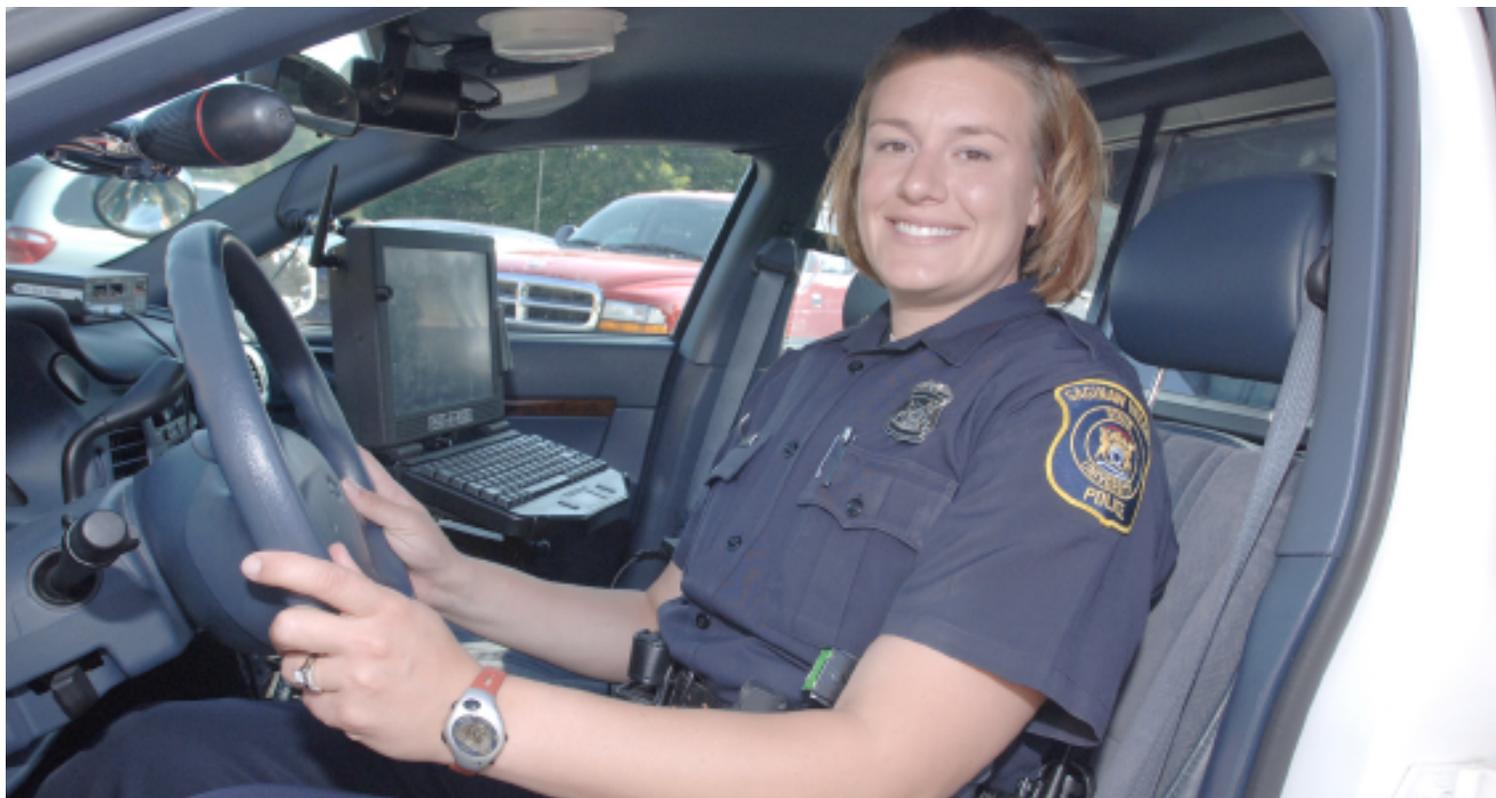
Ask Teddy about her free time, and she'll tell you about the things she "used to like" to do, such as boating and snowmobiling.

Ask Teddy where she plans to be in five years, there is no hesitation.

"This is where I plan to stay," she said.

"Mentally, it's easier to work here (than other police departments), and there's a greater chance of getting home safely."

And come back the next day to protect and serve.



## Art Historian concludes SVSU Africa Symposium

The 2006 Africa Symposium begun last winter will conclude with a lecture by Robert Farris Thompson, "Tango: The Art History of Love." Based on his recent book of the same title, he will speak Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

A professor of art at Yale University, Thompson is at the forefront of the study of African-American and African

Diasporan art. His books include *Face of the Gods: Art and Altars of Africa and the African Americas*, and *Flash of the Spirit: African and Afro-American Art and Philosophy*.

While serving as visiting curator at the National Gallery of Art, Thompson organized several major exhibitions, including "The Four Moments of the Sun" and "The Face of the Gods: Shrines and Altars of the Black Atlantic World."

He also was visiting curator at UCLA's Museum of Ethnic Arts. Thompson has served on the joint committee on African Studies of the Social Science Research Council and American Council of Learned Societies and as chairman on the Humanities Committee of the African Studies Association.

The symposium is sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs. Admission is

free of charge, but seating is limited. For more information, contact Nameeta Mathur, assistant professor of history, at ext. 2606, or [nmathur@svsu.edu](mailto:nmathur@svsu.edu).

## SVSU maintains solid enrollment

Total enrollment at SVSU is largely unchanged from a year ago. There are 9,543 students taking classes for the fall 2006 semester, a slight decline from the 9,569 enrolled a year ago.

The student body includes a record freshman class with 1,450 students taking classes, compared to 1,263 in fall 2005, an increase of nearly 15 percent. The class includes 154 students who were the valedictorian or salutatorian of their respective graduating classes, and 42 percent of incoming students who reported their grade point averages had attained a high school GPA of 3.50 or higher.

The number of residential students has crossed a milestone, with 2,040 students living on campus this year, including 63 percent of incoming freshmen. SVSU had 1,869 residential students last year.

Overall, the number of undergraduates increased to 7,308, up from 7,244 in fall 2005. SVSU has 1,610 graduate students enrolled this year, down from 1,638, and the number of teacher certification students dropped from 471 in fall 2005 to 370 this year.

An increase in international students contributed to a rise in the number of non-degree students enrolled for fall 2006, which stands at 255 compared to 216 last year.

## Founder of Cardinal football program passes away

Frank "Muddy" Waters, the man who started the football program at SVSU, passed away in Saginaw Township Wednesday, Sept. 20. He was 83.

Waters built the SVSU football program and coached the Cardinals in their inaugural intercollegiate season in 1975, after an outstanding career at conference rival Hillsdale College. He led SVSU to a record of 8-2-1 and an NAIA playoff appearance in 1979 before leaving to become the head coach at Michigan State University.

Waters was enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame in 2000. The annual SVSU football golf outing is named in his honor.



Internationally renowned neurosurgeon Dr. E. Malcolm Field delivered the James E. O'Neill Jr. Memorial Lecture Sept. 21. His talk was titled "The Quest for a Cure." Following the lecture, the University officially dedicated the Field Theatre in his honor. Dr. Field, who serves as medical director of the Field Neurosciences Institute, has been a generous supporter of education. He serves on the Board of Directors of the SVSU Foundation, and FNI co-sponsors the O'Neill Lecture with SVSU. In 2005, SVSU announced the establishment of two new endowed chair positions made possible through the generosity of the E. Malcolm and Lois Field Foundation: The E. Malcolm Field Endowed Chair in Health Sciences, and The Clifford Spicer Endowed Chair in Engineering. The James E. O'Neill Jr. Memorial Lecture Series was established in 2003 to honor the late Saginaw educator, legislator and community servant.



SVSU was awarded a \$52,000 grant Sept. 13 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Federal State Market Improvement Program for completing a research project on the scientific and economic viability of converting polysaccharide cropland residues into biodegradable plastics. Pictured from left to right: Benjamin Lanning, engineering technology management student; David Karpovich, associate professor of chemistry;

Christopher Schilling, Strosacker chair of engineering; Mitchell Irwin, Michigan secretary of agriculture; Jody Pollack, executive director, Michigan Corn Growers Association; Douglas Darling, Governor's agriculture commission; Dale Norton, Governor's agriculture commission; Donald Coe, Governor's agriculture commission; Edward Meisel, biology lecturer; and Brittney Lankford, mechanical engineering student.

## Professional Profile

- **Tai-Chi Lee**, professor of computer science and information systems, delivered an invited lecture titled "A Fractal Image Compressor" at the third International Conference of Applied Mathematics & Computer Science in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Aug. 12-18.
- **Hong Y. Park**, professor of economics, was invited to present his paper titled "Corporate Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Business Practice" by Korea Development Institute, Aug. 8. Korea Economic Research Institute is the country's largest government-supported research institute. Park presented the same paper at the Korean Economic Association and Korea-America Economic Association's 12th biannual joint conference, Aug. 9. Also, Park was nominated to serve on the advisory board of the Korea-America Economic Association for three years; he was president of the KAEA in 2004.
- **Helen Raica-Klotz**, lecturer of English, gave a presentation titled "A Potent Mix, Indeed: Building Critical Reflection and Assessment into the Genre Project" at the Lily North Conference in September 2006.
- **Christopher Surfield**, assistant professor of economics, had his article titled "Does Atypical Work Help the Jobless: Evidence from a CAEAS/CPS Cohort Analysis" accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of *Applied Economics*. Also Surfield's article titled "Atypical Work and Pay" was accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of *Southern Economic Journal*. Both articles were co-authored by John T. Addison.
- **Stephen J. Yanca**, professor of social work, published the 9th edition of *Social Work Practice: A Generalist Approach* (2007) by Allyn and Bacon. The text, which is coauthored with Louise C. Johnson, professor emeriti at the University of South Dakota, was the first social work practice text written for B.S.W. students.

- **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, has a one-man show of his drawings and paintings from the past four years that are all part of his ongoing "Americana Series" at Midland's Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art. The exhibit was granted to Zivich as an award prize for his art submitted to the 45th Annual Greater Michigan Art Exhibit of 2005, held last October. His exhibit, which began in mid-August, will continue through October on the first floor exhibition space.

Zivich had three of his most recent paintings, also part of the "Americana Series," accepted for the final jurying of the 46th Annual Greater Michigan Art Exhibit, scheduled to open in late September at the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art in Midland.

Two of Zivich's advanced drawing and painting students, Lachesha Goodwin and Keri Swaffer, have works on display in the State Capitol Building in Lansing as part of a group show of art by students from Michigan colleges and universities. This is the second consecutive year that Zivich's students have participated in this event.

## New Cardinals

- Deb & Jeff Roberts (both work for ITS) welcomed a baby girl, Rachel Grace (6 lbs., 11.oz., 20 in.), June 22.

**The Interior is published on the last Tuesday of each month for faculty and staff at SVSU.** 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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