

## Alumni Association presents awards during "Evening with Jeff Daniels"

The SVSU Alumni Association has presented its most prestigious honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award, to **Anthony J. Ceccacci**, a NASA engineer who served as lead flight director for the latest mission for Space Shuttle Discovery, which landed July 17. He also is scheduled to serve as lead flight director for two upcoming missions, a space shuttle flight in December and a servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope.

A resident of Houston, Ceccacci was also selected as the Outstanding Alumnus for

*SVSU honored five of its exceptional graduates during its 2006 Alumni Celebration. The theme for the Saturday, Oct. 28 celebration was "An Evening with Jeff Daniels" and featured music and entertainment by the Michigan native.*

the College of Science, Engineering & Technology. He completed a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology in 1979.

In 2003, the SVSU Alumni Association began presenting awards to recognize outstanding alumni from each of the five colleges.

The 2006 Outstanding Alumni award recipient in the College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences is Congressman **Bartholomew Stupak**, who was elected in 1992 to represent Michigan's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district includes 31 counties across northern Michigan, making it

one of the largest Congressional Districts in the nation. A resident of Menominee, Stupak received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 1977.

**James G. Muladore** is the 2006 Outstanding Alumni award recipient in the College of Business & Management. A resident of Thomas Township, he began his career at SVSU as a student employee in the Financial Aid office and joined the University's professional staff after graduation. Muladore was promoted to Vice President for Administration & Business Affairs in 2001. He completed a bachelor's degree in



BURZYNSKI



CECCACCI



MULADORE



SPAULDING

1972 and an MBA in 1982.

The 2006 Outstanding Alumni award recipient in the College of Education is



STUPAK

**Kathleen J. Spaulding**, who has a distinguished career as an educator in suburban Detroit. She currently serves as the Superintendent of Van Dyke Public Schools in Warren. A resident of Macomb Township, she received a Specialist in Education degree from SVSU in 2000.

**Cheryl A. Burzynski** is the 2006 Outstanding Alumni award recipient in the Crystal M. Lange College of Nursing & Health Sciences. She has been President of Bay Special Care Hospital since it opened in 1994. Burzynski began her nursing career in 1971 and continued to work while completing her bachelor's (1987) and master's (1996) degrees in nursing. She resides in Bay City.



# Bill Williamson

Assistant Professor of English

A long-running joke about Christmas morning revolves around the dread caused by three words: “Some assembly required.” Accompanying that toy or gadget should be a product manual with directions developed by a technical writer.

Such writers should “think content first, technology second,” according to Bill Williamson, associate professor of English and one of the faculty members working closely with SVSU’s growing professional and technical writing program.

Pop culture references in the television show “Newhart” and the film “Joe Versus the Volcano” paint an less than flattering picture, but careers in the field can be challenging and rewarding, and, according to Williamson, it has been among the fastest-growing professions over the last 15 to 20 years.

“Professional and technical writing is not well understood,” he said. “We used to joke that we’d receive our degrees when we could explain to our parents what we’d majored in.”

“The reason it’s misunderstood is because it can be so many different things. It can be very high-tech or very low-tech. Ultimately, it’s always about communication, understanding the challenges of a particular communication problem and being a think-on-your-feet kind of person.”

Williamson says he trains students in a variety of areas, including Web design, document publishing, print journalism, broadcast journalism, poetry design, book design, and editing.

In his second year at SVSU, Williamson says his best students here “stack up with the best students anywhere.”

He came here to move the program forward.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to take a program that was well-crafted, that was growing but still small, and to see if I could repeat the success I’d had at (the University of) Northern Iowa,” he said. “If I’m known for anything, it’s program-building.”

Williamson encourages students to take a course in the PTW program, even if they are not considering it as a major or minor. “History tells us that those who are good at writing and speaking about what they do are the most successful.”

Williamson has students working with local non-profit groups. “Students are hungry for opportunities to participate in the community and in the profession,” he said.

Williamson has enjoyed joining “a community of dedicated teachers and thinkers” who are making curriculum improvements.

“We’re making the program more concrete, more specific, and more directly connected to the kinds of work that people expect when our graduates go into the job market,” he explained.

Perhaps their words will bring more smiles on tomorrow’s Christmas mornings.



# Frank Dane

James V. Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics and Public Policy

Frank Dane is a leading authority in a subject about which many people are convinced they are fully informed.

“Ethics is one of those things where almost everybody is sure that they already know all they need to know,” he said.

Dane enjoys educating people and correcting misconceptions about ethics.

“Right and wrong are not terms that apply to an ethical discussion,” he said.

Instead, Dane teaches students about how to use ethical tools and theories to make the “best” decision for those affected.

Dane is “a behavioral scientist who has studied ethical decision-making and particularly research ethics.”

That background serves him well in his role as chair of SVSU’s Institutional Review Board, a “very busy committee” that evaluates all research on campus that involves human subjects, as required by federal law.

“There’s a great deal of educational mission in that,” he said.

Dane also recently collaborated with accounting professor Mark McCartney to start a scholar’s forum as a resource for those on campus who are doing research.

Dane teaches two courses per semester. The reduced load allows him to pursue other activities.

“It gives me much more time outside the classroom,” he said. “I have more time for research and getting involved in the

community. What I try to do is integrate teaching, research and service so that every aspect feeds on every other aspect.”

One of Dane’s recent research projects has involved studying school truancy in Saginaw County.

“I think it helped Family Court understand that the truancy problem was much larger than just getting kids back in school.”

Dane has worked with Bay County groups to study the local environment for adolescents. Others have gotten involved, leading to the formation of the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation.

“Now we have a group of faculty and staff who are interested in doing that kind of action research to help groups, mostly non-profits and community agencies.”

While many are “experts” on ethics, Dane has found very few are familiar with endowed chairs and what they do.

“Most people don’t have a clue about what the endowed chairs program is all about,” he said. “It sounds immodest, but having people with world-class reputations on campus to be available to everyone from a freshman to the president is a benefit that not enough people are aware of.

“In a very real sense, my job here is to be of use.”

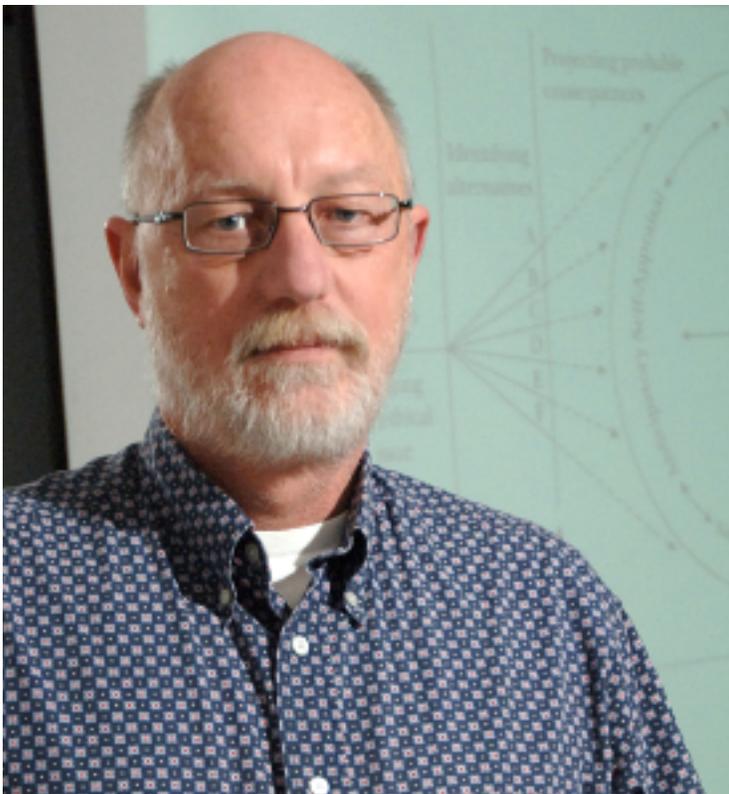
### SVSU Service\*

- Search Committee for H. R. Wickes Endowed Chair in International Business
- Advisory Committee for Health Science Programs
- Student Conduct Hearing Board
- Student Research and Creativity Institute
- Search committee for Dean of the College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences
- Collaborated on report for Academic Integrity Task Force
- Judge for Martin Luther King Jr. Writing Contest, and “Hollywood and Politics” essay contest sponsored by Students for Political Awareness

### Scholarly Activity\*

- “Ethical issues in statistical analyses: An argument for collective moral responsibility” appeared as the lead article for the September 2006 issue of *CSTAT News*, a publication of the Center for Statistical Training and Consulting at Michigan State University
- “Evaluation research,” a chapter to appear in forthcoming book, *Methods of Feminist Research-Selected Works in English*, to be published by Fudan University Press in English and Chinese
- “Resuscitation in the Hospital: Circadian Variation of Cardiopulmonary Arrest” was published in *The American Journal of Medicine* and presented May 2005 at the Society of General Internal Medicine
- “Medical students’ attitudes in a PBL curriculum: Trust, altruism and cynicism” was published in *Academic Medicine*
- “Ethical Issues in Registry Research” accepted for publication in *The Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*
- Reviewer for publications, including *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Ethics Research, Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy, Critical Care, and Journal of General Internal Medicine*

\*Lists are representative, not all inclusive



# Monica Reyes

Director of Continuing Education and Professional Development • October 2006

Often a chance meeting sets a person's path for life. For Monica Reyes, such an encounter occurred while she was completing her bachelor's degree at SVSU. She stopped by to visit the late Roosevelt Ruffin, who was director of multicultural programs and affirmative action at the time.

Inquiring about her post-graduation plans, Ruffin encouraged Reyes to pursue her master's degree.

"He had me fill out an application (to SVSU) on the spot," Reyes recalled.

That set in motion a series of events that culminated in Reyes' return as an employee nine months ago.

"I always had a goal to work at Saginaw Valley," said the director of continuing education and professional development. "It's a nice place to be."

Reyes has applied her professional background in human resources and finance to her current position.

"We create, develop and implement training programs and professional development courses," she said. "We assist businesses, corporations and individuals; we analyze their needs and come up with programs."

Reyes estimates that 50 percent of her time is devoted to developing new programs. Current projects include designing new professional development programs in nursing and certified financial planning.

Reyes is especially excited about the prospects for training certified public managers. Program participants are required to complete 300 hours of training over the course of a year.

"Only one university in each state is chosen for the program," she said. "We've received congratulations from universities around the country."

Reyes is also forging relationships with state organizations, including the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Away from the office, Reyes enjoys spending time with family, especially her eight grandchildren, who range in age from first grade to a senior in high school. Reyes tends to spoil them, so she has a rule regarding their visits. "What happens at grandma's house stays at grandma's house," she chuckled.

Reyes is relieved and grateful that her son, Lupe, recently returned safely from Iraq. When his Army unit was stationed overseas, she was "worried all the time."

Reyes' younger son, Michael, is in the Air Force, while her daughter, Virginia, is a working mother, much like Reyes was.

"I was working, going to school and raising kids all at the same time," she recalled.

Reyes credits people like Ruffin and professor Joseph Ofori-Dankwa for inspiring her to complete her education, and she uses them as an example. "I hope I can touch people's lives like that," she said.



# Saginaw Community Foundation supports two through Braun Fellowship

The Saginaw Community Foundation has announced the selection of the two inaugural recipients of the Braun Fellowship. They are Jesse Donahue, associate professor of political science, and Thomas Renna, professor of history. Each will receive supporting grants totaling up to \$37,500 over the next three years to further their scholarly and professional activities. Funds may be used for research expenses, equipment, travel and/or other related support.



“We are very pleased to be able to support the research activities of these leading scholars,” said Renee Johnston, president of the Saginaw Community Foundation. “Their proposals are outstanding examples of

the quality research taking place at SVSU and are the type of exceptional work that the Braun Fellowship is intended to recognize.”

Established in 2005, the Braun Fellowship program was created through a \$1.5 million endowment from the Saginaw-based Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation. Administered by the Saginaw Community Foundation, the program’s purpose is to recognize the exceptional accomplishments and potential of select SVSU

faculty and staff. It is named in honor of Ruth and Ted Braun of Saginaw.

Donahue will examine the intersection of politics, science and art in public spaces, especially zoos and aquariums during the New Deal. She expects her research activities to include travel to the Library of Congress, the Archives of American Art in the Smithsonian libraries, the Chicago Art Institute and various zoos, culminating in a scholarly book on the subject.

Donahue and Erik Trump, associate professor of political science, co-authored a recently-published book titled *The Politics of Zoos: Exotic Animals and Their Protectors*. A second book, *Political Animals: Public Art in American Zoos and Aquariums*, is in press.

Renna will continue his extensive research on medieval history and plans to publish a book comparing Popes Boniface VIII and John XXII, two of the most significant popes during the Middle Ages. Using sources such as papal registers in the Vatican, he will study papal conflicts with secular states, controversies surrounding poverty, and actual papal policies.

The author of four books and nearly 100 scholarly articles, Renna regularly teaches courses in the Ancient Near East, the Middle Ages, World Civilization, and Renaissance Europe and France. Since 1970, he has devoted three to four weeks of research annually at the Vatican Library, in addition to research at libraries throughout the U.S. and Europe.

## VSpace to replace Blackboard Course Management System

Since its arrival on campus, the Blackboard Course Management system has become a widely-used tool for faculty, student organizations, and committees.

While Blackboard has served SVSU well, several concerns have recently arisen — particularly security, cost, and flexibility. As a result, the University began examining and testing alternative course management systems about a year ago.

In consultation with the Teaching and Learning with Technology Roundtable (TLTR) and the Information Technology Services division, a decision has been made to move to the Sakai open source course management system, which at SVSU has been named “VSpace.”

VSpace, a system developed by a consortium of major universities, has from its beginning been closely aligned with faculty needs.

VSpace has been piloted in some 130 courses on campus, and the reports have been overwhelmingly positive. Faculty who have used the

system have encountered very little difficulty in making the transition to VSpace, and the students involved in the pilots have adapted quickly to the new environment.

VSpace offers many features that the current implementation of Blackboard does not, including improved file uploading, improved discussion features, and the possibility of electronic portfolios for both archiving and assessment.

As an open source product, new features are continually being developed and ITS staff will implement these as appropriate.

The transition from Blackboard to VSpace will take place during the next 18 months, and Blackboard will no longer be used after the

Winter 2008 term. For the present, Blackboard will continue to be supported, but no new training will occur.

VSpace training will be offered to faculty and staff beginning in the Winter 2007 term. Targeted training sessions have been developed — one workshop for new users of course management systems, and another for those who are transitioning from Blackboard.

All faculty are encouraged to make the transition to VSpace as soon as practical, but there are set targets that faculty in the College of Education and the College of Science, Engineering & Technology will move to VSpace by Summer 2007, with the remaining colleges completing the transition by Spring 2008.

**Registration for the  
President’s Parallel Tour to Japan  
is still open. Please see  
[www.svsu.edu/japantour2007](http://www.svsu.edu/japantour2007)  
for complete information.**

# SVSU Board of Control votes to add two phases of student housing

The SVSU Board of Control approved the construction of new student housing during its regular session Monday, Oct. 9. Over the next two years, SVSU will increase its housing capacity by 310 beds.

"We are at a stage where if we did not expand our student housing, we could be forced to ask returning students to move off campus or limit the number of incoming freshmen. Neither of these is an appealing option," said SVSU President Eric R. Gilbertson.

SVSU saw a dramatic increase in its 2006 freshman class, which comprises 1,450 new students, up from the 1,263 students who entered in fall 2005.

"This is the right thing to do and at the right time," said Board Chair Jerome L. Yantz of Bay City.

An expansion of University Village will result in new townhouse-style housing, creating space for 168 additional residential students. Construction will begin this winter and be completed by August 2007.

A second phase of construction will create new housing for 142 residential students in an area near the existing Pine Grove apartments. These units will welcome students in August 2008.

The two building projects are expected to cost around \$17 million and will be financed through general revenue bonds.

In addition, SVSU plans extensive renovation of the current First Year Suites, reducing density in each suite from a maximum of eight students to six. The \$2.5 million project will be undertaken during the summer of 2008 and will be completed prior to the start of classes in August; it will be funded through existing capital reserves.

In other action, the Board:

- Passed a resolution to receive and accept the annual financial audit and the federal awards audit for the 2006 fiscal year. The audit was performed by Andrews Hooper Pavlik, P.L.C.
- Approved an increase in the late registration fee to \$150 from \$75. The change is effective for the 2007 winter semester.

## Professional Profile

• **Anna Dadlez**, professor of modern foreign languages, will have a book titled *In Time of War: Growing Up Under the Nazi Occupation in Poland, and Its Aftermath* published by The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. The book, which is expected to appear in the U.S. sometime during fall semester, includes a foreword written by Stephen Fischer-Galati, distinguished professor of history at the University of Colorado and author of several books on Eastern Europe. Dadlez also is engaged in another work titled *The Immigrants*.

• **Kathy Kalmar**, associate professor of teacher education, had an article titled "Pre-School Art and How to View It" accepted for publication in *TOPS Magazine for Parents* (slated for the Winter 2007 issue) and another article titled "Let's Give Them Something to Talk About: The Importance of Oral Language In the Early Years" for publication in January 2007 in the National Association for the Education of Young Children's publication, *Young Children*. In addition, Kalmar will present "Meeting Standards and Maintaining Academic Freedom and Philosophical Integrity in Graduate and Undergraduate Teacher Education Coursework" at the annual fall conference for the Michigan Association for Teacher Educators, Oct. 27.

• **Judith Kerman**, professor of English, has had two translations of Spanish-language short stories published in the magazine *Puerto del Sol*: "The Window" by Hilma Contreras (Dominican Republic) and "Oloyou" by Teresa Cárdenas (Cuba). Two of Kerman's own poems, "Advisory" and "Forecast," were published in *Earth's Daughters* #69, "Signs," the magazine's 35th anniversary issue. Kerman is the founding editor of *Earth's Daughters*, the oldest U.S. feminist literary magazine, which has been publishing since 1971.

• **Kerry Segel**, professor of English, and Michelle Wekerle, ESL Endorsement candidate, presented at the Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages annual conference in Mt. Pleasant, Oct. 20-21. The presentation was titled "Effective Modeling for English Language Learners." Segel also served as a panelist on "Meeting the TESOL/NCATE Standards for P-12 Teacher Education Programs: A Sequel."

• **Andrew Swihart**, associate professor of psychology, recently was elected to Fellow status in the Michigan Psychological Association.

## Condolences

• To **Nicole Arbury**, assistant dean in the College of Education and clinical experiences director, whose mother, Mary Ann Miller, passed away Oct. 4.

• To **Jim Chasnis**, maintenance, whose father, John Chasnis, passed away Oct. 4.

• To **Robert Lemuel**, director of scholarships and financial aid, whose father-in-law, Oscar DeGroat, passed away Oct. 17.

• To **Ruth Sawyers**, instructor of English, whose mother, Martha Grzesiak, passed away in October.

• To **Dan Strasz**, director of the academic advisement center, whose father, Edmond Strasz, passed away Oct. 24.

**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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