

## SVSU names new director of athletics

SVSU has hired Mike Watson as its new director of athletics. He comes to SVSU from Miami University of Ohio where his professional career spans more than two decades, including his most recent position, associate director of athletics, which he has held for the past 11 years.

Watson was introduced at a news conference Thursday, Jan 25 in SVSU's Ryder Center. He will assume his new duties at SVSU Monday, Feb. 26.

"I'm ecstatic about this opportunity," Watson said.

"This is something I have been waiting to do for a long time, but I've been very selective in the types of institutions that I've looked at.

"I got into this business to make a difference in young people's lives," he continued. "I

believe strongly that higher education and intercollegiate athletics should complement each other and I place an emphasis on the academic

success of student-athletes. SVSU's commitment to these priorities made this job very attractive to me.

"Plus, from a competitive environment, the GLIAC (Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) is arguably the toughest conference in NCAA Division II," Watson noted. "Student-athletes should be excited to come to this type of environment."

Watson replaces George Eastland, who has been serving as interim director of athletics since Joe Vogl

resigned in June 2006 to take the position of development officer in the SVSU Foundation.

"We are pleased to have an individual of Mike's stature as our athletic director," said Robert L. Maurovich, vice president for student services and enrollment management, who oversees athletics. "He brings both significant

accomplishment and experience in intercollegiate athletics and is highly committed to the importance of the quality of the academic, athletic and personal experience of our student-athletes."



Mike Watson makes remarks at a Jan. 25 news conference in Ryder Center.

*"I believe strongly that higher education and intercollegiate athletics should complement each other and I place an emphasis on the academic success of student-athletes."*

— MIKE WATSON

Alumni Relations. There he worked his way up in eight years from an assistant director to an associate director with specific responsibility for minority alumni involvement in the multicultural recruitment program. Watson also implemented a scholarship endowment project known as Project MIND (Miami's Investment in Diversity).

A 1979 graduate of Miami University, Watson played collegiate football there and was selected in the third round of the 1977 NFL draft by the Miami Dolphins before playing four years for the New Orleans Saints.

## STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

BY ERIC R. GILBERTSON, PRESIDENT  
 4 P.M. THURSDAY, FEB. 1  
 FIELD THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS  
 RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

# Dave Karpovich

Associate Professor of Chemistry

The globalization of America's economy has its share of detractors, especially in Michigan where many manufacturing jobs have been lost, but it also opens new opportunities. In collaboration with GANTEC Inc., of Midland, David Karpovich is researching extracts from seeds of the Neem tree native to India, Pakistan and parts of Africa.

"The combination of things in the seed serve as insect repellants and they suppress egg-laying and breeding of insects, while at the same time, they're not toxic to humans," he said.

While the seeds' origins are half a world away, there are many potential applications close to home. Anecdotal evidence suggests the seed residue enhances the growth of certain plants, and Karpovich is part of scientific research being conducted at SVSU's greenhouse.

"We're helping with a controlled study in the greenhouse, getting statistics on the growth of plants like tomatoes and peppers, things people want to grow," he said.

Karpovich says the seeds could generate quite a potent pesticide because they effect insects in multiple ways.

"If you have a pesticide with a single component, the insects can build up a resistance to it very easily. If there are several components, that hinders building resistance quite a bit."

GANTEC contacted Bruce Hart of SVSU's Independent

Testing Lab, seeking analytical support for the company, and initially Karpovich thought he would be doing "just another job for Bruce," but he quickly became much more involved.

"As I looked at the process and the company, I really liked it, and the connection with it being a 'green' process and my love of the outdoors, it fit nicely," he said.

Four students – including three recent graduates – have been part of the research and Karpovich says they have learned a great deal through working directly with industry chemists.

"They have expectations for quality of data. Early on, our students learned that, sometimes the hard way. Now we have a finely tuned instrument."

Karpovich is also involved in ongoing research projects with Chris Schilling, Dave Swenson and others involving alternative fuels and biodegradable plastics.

"You can see a theme of natural products and green chemistry," he observed.

Karpovich expects that theme to continue.

"There is a lot of collaboration that goes on here – from different departments – compared to other schools," he said. "I think we have a neat, unique thing that we're doing here. We're going to ride that horse for a while."

Both on campus and the other side of the globe.



# Dave Swenson

H.H. Dow Endowed Chair in Chemistry

Ask Dave Swenson what he's working on these days and be prepared for a 25-minute answer as he seamlessly describes various projects that run the gamut of science, involving genetics, biochemistry, nutrition and alternative energy.

"My life has been an interesting journey," he said.

As he has for many years, Swenson continues to study late-onset Alzheimer's and other diseases, including Down Syndrome.

"What we're looking for is a metabolite that should be in high levels in children with Down Syndrome" he said. "One of the hallmarks of children with Down Syndrome is that they display oxidated damage at neuromuscular junctions, which suggests that there may be a role in the retardation of growth and development. Nobody is working on this compound, so we have a clear field."

Swenson is also involved with a local mail-based business that wants to see if its waste paper can be converted into a fuel source, which is proving to be challenging.

"It turns out paper is a nasty mix of compounds," he said.

Most of Swenson's research activities involve one or more of his SVSU colleagues from all corners of campus. Another of his current projects is for the Allen Foundation of Midland.

"Rather than set up a traditional nutrition study, we're

looking at a component that ties in education and is centered on greenhouse culture," Swenson said, adding that such a project can offset folic acid deficiencies and other health problems through better eating habits.

Locally-grown produce also generates economic development opportunities because it has an advantage in the marketplace.

"The average tomato in this country travels 1,500 miles and it tastes like it," Swenson said.

Agriculture and greenhouses, such as the unit recently constructed just east of campus, are the Minnesota native's greatest interest these days. Several people are already involved and Swenson envisions a time when SVSU would grow crops native to the home countries of international students so they could prepare traditional dishes.

"We're hoping it becomes a campus-wide venture," he said. "There are all kinds of educational components, which are real-life, bringing people back to the earth and using modern ideas to succeed."

Swenson recently celebrated his 10th anniversary at SVSU and after serious health problems a year ago, he is grateful to be alive and active.

"My experience here has been delightful. I've had the freedom to do things I felt were important."

## SVSU & Professional Service\*

- Core Technology Alliance, member of the Science Advisory Board
- Pardee Foundation, Chair of the medical review committee and member of the Board of Trustees

## Grants Awarded\*

- Principal investigator for "Metobonomics: Analysis of Chrystathionine Beta Synthase in Urines of Children with Down Syndrome and Comparison with Unaffected Control Population," funded at \$25,000 by the Zdanowicz Family Foundation.
- Supporting researcher for two grants with David Karpovich, associate professor of chemistry: "Smart Processing of Biodiesel with Fuel Ethanol on Michigan Farms," funded at \$20,197 by the Michigan Biomass Energy Program; and "Heating Buildings with Glycerin Residues from Biodiesel Processing," funded at \$19,000 by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.

\*Lists are representative, not all inclusive



# Dave Branson

Coordinator of Information Technology Services Support Center • February 2007

If you want a sense of the acceleration of the Information Superhighway, spend a few minutes talking to David Branson.

“When I got in here in 1999, the Web was still in its infancy,” he said.

Today students treat the Internet like oxygen. They expect it to be there and they “need” it to survive.

“If they don’t get Internet, they are unhappy,” Branson said. “The major things I find myself dealing with are related to Internet connectivity,” he said. “We deal a lot with students, making sure that they have their connectivity so they can do what they’re supposed to be doing.”

Not that academic pursuits are always their first priority.

“They’re more interested in instant messaging and Facebook,” Branson said.

Students are growing more accepting of restrictions and the need for virus protection, according to Branson.

“They’re not any more patient, but they’re getting better,” he quipped.

Still, many fail to recognize the ramifications of their actions.

“People are naive,” he said. “They just don’t understand when they’re connected to the network what can happen to their computer and what they’re doing to others. We try to

make it easy for them while also protecting them at the same time, and we have to protect the campus network. It would only take one student who showed up with a machine that was infected with viruses to knock out an entire dorm.”

Branson also played a leading role in starting SVSU’s support center, commonly referred to as the help desk.

“We went to a call center with people dedicated to answering phone calls and answering questions,” he said, “but the ultimate goal is to reduce phone calls, because if we’re not getting calls, that means everything is working.”

Branson does a lot of “parent things” in his spare time, with his wife, Kim, and their son, Evan, who is into playing lacrosse and the guitar. They have a lot of extended family in Michigan and like to go boating on Torch Lake. They also camp, and Branson says unlike the college students who occupy so much of his time, Internet access is not a requirement for the camp sites the family chooses.

Branson attended the recent MacWorld conference where Apple’s new I-phone was introduced, as part of the never-ending quest to keep pace.

“Technology is constantly changing,” he said. “I guess that’s why I’m still here.”





**SVSU is pleased to announce the creation of a new award, to be presented for the first time at this year's All University Awards Banquet.**

The SVSU Outstanding Performance Award was created to recognize annually the accomplishments of an administrative professional or support staff employee who has demonstrated outstanding individual and/or team performance at SVSU. The employee presented with the SVSU Outstanding Performance Award will be provided a unique and customized opportunity for career development as well as a cash stipend of \$2,500.

All employees will receive a flyer detailing more information on the award along with a nomination form. This is your opportunity to recognize another employee who always goes over and above, has made a big impact on your team, or in some other way has been an outstanding performer.

Nominations are due Friday, Feb. 16, and should be sent to the Outstanding Performance Award Committee (Attn: Jim Dwyer).

## Monastiere named chair of SVSU Foundation Board

The SVSU Foundation Board of Directors has elected Dominic Monastiere of Bay City to serve as chair of the Board for 2007. The Foundation is conducting the largest fund-raising campaign in its history, *The Promise for Tomorrow*, which seeks to raise \$20 million for endowments.

Monastiere has been president of Chemical Bank in Bay City since 1987 and has a banking career that spans nearly four decades. During that time, he has volunteered a significant amount of personal time to his community in a wide variety of leadership positions.

A strong supporter of

education, Monastiere has served on the SVSU Foundation Board for four years and has

worked with youth through his involvement with Junior Achievement and the Alliance for Bay County Schools. He is on the Board of the Michigan Council on Economic Education whose focus is on providing economic education to educators in K-12 schools. In addition, Monastiere previously served as chair of



**Dominic Monastiere**

the Bay County Committee for the Delta College Foundation.

Monastiere's record of community involvement has included serving on the United Way Board of Directors, including a term as campaign chairman, and he currently is a member of the Board of Bay Regional Medical Center where he helped raise funds for a volunteer free clinic to provide medical services to Bay County residents without health insurance.

In recognition of his significant contributions in the areas of economic, political and community leadership, Monastiere was

inducted into the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame in 2004. In January 2005, he received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award for his community service.

The SVSU Foundation was established in 1977 as a separate legal entity to function as the fund-raising arm of the University. Governed by a 25-member Board of Directors, its purpose is to provide support for SVSU in order to assist in the accomplishment of the University's educational purposes.

## Professional Profile

- **Tim Brotherton**, assistant professor of management & marketing, had a case study titled “Dairyland Greyhound” accepted for publication in the Annual Advances in *Case Research*.
- **Lacreta Clark**, assistant professor of educational leadership, delivered the commencement address at Urbana University on December 9 in Urbana, Ohio. At that time she was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Urbana University.
- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, gave a paper on “Black Philadelphia in the *Christian Recorder*” at the Modern Language Association Annual Meeting in December.
- **Marcia Shannon**, assistant professor of nursing, represented SVSU at the centenary celebration of Jinan University in Guangzhou, P.R. China. This was a beautiful affair celebrating the accomplishments of the University over the last 100 years. While in China Marcia gave presentations at Yisen University on “Evidence Based Practice for Operating Room Nurses,” at Jinan University on “Evidence Based Practice for Nurses,” “Suicide Prevention,” and “Standardized Nursing Language: A Global Perspective” and for several hospitals in Guangdong Province.

## New Cardinals

- **Greg Behe**, associate director of residential life, and his wife had a baby girl, Haley Grace (8 lbs., 9 oz., 19.5 in.) Jan. 3.

## Condolences

- To **Carolyn Gilbreath**, assistant professor of educational technology and development, on the loss of her mother, Margaret Ellen Franze, who passed away Jan. 20.

## Briefly Speaking

- The All University Awards Banquet will be Friday, April 20. This year’s grand prize will consist of two round trip air fares from Flint to Tampa, Fla., with two nights lodging at a hotel in Tampa.
- Flu vaccine is still available for students, staff, faculty and their spouse for just \$15. Stop in anytime at Health Services, 267 Wickes Hall. For more information, call ext. 4271.
- The SVSU Regional Mathematics and Science Center is hosting its annual Science and Mathematics Extravaganza for Kids Day from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Registration is under way for students in grades 2-4 and 5-8. Tuition is \$50, which includes hands-on sessions and materials, and lunch. For more information, visit [www.svsu.edu/mathsci-center](http://www.svsu.edu/mathsci-center), or call ext. 4114.
- Each year, SVSU honors outstanding teachers by bestowing two major awards, the Franc A. Landee Teaching Excellence Award and the Mary H. Anderson Adjunct Faculty Award. More information, including a list of eligible faculty and the electronic submission forms, is available under “Faculty Awards” at [www.svsu.edu/acadaffairs/](http://www.svsu.edu/acadaffairs/). The nomination deadline for both awards is Friday, Feb. 9. Also, Monday, Feb. 19 is the nomination

deadline for the Earl L. Warrick Award for Excellence in Research.

- The Writing Center will host a workshop from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 for students wishing to submit proposals to the Student Research & Creativity Institute. Faculty should encourage students who are interested in applying for an SRCI grant to attend this informative workshop. The SRCI provides up to \$10,000 per project to support innovative student work in all disciplines. Complete application guidelines are available at [www.svsu.edu/srci](http://www.svsu.edu/srci), or by calling the Office of the President at ext. 4042.

## Transitions

For new faculty/staff office numbers, phone extensions, email addresses and other information, see [www.svsu.edu/lookup](http://www.svsu.edu/lookup).

### NEW FACULTY

Stephen Froelicher – Instructor of Chemistry  
Kevin Jajo – Instructor of Accounting

### NEW STAFF

Jennifer Bellsky – Assistant Cross Country/Track & Field Coach  
Loyce Brown – Human Resource Representative  
Tammy De Ruyter – Senior Secretary, ABS  
Mark Engelhart – Assistant Manager of Maintenance  
Jason Frisch – Custodial Specialist  
Kenneth Kousky – The Dow Entrepreneur-in-Residence  
Dianne Lovett – Certification Advisor  
Timothy Patterson – Web Programmer  
Adrian Ramirez – Financial Aid Advisor  
Barbara Sageman – Special Assistant to the Dean for External Relations and Business  
Rose SanMiguel – RERC Library Technician  
Renea Smith – Assistant Registrar  
Ryan Stockford – Police Officer  
Raven Williams – Coordinator, KCP/Gear Up  
Joseph Wojtkiewicz – Associate Classroom Technology Support Specialist

### PROMOTED/TRANSFERRED/TITLE CHANGE

Nicole Arbury – Assistant Dean of Clinical Experiences  
Andrew Bethune – Assistant Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations  
Tim Inman – Director of Creative Services  
Kathy Marenich – Assistant Manager of Custodial Operations  
Terrijo McPeak – Non-Textbook Coordinator  
Mike Simon – Director, Career Planning and Placement  
Jamie Teddy – Police Sergeant  
Susan Wood – Certification Advisor

### LEFT/LEAVING

Elizabeth Blumenshine, Jessica Johnson, James Kiernan, Ashley McConnell, Cathleen Miller, Erin Mindykowski, Todd Pashak, William Taub, Nicole Zellers, Carol Wolfe (retired)

## Interior

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.

### Tim Inman

Director of Creative Services  
tmi@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4086

### J.J. Boehm

Director of Media Relations  
jjboehm@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4055

**Please send items by e-mail to: [tmi@svsu.edu](mailto:tmi@svsu.edu).**