

History professor earns statewide community service award

Kenneth Jolly, assistant professor of history, has received Michigan Campus Compact's annual Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award. The award is the highest honor the group bestows to faculty and staff and was presented to Jolly Thursday, Feb. 8 at Michigan Campus Compact's 11th annual institute on service-learning and civic engagement.

Peers describe Jolly as the faculty/staff person on campus who has made the most outstanding contributions in the areas of service-learning and community service. The award recognizes his influence on

and engagement of students, encouraging them to become involved in community service or service-learning through modeling, instructing, and/or special projects.

Jolly has made cultural diversity studies and social action initiatives a passion for himself and his students at SVSU. He seeks to infuse service-learning and community service into his daily classroom activities, and he encourages students to attend University events in order to make connections between the community, course curriculum, and their personal lives.

Jolly joined the SVSU faculty in 2004 and serves on

Kenneth Jolly was recognized for his community service by Michigan Campus Compact, which promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular, and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning, and civic engagement.



the Student Life Center's Black History planning committee. Particularly interested in 20th century African-American history, he organized a symposium in

2005 commemorating the 40th anniversary of the death of Malcolm X. A resident of Midland, Jolly completed his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri.

Writing, art workshops hosted by SVSU



The Writing Center held its second annual "Finding Our Center" Art/Writing Workshop, Friday, Feb. 16. The day-long collaborative workshop included 12 Saginaw High School juniors and seniors and several SVSU students. The SHS students spent the morning working on improving writing skills under the guidance of SVSU Writing Center tutors; during the afternoon, Mike Mosher, associate professor of art/communication & multimedia, and his advanced art students brainstormed with the SHS students on the creation of artwork for a pair of murals that will hang at SVSU and SHS. The workshop was funded by Michigan Campus Compact.

John Kaczynski

Instructor of Political Science/Director of the Center for Public Policy and Service

John Kaczynski tells his students that life is unpredictable, especially in politics. He is living proof.

As an undergraduate, Kaczynski's plans included military service; he was in the ROTC program before being diagnosed with asthma and discharged. As a graduate student, he envisioned a career in municipal management when he applied for an adjunct position at SVSU.

"It was just a shot in the dark," he said. "I found I really like teaching."

Kaczynski's work as a part-time instructor led to his current full-time post that includes running SVSU's recently renamed Center for Public Policy and Service.

His diverse background includes internships for the cities of Cadillac and Grand Haven, State Representative Tonya Schuitmaker, and Bill Ballenger, the editor of Inside Michigan Politics.

"All these experiences have helped me assist students," he said.

Kaczynski tells students to concentrate on gaining experience in three areas: public service, internships and leadership.

"I want them once they graduate to have a resume that isn't padded, that they can show to an employer and the employer will be impressed with what they've accomplished," he said. "I want that employer to believe they are qualified not only

because of the education they received here, but the experiences they've had."

Those opportunities are increasing, as Kaczynski is working with students to establish new organizations, including a model United Nations, College Democrats and College Republicans. He also encourages them to work with existing government and non-profit agencies.

"I want them to branch out and help the community, not only from the political aspect but from a community aspect."

Kaczynski teaches students to challenge their stereotypes, citing a recent class discussion where some students were surprised to learn that many of the Arab Americans living in Michigan are Christians (Chaldean).

"If the students walk away knowing there is a difference between Chaldeans and Muslims, I'm happy," he said.

In his introductory courses, Kaczynski tries to convince disinterested students to see the important political role they play.

"I ask them, 'If I took away your cell phone or your iPod, would you vote?' A lot of them say 'Yes.' I try to motivate them and get them involved, because those are the at-critical citizens. If I can't enlighten them now, how are they going to become enlightened later on in life? I want them to see that if they don't participate, they're not performing their check in the democratic process."



Chris Schilling

Charles J. Strosacker Endowed Chair in Engineering

Chris Schilling walks the talk. A leading researcher and proponent of alternative energy, he drives a car that runs on biodiesel and has a corn-burning furnace to heat his home. In a few years, Schilling expects he will have more company, which could be good news for Michigan's economy.

"This is my dream. I want to help this University build a platform for economic development based on natural resources entrepreneurship," he said.

Schilling points to a few sectors that are growing rapidly.

"The co-op model of producing jobs from alternative energy seems to be very prolific now. Over half of all ethanol plants are farmer-owned. Also, the wind industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world right now.

Schilling says SVSU is gaining quite a reputation, especially in agriculture circles. "We're known around the state as the place to do alternative energy. We're known by the farm community statewide."

That is due in part to Schilling's travel schedule that takes him to speaking engagements with businesses and community groups across the state at least once a week.

"I come back from these visits recognizing the opportunities for this region," he said. Those relationships often pay tangible dividends. "This lab is full of donated equipment," Schilling explained, "and the students benefit, because they're the ones who work on this equipment and get hired to work on research grants."

Schilling is quick to point out that he is not working in isolation. He regularly collaborates with other endowed chairs, faculty and colleagues across campus, including the Center for Business and Economic Development.

"We have a hell of a team here. It's a very creative environment," he said. "We're working now to establish a biofuel processing and testing 'center of excellence' in the Independent Testing Lab."

Schilling says that interaction is essential. "Alternative energy is very interdisciplinary." Schilling sees demand for a new MBA program that will have a technology and entrepreneurship component.

"My engineering students want it," he said. Ultimately, it is students and their potential that motivates Schilling. "Our students are going to be the next job creators. They've got what it takes to turn this region around. That's what keeps me coming to work every day."

SVSU and Professional Service*

- Coordinator of the new Professional Master of Science and Engineering program
- Developed a short course on the smart utilization of natural materials that has been used by SVSU's Regional Mathematics and Science Center and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Grants Awarded*

- Principal investigator for "Pollution Prevention Internships," awarded \$63,000 over three years by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Principal investigator for "Biodegradable Structural Materials from Recycled Biomass," awarded \$70,000 jointly by the Michigan Corn Growers Association, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Agriculture
- Collaborator (with David Karpovich) on "Smart Processing of Biodiesel and Fuel Ethanol on Michigan Farms," awarded \$45,000 by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth

Scholarly Activity*

- Co-author of "Chemical modification of starch," published in *Advances in Carbohydrate Chemistry and Biochemistry*
- Lead author for a series of three articles titled "Preliminary studies on converting agricultural waste into biodegradable plastics," published in 2005 in the *Journal of Polymers and the Environment*

*Lists are representative, not all inclusive



Craig Aimar

Assistant Director of Admissions • March 2007

For someone who loves the team sport of hockey as much as Craig Aimar does, it only makes sense that he considers himself part of “The Cardinal Seven” as the SVSU admissions representatives call themselves,

“It’s a team environment that we have here. Each of us has our own talents, so it makes it an easy environment to be in,” he said.

Aimar spent his first four years on the job recruiting in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

“Up north, people wouldn’t know where Saginaw Valley was before I started,” he explained.

This is Aimar’s first year recruiting the Tri-county region.

“Recruiting locally has its advantages because students know they can get a quality education right in their backyard,” Aimar said, “but some students just ‘want to get away.’”

In recruiting the current millennial generation student, Aimar says the so-called “helicopter parents” are heavily involved.

“They want to be there with the student in everything that they do, but they hover above the student. They won’t make any of the decisions, but they won’t let little junior do it without them. You have to include them on everything.”

Aimar enjoys presenting at Admissions open houses.

“I like to be the person who’s out in front,” he said. “Give me a large theatre and give me a lot of parents and students, and I thrive.”

When he is not working or finishing up his education specialist degree, Aimar enjoys skating on the ice rink near Founders Hall and playing recreational hockey. He recently “lit the lamp” in his personal life and is busy planning a wedding with his new fiancée, Kristin.

Aimar’s other roles on the Admissions team include being the coordinator of the University’s Cass City campus and overseeing the presidential scholarship program.

“These are top-end students getting these scholarships,” he says. “They’re going to go to graduate school. They need to conserve money on undergraduate schools and they realize Saginaw Valley can get them anywhere they want to go.”

This is Aimar’s fifth year on the job, longer than your average admissions representative.

“This is one of the highest turnover jobs you can get in higher education,” he said, “but I just love it. There is never a dull moment, because it’s amazing what you can do with data and look at enrollment trends and find out where students are coming from.”

And convince them to join the Cardinal team.



Students receive funding for outstanding research and creativity

Four SVSU students have been awarded funding by SVSU's Student Research and Creativity Institute to support their exceptional scholarly and creative endeavors in the 2007-08 academic year:

- **Carlie Hacha**, an elementary education major from Saginaw, will lead a group of SVSU Student Michigan Education Association students in a beautification and literacy project at Merrill Park Elementary School in

Saginaw; the project was awarded \$9,900.

- **Kristina Hester**, a biology/pre-medicine major from Bay City, was awarded \$6,149 for travel to Ghana to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS in the African nation, where some 350,000 people are living with the disease and 30,000 die from it each year.

- **Heather Mindykowski** and **Mark White**, both computer science majors from Bay City, were awarded \$10,000 for a computer

SVSU has committed \$50,000 annually to fund outstanding student projects, and a second application cycle for 2007-08 is now underway. Students must submit their proposals by March 30 to be considered. In 2006, the Institute announced its first recipients and eight proposals representing 11 students were awarded nearly \$35,000. For more information, visit www.svsu.edu/srci/.

programming project that would allow computers to run complex algorithms associated with image compression more efficiently.

Winning proposals were

chosen through a competitive selection process. The selection committee includes at least one representative from each of SVSU's five colleges. Carlos Ramet, executive assistant to the president, serves as coordinator of the program.

Other current committee members are: Joni Boye-Beaman, professor of sociology and interim assistant dean of the College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences; Brooks Byam, associate professor of mechanical engineering; Andrew Chubb, associate professor of chemistry; Frank Dane, Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics and Public Policy; Sally Decker, professor of nursing; Abigail Jewkes, assistant professor of teacher education; and Mark McCartney, professor of accounting.

Any SVSU student may submit a proposal to receive financial support for his/her research or other creative endeavors. Each student project is eligible to receive up to \$10,000.

All student submissions must be sponsored by an SVSU faculty or staff member. Students serve as the primary researcher, author, or creative agent for each project but are guided by SVSU faculty and staff.

SVSU and partners receive \$2.1 million math/science grant

SVSU and partner institutions will receive more than \$2.1 million over the next three years to fund the Michigan Math and Science Teacher Leadership Collaborative, a program that will provide support and training for math and science teachers in high-needs middle schools to improve their skills and become effective teacher leaders.

SVSU submitted the proposal on behalf of the collaborative and will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant, which includes Grand Valley State University, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Each institution will address specific areas of the Michigan

Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnership program.

The purpose is to develop and administer a statewide program for professional leadership among practicing educators and the more than 30 mathematics and science centers throughout the state. "Teacher specialist leaders" from high-needs middle schools will be recruited, trained, and supported to enhance their own skills and assist other educators within their home regions through the use of their new knowledge, expertise and resources.

Long-term goals of the program include fostering collaborative working relationships among teacher

leaders and building and district administrators, with support from math and science centers and college faculty from associated academic disciplines. Students in high-needs middle schools will benefit by receiving improved math and science education.

Initially eight math and science centers statewide will be involved with the eventual goal of having participation from all of Michigan's math and science centers. Participating teachers may be released from their classroom duties for a semester, allowing them to take classes, seek professional development, and/or develop mentor relationships. The grant will cover the cost of hiring substitute teachers for the teachers' home school districts.

The grant provides \$2,136,519 in federal funds from Title II, part B, administered by the Michigan Department of Education. The grant award is retroactive to Sept. 1, 2006 and runs through Aug. 30, 2009.

BOARD REPORT

Committee to recommend future officers

The SVSU Board of Control appointed three members to a nominating committee that will recommend candidates for Board offices during the upcoming fiscal year. Jerome Yantz, Leola Wilson and David Abbs accepted the appointments during the Board's regular session Monday, Feb. 12. In other business, the Board:

- Appointed new members to the Board of Directors for Detroit Community Schools and Sunrise Education Center in Tawas City, two previously authorized charter schools.
- Reappointed the CPA firm of Andrews Hooper & Pavlik to preform the University's financial audit for the 2007 fiscal year.

Professional Profile

- **Cyrus Aryana**, associate professor of mathematical sciences, presented a paper titled “On the Existence of Eigenvalues of Toeplitz Operators Associated with Representing Measures on Multiply Connected Planar Regions” at the National Joint Mathematics Meetings, American Mathematical Society Session, New Orleans, La., Jan. 7.
- **Clifford Dorne**, associate vice president for program development and graduate recruitment and professor of criminal justice, has authored and published a textbook, *Restorative Justice in the United States*, 1st Edition (Pearson/Prentice-Hall, 2008).
- **Susan L. Hillman**, professor of teacher education, presented a paper on “Enacting Mathematics Curriculum in India and the U. S.: Focusing on Important (or Unimportant) Features of Mathematics Problems” at the 11th Annual Conference of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators in Irvine, Calif., Jan. 26. Additionally, a presentation was given on teaching teachers the meaning of division of fractions at the pre-session to the conference sponsored by the Center for Proficiency in Teaching Mathematics.
- **Mark McCartney**, professor of accounting, will have a manuscript titled “The Perceived Importance of an Ethical Issue As a Determinant of Ethical Decision-making in an Academic Setting” published in *Accounting Education: An International Journal*.
- **Andy Swihart**, associate professor of psychology, and **Larry Hatcher**, professor of psychology, have a paper titled “Inability

of the Rarely Missed Index to Identify Simulated Malingering Under More Realistic Assessment Conditions” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. SVSU psychology major and recent graduate Kristen Harris was also a coauthor of the study.

New Cardinals

- **Margaret McCue-Enser**, assistant professor of communication, had a boy, Frank Larson Enser, Jan. 30.

Condolences

- To the family of **Hamza Ahmad**, professor of mathematical sciences, who passed away Feb. 11.

Faculty/Staff Directory Revisions

- **Nicole Arbury**, assistant dean of the College of Education/ director, clinical experiences
- **Michael Simon**, assistant vice president for student services & enrollment management/ director, career planning & placement

Briefly Speaking

- The Office of University Communications recently was recognized for creative excellence by the Admissions Marketing Report as part of its 22nd Annual Advertising Awards. SVSU won one merit in the category of “Total Recruitment Package.” In addition, the Mid-Michigan Advertising and Marketing Association held its second annual ADDY Awards Banquet at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, Feb. 15. SVSU won a silver ADDY Award in the category of “Collateral Material” — specifically, for the 2006 admissions “viewbook.”

Volunteers sought for study to better understand ADHD

Individuals 18-48 years of age diagnosed with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and those free of attention disorder, are needed to volunteer for a psychophysiology diagnostic study.

Participants will complete a medical history, questionnaires used for the diagnosis of ADHD, and several personality inventories. A diagnostic interview will also be conducted. Participants will perform an attention task while the skin conductance response is measured. Total time required is approximately two or three hours.

This research project has been approved by the SVSU Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects: www.svsu.edu/emplibrary/IRBCommittee.pdf/. The first testing session includes:

- An interview with the investigator to establish candidacy
- Pencil and paper diagnostic measures

The second testing session includes:

- Conner’s Continuous Performance Test, a 20-minute computerized test
- Skin Conductance Response Test, measured by two electrodes placed on subjects fingertips while taking the computerized test

- Debriefing with the investigator

ADHD may be caused in some people by an irregular release of chemicals in the brain. This study will help to distinguish the different types of ADHD with chemical imbalance from those whose difficulties are not due to brain differences. This will increase our ability to diagnose and treat with improved accuracy and life outcomes.

The testing takes place in Brown Hall. For more information, or to participate, contact Sandra Nagel, Department of Psychology, 166 Brown Hall, at smnagel@svsu.edu, or call ext. 4635. Additional information is available at www.svsu.edu/~smnagel/research/.

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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Submission Deadline:

**Noon on Wednesday before the publication date.
Please send items by e-mail to: tmi@svsu.edu.**