



**Better than “Miracle Grow”** — Above, Vincent Ongori, an MBA student from Nigeria, scoops a handful of compost from the worm “farm” in SVSU’s greenhouse, which is located on Michigan Avenue, north of Pierce Road. The photos at left show Ongori, along with Tina Douponce, Lindsay Carpenter and Dulcey Simpkins, picking up food waste products from the RFoC. After delivering the pails of waste products to the greenhouse, Ongori dumps the biodegradable materials into large wooden crates (assisting Ongori is Chris Schilling, Simpkins, Matt Wilton, Carpenter, Brian Thomas, and Ed Meisel, who supervises the greenhouse operations). The nutrient-rich soil is used to accelerate the growth of a variety of plants, under the supervision of Meisel and his student assistants, Laila Shrestha and Barb Millwick (not shown).

A team of faculty and staff is breaking new ground using earthworms. Each Wednesday, food waste from Dining Services is collected and transported to SVSU’s greenhouse on Michigan Ave., north of Pierce Road, where worms convert it to organic fertilizer through a process known as “vermiculture.”

The SVSU Foundation awarded \$12,328 to support

research on the project and related competitions, such as a “Can o’ Worms” challenge where students will seek to produce the highest quality fertilizer. The initiative is an opportunity to teach students about sustainable business entrepreneurship in an area with considerable growth potential. It is estimated that for every person in the U.S., eight pounds of waste is

dumped into landfills each day — 70 percent of which is biodegradable.

SVSU has two organic materials processing units capable of composting 40 pounds of waste per day, which not only reduces the waste stream but also produces two useful products: organic topsoil and organic liquid fertilizer. These products are already in use in

the SVSU greenhouse’s hydroponics systems and seedling plantings.

Faculty and staff can view this endeavor for themselves and see how they may be able to incorporate it into their curriculum or activities. To learn more, contact Chris Schilling at ext. 2061; Ed Meisel at ext. 2051; Brian Thomas at ext. 7320; or Dulcey Simpkins at ext. 2165.

# Bob Tuttle

Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Now in his fourth year on the faculty, Bob Tuttle is settling in at SVSU, but nowhere is he more at home than pouring metal in the new foundry inside Pioneer Hall. With 1,300 square feet of dedicated foundry space, he and his students can take on sizable projects.

“We have the ability to melt 100 pounds of cast iron or steel, or 50 pounds of aluminum,” he said, adding that they cannot work with metals such as magnesium or titanium because they “can catch on fire.”

Care is needed when operating the equipment, which can be used for a wide variety of purposes, from making intricate race car parts to a simple light stand base a student needed to replace one he had broken.

This semester, Tuttle introduced a metal casting course to the curriculum and students formed a new chapter of the American Foundry Society. He recently had an “open day” in the foundry where students could pour “anything they want – within reason.”

Tuttle also arranged for “a large donation” of related computer software from Magma. “They’re the global leader,” he explained. “It gives students a huge competitive advantage” because there are not enough people in the foundry industry who are highly trained in the latest technology.

“Sometimes fluid and heat-transfer equations are too nasty to do by hand. You’d never be able to calculate the velocities in a fully transient flow of liquid metal. You just can’t humanly do it accurately enough. You just can’t.”

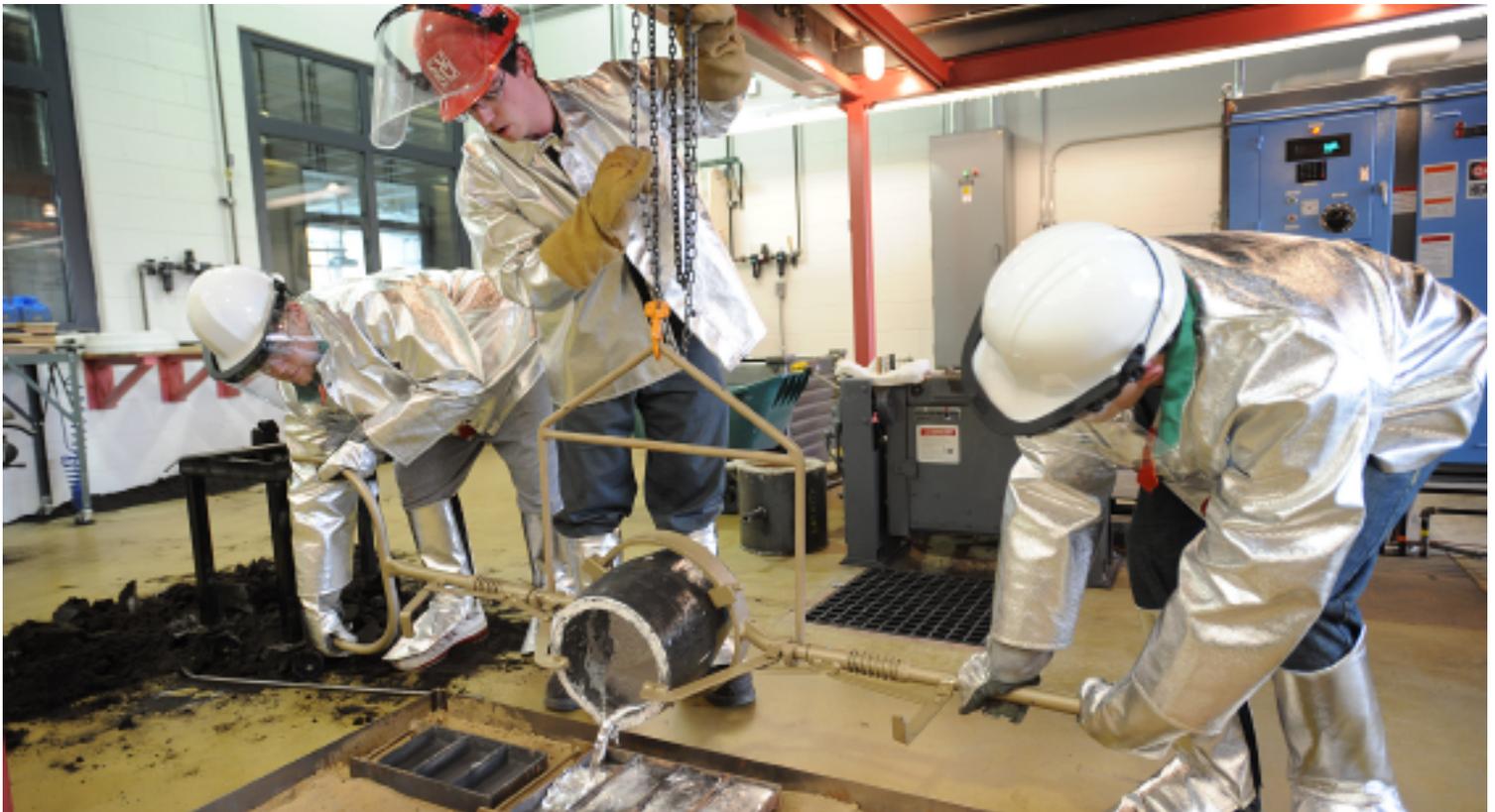
A problem-solver by nature, Tuttle says Michigan’s manufacturing future is not as bleak as some would have everyone believe.

“You hear people say ‘manufacturing is dying,’ but inside the industry what we understand is that yes, an unskilled job can be outsourced anywhere in the world ... but what manufacturers need is skilled labor. That includes a greater need for engineers.”

In addition, many manufacturers are relying more heavily on foundries for complex cast parts, “which means foundries are going to have to expand their engineering workforce,” according to Tuttle.

That could lead to many opportunities within the Saginaw Valley region – which produces 2,800 tons (5.6 million pounds) of steel castings each month – and Michigan, which is the fifth largest casting state in the U.S.

The potential in the foundry industry excites Tuttle, but he also enjoys the simpler and more sensory aspects of his job. “Fire and brimstone is always cool looking.”



# Dennis Hughes

Senior Systems Administrator • March 2008

“If it’s broken, I’ll try to fix it.”

That phrase uttered by Dennis Hughes sums him pretty well. The self-admitted tinkerer uses those traits daily in his job, fixing, maintaining and upgrading SVSU’s computer servers.

Hughes says maybe one server is still in use from when he started working here seven years ago, and more than 90 servers are currently in operation. He says people often have misconceptions about the ease of technology.

“A lot of people think networking is plugging wires in and it works. It’s not that easy.” Hughes added that “it’s a big difference when students are on the network” because some are high-volume users and others are lax about virus protection.

Hughes recently oversaw the installation of a new e-mail system for SVSU students.

“Hopefully it will run,” he chuckled.

Hughes acknowledged that students often had complaints about the old “Cardmail” system, but says the new one should be a major upgrade.

“It uses the latest and greatest Web technology for the interface. We had a group of 20 to 30 students test it for us and they all loved it. Nothing but rave reviews.”

Hughes says his goal is to start rolling out the e-mail system to the student body this month. Much of his job involves solving

problems users never see, but those that are noticed generate considerable attention.

“I think we have the bugs worked out of the M: Drive,” Hughes said, referring to the recent issues with the network storage system. Both the student and faculty drives contain around 800 gigabytes of data, which highlights one of the biggest changes in technology he has observed.

“The amount of disc space has skyrocketed.”

Improvements in remote access have new meaning for Hughes these days. He sometimes is rebooting servers from home at 3 a.m. when it is his turn to feed 9-month-old son Matthew.

Hughes’ personal interests are varied. He says playing the drums is “a good stress reliever,” and he enjoys model aviation for the same reason.

“When I’m flying, I’m not thinking about problems at work.”

Hughes previously raced powerboats, competing in the Bay City River Roar a decade ago. “The first time I flipped over,” he recalled.

Hughes is unsure what the future has in store for new technology, but he knows he won’t have the luxury of learning leisurely.

“Time is something we don’t have in this office.”





## SVSU students forego traditional spring break, travel to provide services to people in need

In all, nearly 50 students from SVSU spent their spring break (March 1-8) engaged in volunteer service activities in Chicago, Kansas City, Nashville and Providence, R.I. Student site leaders from previous trips selected the social issues the groups addressed, and the locations were selected through Break Away, a national non-profit organization that compiles information on available community service programs.

Twelve students who traveled to Nashville volunteered for the Mountain Tennessee Outreach Project to repair homes for families living in poverty. A team of eight female students spent a week in Chicago working with two charitable organizations,

Apna Ghar, a domestic violence shelter that serves primarily Asian women and children, and Girls on the Run, a program that uses running to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles in pre-teen girls.

Another team of 11 students completed a volunteer service project for Operation Breakthrough in Kansas City, Mo. The students taught and encouraged at-risk preschool children and also helped at a neighborhood mission. The dozen students who chose Providence, R. I., volunteered at the Providence City Arts after-school program for children who are interested in fine arts but may not have programs at their schools.

# 19th Annual

## All-University AWARDS BANQUET



Friday, April 18 • Curtiss Hall Banquet Rooms A-C

Reception 6:00 p.m. • Dinner 6:45 p.m. • Awards Program 7:45 p.m. • Door Prize Drawing 9:00 p.m.

PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 4, USING YOUR EMAIL INVITATION

### SVSU faculty, staff awarded grants

#### College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences

Andrea Ondish, curator of education, received \$2,000 from the Saginaw Community Foundation for the Mural Outreach Program, and \$4,950 from the Bay Area Community Foundation for the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Transportation Subsidy Program-YAC. These awards will help provide area elementary students with an educational experience in the visual arts.

#### College of Science, Engineering & Technology

Charles Pelzer, professor of biology, and Sally Shepardson, instructor of biology, received \$10,000 from the United Negro College Fund/Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship and Internship Program to purchase new equipment for the Biology Department. This award was the result of distinguished achievement by student Geron Johnson, who was one of 15 students

nationally to receive a scholarship and two summer internships from this program. The equipment purchased will benefit many students and aid in faculty/student research.

Ronald Williams, dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology, received \$2,500 from Michigan's 21st Century Jobs Fund for the Next Energy Statewide Alternative Energy Technology Support Network. This award will help to create a database that will encourage the development and commercialization of alternative energy technologies.

Bing Yang, associate professor of biology, received \$10,000 from the Michigan Molecular Institute for the evaluation of PDGF release from polymers to study PDGF growth factor efficacy on bone cell growth.

#### College of Business & Management

Gary Clark, professor of marketing and management,

received \$3,315 from the Saginaw Area Catholic Schools along with \$1,480 from Home Lending Center. These awards will help students to provide marketing services while gaining knowledge and insight.

#### College of Education

James Leming, Carl A Gerstacker Chair in Education, received \$24,600 from the National Council on Economic Education to implement an Economic/Financial Literacy Education

Program as part of the 2007 Excellence in Economic Education Program.

Walter Rathkamp, executive director of the Center for Science & Mathematics Education, received \$76,878 from the Michigan Department of Education for the 2007-2008 Mathematics and Science Center grant. This grant will improve the quality of math and science teachers in our region.

Faculty and staff may present the **Graduation Certificate** to graduating members of their immediate family during the Commencement ceremony at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 10. To make arrangements, call Joe Vogl, director of annual giving, at ext. 4051.

If you already have your own regalia and plan to attend, please go to the above site to notify the SVSU Foundation that you will be attending.

You can confirm that your regalia order was received by calling the Bookstore at ext. 4277.

## Professional Profile

• **Diane Boehm**, director of the university writing program, presented a paper, co-authored with Hermann Kurthen, GVSU, and Lilianna Aniola-Jedrzejek, titled “Do International Online Collaborative Projects Affect Ethnocentrism in Students?” at the Writing Research Across Borders conference at the University of California-Santa Barbara, Feb. 22-24.

• **Clifford Dorne**, associate vice president for program development and graduate recruitment and professor of criminal justice, with Richard Clark of John Carroll University, presented a paper titled “Mea Culpa, Mea Culpa: A Philosophical Exploration of Conditional Forgiveness in a Restorative Justice Context,” presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference, Cincinnati, March 12-16.

Also, Dorne presented a lecture and conducted a workshop, with mediator Dayna Harper, titled “Restorative Justice Program Development and Practice” to the mediators of the Association for Conflict Resolution – Southeast Michigan Chapter at the Oakland Mediation Center, Bloomfield Hills, March 19.

Dorne and **Stephen Kazar**, special assistant to the president for international programs, gave a pair of presentations titled “Internationalizing the SVSU Campus: Initiatives in India” to the Saginaw Valley Rotary Club, March 17, and to the Rotary Sunrise Club, March 21.

• **Gladys Hernández**, professor of modern foreign languages, and Maria Luque, professor of romance languages at DePauw University, presented “Community Project: Language in Social Contexts” at the 2008 Central State Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Dearborn, March 8.

• **Walter Rathkamp**, executive director of the Center for Science & Mathematics Education, received the Distinguished Service Award for Michigan Science Teachers Association at the annual conference held in Lansing, March 7.

• **Chris Schilling**, Charles J. Strosacker Chair of engineering, was an invited speaker at the Michigan Food and Farming Systems Conference, titled “Exciting Opportunities for Bio-products,” in Kalamazoo, Jan. 19. For more information, see [www.miffs.org/mffc/presentations.asp/](http://www.miffs.org/mffc/presentations.asp/).

• **Arif Sultan**, assistant professor of economics, presented a paper titled “Lemons, Leasing, and Certified Pre-Owned Cars in the Used Car Market: Theory and Evidence” at a Federation of Business Disciplines conference in Houston, March 5-7.

• **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, presented a talk titled “A New Poecilantrax Bee Fly Species From Arizona (*Diptera: Bombyliidae*)” at the annual meeting of The Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters in Kalamazoo, March 7. On March 15, Taber was asked by the governing board to stand for president of The Michigan Entomological Society at a meeting at Michigan State University. Also, Taber had a manuscript titled “Biogeographic Characterization of a Glacially Relict Pine Forest in East Central Texas as Measured by Invertebrate Composition” accepted for publication in *The Southwestern Entomologist*.

• **Robert Tuttle**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, was recently awarded a \$30,585 research grant titled “Ultrasonic Testing Gage R&R Study” by the American Foundry Society. The project totals \$68,743, with the remainder coming from cost sharing by Bay Cast, Caterpillar, Atchison Steel Castings, St. Louis Precision, and Maynard Steel. Tuttle also had two papers published: “Ladle Preheating Transient Heat Transfer Analysis” in *Transactions*

*of the American Foundry Society* (this paper will also be presented at the 2008 Cast Expo in Atlanta); and “Feasibility Study of 316L Stainless Steel for the Ultrasonic Consolidation Process” in the Fall/Winter edition of the *Journal of Manufacturing Processes*.

• **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, had one of his recent drawings accepted for showing at the 27th annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. The accepted work is a pen and colored ink drawing on tinted handmade paper, “Untitled, (3 Monitors),” 2008. Juror was New York City artist Brian Rutenberg, an abstract artist represented by the Forum Gallery in New York. Works from 125 artists were chosen from 600 entries. The show will run through April 11; the center is located in Birmingham at 1516 S. Cranbrook Road.

## New Cardinals

• **Jaime Huffman**, instructor of nursing, had a daughter, Lilianna (8 lbs., 7 oz., 20 in.), March 9.

• **Timothy Kenyon**, instructor of English, welcomed a daughter, Lucy Ciana (7 lb., 14 oz., 19 in.), Feb. 17.

• **Gillian Markey**, lecturer of English, had a son, Theodore (6 lbs., 15 oz., 19 in.), March 15.

## Condolences

• To **Cathy Vaughan**, payroll coordinator, whose mother-in-law, Margaret G. Vaughan, died Feb. 16.

## Appreciation

• **Gary Thompson**, professor of English, sends a note of thanks to the campus community for the cards, flowers, and kind words on behalf of his wife Pam, who passed away Jan. 16. In recognition of her dedication to teaching, Gary has created a scholarship fund in her name for one chemistry student per year graduating from Arthur Hill High School. Please contact the Saginaw Community Foundation at 755-0545 for further information.

## 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 Staff

- **Michael Ancona** – Assistant Football Coach/Offensive Line Coach
- **Deborah Egerer** – Mentoring and Induction Coordinator
- **Andre Griffin** – Assistant Football Coach/Running Backs Coach
- **David Heintskill** – Admissions/Certification Secretary
- **Todd Stepsis** – Assistant Football Coach/Defensive Coordinator
- **Adam Tom** – Assistant Baseball Coach
- **Joseph Wojtkiewicz** – Associate Classroom Technology Support Specialist

## Left/Leaving

- **Nicholas Momrik**, **Beverly Salay** (retired), **Courtney Traver**, **John Wesolek**

**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](mailto:tmi@svsu.edu).**