

Welcome Back!



All SVSU faculty and staff and their families are invited to the annual “Back to School Picnic”

Thursday, Aug. 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Gazelle Fountain Courtyard.

The festivities follow the introduction of new faculty and staff, with remarks by President Eric Gilbertson, at 4 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts.

Housing addition results in closure of Fox Drive, Tower Drive extended from Pierce Road

Visitors to the SVSU campus this fall will see a number of on-going construction projects, including those that will change the flow of traffic. In particular, Fox Drive will no longer provide access to the center of campus. Traffic instead will be routed around the central area of campus as Tower Drive is extended from Pierce past the Studio Building to Collings Drive.

With the change in campus road ways is complete, construction crews will begin erecting Living Center Southwest.

In addition, more residents will be able to live in Pine Grove, located northeast of the Regional Educational Center.

The university also will construct a campus health center on the corner of Pierce and Bay, and work will begin soon on an addition to Arbury Fine Arts Center.

A new health and human services building is slated for construction near the northwest corner of the REC, pending state legislative approval on the capital project.



Campus construction projects that are nearing completion for the start of fall semester include an extension of Tower Drive, left, and housing for some 200 additional residents of Pine Grove. Visitors who approach SVSU from the east side of campus will see crews also putting the finishing touches on Davis, from Pierce north to Freeland roads.

Marcus Bennett

Assistant Director of Residential Life • June 2008

Marcus Bennett has surprised himself. The North Carolina native came to SVSU to pursue a master's degree and planned to stay "for a year or two" before returning home.

Today the campus has become his home — literally — as he lives in the First Year Suites as resident director for the housing complex.

"I oversee about 450 freshmen and they have issues ranging from homesickness to student conduct violations," Bennett said. "A lot of learning takes place outside the classroom. I try to build a relationship with students.

"I tell them they're going to make mistakes, but it's what you do next that defines you as a person."

A defining moment for Bennett came in April when he helped to organize a benefit basketball game where employees played against members of the men's and women's varsity teams to raise funds for the Abou Traore scholarship, named in honor of the late student from Senegal who drowned last August. He would have worked for Bennett as a resident assistant.

"What impressed me was how the community responded," Bennett said. "Faculty, staff and students came together for a great cause. That night, after it was over I cried. I'm very grateful to everyone who took part. It was one of the best opportunities I ever got to be a part of."

Bennett says one of the favorite parts of his job occurs during the summer when he participates in new student orientation.

"I try to tell them the ins and outs of college life," he said. "I try to get them a class schedule that will be beneficial for them and set them up for success.

"That's what we ultimately want — educated, successful students."

When he's not on duty, Bennett enjoys playing tennis and is taking golf lessons that were a gift from his wife Anna.

Bennett's job involves frequent night meetings and with Anna working on campus in Dining Services, the relationship requires "lots of flexibility," but the couple usually finds time to leave campus on weekends and do things together.

Bennett is deeply appreciative of the personal and professional growth he's experienced.

"I wouldn't be where I am without SVSU. I've found my calling in life," he said, explaining that he knows he wants to work with students for the rest of his career.

And six years after he arrived Bennett knows why he has stayed.

"I enjoy the people here. They really care."



Debbie Fegan

AIS Programmer/Analyst • July 2008

Debbie Fegan knows why others place a premium on what she does.

“People like to get their paychecks and have their information correct,” she explained.

As the information technology support person for payroll and human resources, Fegan develops reports, fixes problems, and answers questions “so they can take care of their work more efficiently. It works well that I support both groups” because of the interaction between the departments.

Considerable teamwork and communication is required.

“There’s a lot that has to be comprehended to pull all the pieces together,” Fegan said. “The expertise of the people I support is very important because they understand what they do much better than I can.”

When there are payroll changes or when employees alter their benefits during open enrollment, Fegan checks and double-checks to make sure the data transfer is accurate.

“I test very thoroughly. It takes time, but with the critical nature of what we do, it’s something that has to happen.”

Fegan sometimes wears headphones to block out any distractions. She feels fortunate to have “some really good and talented people” to work with on her team and in her office, but sometimes the job requires old-fashioned legwork.

“I have two cupboards full of software manuals I refer to,” she said, adding that she often goes online for updates too, though for her home computer she – like most people – uses manuals “only as a last resort.”

Fegan uses her home computer to take care of her family’s finances and other tasks, like creating a spreadsheet for Christmas shopping, but after eight hours a day at a terminal, she likes “to do other things” such as working in her flower gardens, which keep her busy all spring.

She also has two sons active in sports and a daughter into dance and band. Her oldest daughter Jennifer starts her second year at SVSU this August.

“The upside is that I get to see her quite often, and if she needs anything she knows where I’m at and can get snacks or borrow money.”

In her job, Fegan says “it was a challenge at first getting to know everything,” but after two years at SVSU she feels more comfortable and more confident, though her objective remains the same.

“The ultimate goal is to give the customers the best support we can, so they can do their job and in turn support the students who are coming here.”



Greta Baksa & Matt Binder

Institutional Research • August 2008

Greta Baksa and Matt Binder have researched a great deal about SVSU, processing data requests large and small, simple and complicated. Binder says the job “does encompass a lot.”

“The majority of it,” he said, “deals with student-centered data on retention, academic performance, surveys of student opinions and satisfaction.”

One of Baksa’s key responsibilities is completing surveys for external organizations such as the college directories and publications that appear in supermarkets and bookstores. “We supply them with data that they put in their books,” she said. “Some of them are 50- or 100-page surveys.”

The move to a Common Data Set simplified the process somewhat, but each publication still has its own questions, which sometimes are ambiguous or unclear. “You’ve got to figure out what do they really want to know,” Baksa said. “A lot of times the interpretations are left to the individual institutional research offices,” Binder added.

The pair also provide information for state and federal government reports, which can be quite labor-intensive; they fulfill requests for those inside the university too. When fall enrollment figures are finalized, “everyone wants to know their numbers,” Baksa said.

The pair “don’t do too much collaboration,” according to

Binder, as each has individual assignments, but Baksa says they “do bounce ideas off each other,” because judgment calls and critical thinking skills make the job much more than finding information and regurgitating it.

Binder says finding a data source that is applicable to someone’s needs is a frequent challenge, and he enjoys it, along with the variety and problem-solving aspects of his work.

“There are a lot of different ways you can approach a problem,” he said.

Outside the office, Binder can frequently be found in the Ryder Center as he works out “four to five times a week.” He also enjoys paintball and joined the mailing list for the new paintball club at SVSU.

Baksa has more hobbies than she has time for, including hockey, photography, scrapbooking, and “anything outside.” “I’m never bored,” she said.

Both say it can be frustrating to gather data that goes into reports that are never reviewed, and conversely they gain satisfaction from seeing their time and effort put to use by others.

Baksa put it this way: “If I give somebody data and they come back and say ‘Thanks, it helped me out,’ I know my time spent on it was worthwhile.”



Business leader and SVSU Board member addresses graduates

D. Brian Law, a successful local businessman with 13 years of service on the Board of Control, spoke about the importance of continuing to learn after college in his Commencement address to graduates Aug. 18.

The summer graduating class consisted of 330 students, including 166 who received bachelor's degrees and 164 who received graduate degrees.

Currently the chairman and chief executive officer of Magline Inc., Law rose through the ranks of the Pinconning-based company after joining it as a sales manager in 1978.

A national enterprise with distribution centers in California and Florida, Magline manufactures a complete line of innovative lightweight route distribution solutions used in the beer, soft drink, food service, parcel delivery, home healthcare and other distribution industries.

Law's business interests also include being a partner in Bluff Manufacturing of Fort Worth, Texas, and a managing partner in Route Distribution Solutions, LLC of Charlotte, N.C. Prior to his business career, he worked in politics, serving three years as executive director of the Ingham County Republican Party and four years as a staff assistant in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Law has served on the SVSU Board of Control since 1995 and is in his fourth year as treasurer after eight years as secretary. He also has served on the Board of Directors for the



D. Brian Law

SVSU Foundation and the Board of Fellows, a community advisory board.

A native and current resident of Bay City, Law has been actively involved in community service. He has served on the boards of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, including a term on the executive committee; the Kantzler Foundation; and the Young Presidents Organization, including its international board. He also is a member of First Presbyterian Church and the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association.

Law holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in business administration from Michigan State University. He and his wife Patricia have three daughters, Amy, Kathryn and Leighanne.

Walter Isaacson will deliver the 2008 James E. O'Neill Jr. Memorial Lecture Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts. For more information on Walter Isaacson, see: www.thelavinagency.com/college/walterisaacson.html/.

Bob Braddock will deliver the 2008 Rush Lecture Thursday, Oct. 16 at 4 p.m. in Founders Hall. His talk is titled "The Taste for Tudors in Contemporary America: Narcissus meets Clio." Braddock will point out parallels between Tudor times and the present as both periods are rife with issues of ideological conflict, terrorism, nationalism and human rights.

Transitions

For new faculty/staff office numbers, phone extensions, email addresses and other information, see www.svsu.edu/lookup.

NEW FACULTY

See "SVSU Welcomes New Faculty" insert in this edition of the Interior

NEW STAFF

- Shannon Baugh – Head Women's Basketball Coach
- Brei Noble - Assistant Director, Admissions

PROMOTED/TRANSFERRED/TITLE CHANGE

- Craig Aimar – Associate Director of Admissions
- Russ Bennett – Custodian
- Merry Jo Brandimore – Dean of Student Affairs
- Brooks Byam – Professor of Mechanical Engineering
- Marie Cassar – Associate Professor of Psychology
- M. Patricia Cavanaugh – Professor of English
- Meghan Cherry – Instructor of Political Science
- Il-Hyung Cho – Associate Professor of Computer Science & Information Systems
- Robert Drew – Professor of Communication
- Jennifer Feger – Associate Professor of Teacher Education
- Burke Dean Foster – Ombudsman
- Nathan Garrelts – Associate Professor of English
- Matt Giddings – Web Programmer
- Lisa Gross – Assistant Director, University Housing
- Jocelyn Hall – Head Cheerleading Coach
- Scott James – Professor of Computer and Information Systems
- Melissa Kaczmarek – English/LanguageArts Staff Development Specialist
- Kathy Krull – Verification Clerk

- Dorothy Millar – Professor of Educational Technology and Development
- Jennifer Pahl - Director of Admissions
- Tim Patterson – Windows Administrator
- Evelyn Ravuri – Associate Professor of Geography
- Karen Roseberry – Transcript/Counter Clerk
- Chris Rupp – Police Sergeant
- Diane Saylor – Instructor of English
- Sally Shepardson – Assistant Professor of Biology
- Deborah Smith – Associate Professor of Teacher Education
- Ann Catherine Sullivan – Professor of Teacher Education
- Nicholas Taylor – Associate Director of Admissions
- Jamie Teddy – Police Officer
- Brian Thomas – Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Lee Trepanier – Associate Professor of Political Science
- Diana Vreeland – Director of English Language Program
- Debra Wagner – Assistant Professor of Nursing
- Nicholas Wagner – Assistant Director of University Housing
- Jeff Zulauf – Assistant Director of Admissions/Transfer Admissions

LEFT/LEAVING

- Penny Allen-Cook, Nykola Bartkiw, Tim Brotherton, Peggy Bruns-Hahn, Camille Cammack, Shannon Flippin, Stephen Froelicher, Charlotte Gleasner, Lamis Jarvinan, Yvonne Kilmer, David Littell, Scott Julian, Mark Miller, John Patrick Mullins, James Nesbitt, Susan Plachta, Dan Tyger, Bryan Zolinski

RETIRED

- Jerry Baker, Richard Priehs, Ghulam Raz

Professional Profile

• **Arif Sultan**, assistant professor of economics, has a number of articles published/accepted in peer-reviewed journals: "Lemons Hypothesis Reconsidered: An Empirical Analysis," *Economic Letters*, 99 (2008); "Lemons in the Used Car Market: An Empirical Investigation," *Southwest Business and Economics Journal*, vol. 15, 2006-07; (co-authored with Fazlul Miah, Fayetteville State University, N.C.) "A Test of Lemon Model in the Used Car Market," *The Global Journal of Finance and Economics*, vol. 4, 2007; "A Model of the Used Car Market with Lemons and Leasing," forthcoming in *Applied Economics*; "Lemons and Certified Pre-Owned Cars in the Used Car Market" forthcoming in *Applied Economics Letters*; "Lemons in the Used Car Market: Theory and Evidence" in AIBSW Conference Proceedings, Houston, Texas, March 5-8. Sultan also serves as a reviewer for *Applied Financial Economics*.

• **Frank Dane**, Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics, had an article titled "Survival patterns with In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest" (with D. C. Parish) appear in *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 299 (22), 2625-2626 on June 11, 2008. Dane also recently received a copy of a book in which a chapter of his was included. The book is published simultaneously in English and Chinese. The reference is: Dane, F. C. (2008). Evaluation research. In S. Zhongxin & Z. Lili (Eds.), *Feminist Research Methods* (pp. 188-219). Shanghai: Fudan University Press.

• **Janna Kern**, assistant director of academic advising, displayed a collection of her paintings and photographs at the Healing Arts Gallery in Midland, June 21 through July 18.

• **Michael R. Mosher**, associate professor of art/communication & digital media, had three works in "They Practice What They Teach," at the Saginaw Art Museum: "The Observatory" (2005); "Mysterianos (Refusados con J.G. Posada y Su Hijo se Gustan Rock y Roll)" (2005); and "Transformer/Model/Pocket Dog" (2007). The "Visual Engineering" series also will be exhibited in the SVSU Gallery in November 2008. Also, in June, Mosher exhibited the painting "Marriage Manual" in the YLEM Artists' Using Science and Technology "SubZero" window displays at the ZeroOne Festival in San José, California. The second biennial festival celebrates Silicon Valley's culture and technology.

• **Paul Munn**, professor of English, published three entries — "Hikmet, Nazim," "Human Landscapes from My Country," and "9-10 P.M. Poems" — in *The Facts On File Companion to World Poetry, 1900 to the Present* (R. Victoria Arana, 2008).

• **Chris Schilling**, Charles J. Strosacker Chair and professor of engineering, presented an invited lecture at the National Corn Growers Convention in Kansas City, Mo., June 3: C. H. Schilling, D. S. Karpovich, E. C. Meisel, and P. Tomasik, "Biodegradable Plastics from Protein and Polysaccharide Carboxylates."

• **Robert Tuttle**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received a \$157,297 grant from the Office of Naval Research for "Solidification Based Grain Refinement of Steels," a two-year project on the development of grain refiners for steels.

• **Matthew Zivich**, professor of art, was awarded one of the equal "Viewer's Choice" awards for his recent painting, "Untitled, 2007," as voted by the gallery attendees at the University of Michigan annual alumni show, "Connecting 2008." More than 200 entered the show, which was open to all University of Michigan art department alumni and was non-juried, except for the awarding of the equal prizes. The top ten vote getters were awarded at the opening of the Slusser Gallery show at the U-M art department July 18.

Also, Zivich had one work on view in the "Social Discourse: An Arts Experience" exhibition at the Lansing Art Gallery. The art work is a painted wall sculpture, "Bangers," an updated version of the Punch and Judy theme. The exhibition, which was open to all Michigan artists 18 years and older and partially supported by the College of Social Sciences, Michigan State University, ran May 22 to June 28.

And, Zivich has had one painting accepted for showing in The 2008 Annual All Media Exhibition at the Ann Arbor Art Center. The painting, "Icarus, 2007," is a part of Zivich's Americana Series. The show's juror was Vincent Castagnacci, a former professor of art at the University of Michigan who retired after teaching there for 34 years. The show, which was open to all Michigan residents and features 49 artists in a variety of media, runs Aug. 15 through Sept. 28.

New Cardinals

• **Laurie Bennett**, senior operations specialist, had a girl, Addison (Adie) Leigh (8lbs., 3 oz., 21.5 in.), May 30.

• **Stephanie Simmerman**, administrative assistant for development and alumni relations, had a girl, Ava Christine (6 lbs., 3 oz., 17 in.), July 29.

Condolences

• To **Carlos Ramet**, executive assistant to the president, whose father, Sebastian Ramet, died July 12.

• To **Marilyn Knight**, assistant professor of accounting, whose husband, Richard Knight, died June 27.

• To **Jennifer Neitzel**, human relations manager, whose father-in-law, John P. Neitzel, died Aug. 3.

• To **Jo Stanley**, administrative assistant to the president/secretary to the Board of Control, whose sister, Judy Prevost, died July 17.

• To **Bing Yang**, associate professor of biology, whose mother, Dongjing Wang, died July 9.

Briefly Speaking

• SVSU faculty and staff are eligible for 2007-08 All Sports Passes, which allow the holder into all home, regular season football and basketball games. Contact Shelly Reminder in the Ryder Center at ext. 7306.

• Faculty and staff reserved parking permits from 2007-08 expire Monday, Sep. 15. New permits are currently being issued by Parking Services, valid through September 15, 2009. Permits may be purchased via mail by completing the downloadable permit application and forwarding the completed application to Parking Services in South Campus Complex A. You can complete the form online by typing in your Web browser and then print, OR print the form and then complete by hand. If completing via computer, please remember that your signature is required to complete the application.

Permit cost is \$20, payable by check (no cash please) or by payroll deduction when application is received no later than Wednesday, Sept. 10. The permit will be issued upon receipt of the application even though the payroll deduction will not be taken until Sept. 19. The permit will then be mailed to you via interoffice mail before Sept. 15. You may also purchase a permit in person at Parking Services, open 24 hours, seven days a week; or at the Cashier's Office in 166 Wickes Hall, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please be advised student traffic may be significant at this time, resulting in longer lines.

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.