

Dow Chemical executive to address graduates at Commencement

A leading proponent of regional cooperation among the Tri-cities of Saginaw, Bay City and Midland will deliver the keynote address during Commencement exercises.

Michael D. Hayes, vice president of executive relations for The Dow Chemical Company, will speak during the ceremony Friday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in O'Neill Arena.

The graduating class consists of 433 individuals expected to complete degree requirements who have

indicated that they intend to don regalia and march in the ceremony. In all, 518 students are expected to graduate, including 405 who will receive bachelor's degrees, and 113 who will receive master's or education specialist degrees.

As is tradition, President Eric R. Gilbertson will congratulate each graduate as he or she crosses the stage.

A special guest at Commencement will be Bokanakere S. Yeddyurappa, 25th Chief Minister of Karnataka, a state in southern



Michael D. Hayes

India with a population of more than 52 million.

rose to President of the BJP unit of Karnataka in 1988. First elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in 1983 to represent the Shikaripur constituency, Yeddyurappa has been re-elected four times, most recently in 2004. During the 10th Assembly, he was chosen as Leader of the Opposition and in 2006 he was nominated as Karnataka's Finance Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

A member of the SVSU Foundation's Board of Directors since 2005, Michael Hayes' responsibilities at Dow include management of community, business, and governmental relationships at the executive level for Dow's global headquarters. He joined Dow in 1989 in Public Affairs and later that year was named manager of State Government Affairs for Dow Plastics.

A vocal proponent of regionalism, Hayes serves on the Board for Vision TriCounty, a regional leadership institute formed in 2006 for residents of Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties. He also serves as vice president and secretary of the Michigan Baseball Foundation Board of Directors, which oversees the Great Lakes Loons, a Class A minor league baseball affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

An advocate for business, Hayes is a Board member of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, is co-chair of the Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence, and is chair of the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

India with a population of more than 52 million.

The first member of his political party (Bharatiya Janata Party) ever to serve in that capacity in South India, Yeddyurappa started his career as a rice mill clerk and quickly entered public life, where he has worked for nearly four decades. He was appointed secretary of a cooperative society in 1970 and ascended to become president of the Taluk (County) unit of the Jan Sangh political party in 1972. Later, Yeddyurappa served in public office as the President of the town municipality of Shikaripur in 1975.

Known for his support of the rights of farmers and laborers, Yeddyurappa has organized marches and rallies to draw attention to their causes, and has suffered personal and professional sacrifices while lobbying on their behalf.

In his political career, Yeddyurappa was named President of BJP's Shimoga district unit in 1985, and then

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IN RECOGNITION OF TRI-LATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SVSU, CARROLLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS & KRCRSG IN INDIA

FRIDAY, DEC. 12 • 10 A.M.
REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

RECEPTION & TOUR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
R.S.V.P. BY DEC. 5 TO EXT. 4042

Chris Surfield

Assistant Professor of Economics

With the Presidential election concluded, the economy has taken center stage in the news media, and the U.S. auto industry is in the spotlight nationally and in Michigan. Chris Surfield is among those watching with interest. From a purely economics perspective — recognizing there are others to consider — he says “General Motors may need to go under” because of its cost structure.

“This is why economics is called the dismal science,” he said, explaining that the current wages and benefits promised by the UAW and the Big Three automakers (“it takes two to tango”) to workers and retirees makes profitability nearly impossible “mathematically and economically.”

It’s not always a popular opinion, as the rapid loss of manufacturing jobs has come as a rude awakening to some, but Surfield says the students in his classes “learned that lesson before they ever came here.” He sees “a lot of parallels” between today’s Michigan and his native Pennsylvania during the 1980s.

“In the east you had the coal mines going down and in the west you had the steel mills going down. It was a very hard and painful dislocation. People did not like the transformation; they went kicking and screaming.”

Citing the subsequent growth of the financial services sector

in Pittsburgh as one example, Surfield says “this area (of Michigan) has a lot of opportunities” if it can “transfer its knowledge from the production of cars to the production of ‘x,’ but nobody knows what ‘x’ is yet.”

Expecting his students to solve for that variable, Surfield’s exams are always themed.

“I incorporate a lot of ‘real world’ into the classroom,” tying economic principles to popular music, movies and even the RFoC.

“That’s what we’re pushing in the College of Business & Management,” he said. “We can teach them theory all we want, but if they can’t apply it and figure out how to make it work, it’s somewhat useless.”

While most of Surfield’s courses are part of the general education curriculum, he is teaching an entrepreneurship class where half of the students are non-business majors.

“They bring different strengths and viewpoints into the same class. It’s fun to watch them interact.”

Now in his third year at SVSU and originally attracted by the honors program, Surfield says that SVSU is large enough to have resources, yet small enough for him to know his students’ names. “We’re growing majors in economics. It’s fun to be part of that process.”



Gene Hamilton

Special Assistant to the President for Government Relations • November 2008

When it comes to SVSU, Gene Hamilton hasn't seen it all. But he comes close.

When he arrived in 1969, just two buildings dotted the campus; Wickes Hall and the Great Lakes halls (now known as First Year Suites) were under construction.

"We knew back then that we were going to grow and continue to grow, and that at some point in time we were going to become a full-fledged college," Hamilton said. "We just knew we were."

He has played many roles in seeing that vision come to reality, working as a basketball coach, and in the admissions, financial aid, career planning and placement, cooperative education, continuing education, and international programs offices.

In his current government relations capacity, Hamilton successfully lobbied legislators to pass funding for a new academic building to house the Crystal M. Lange College of Health & Human Services.

Hamilton says "you have to find a champion or two" to take up your cause, and knowing that the path to a legislator's vote is sometimes through his stomach, Hamilton has been known to bring muffins to many a legislator to get on his/her good side, according to colleague and former State Senator Joel Gougeon.

But Hamilton is also grateful for those in Lansing who are homegrown, such as State Senator Jim Barcia, an SVSU alum and close college friend of Hamilton's younger brother.

"We knew him as a young, rambunctious, rebellious college student," Hamilton recalled with a hearty chuckle. "I've known him personally since 1970, and that really helped this year."

In this age of mass communication, Hamilton says the personal touch is still most effective.

"You get to know them and they get to know you, and they get to trust you and the information you're giving them. That's the most important thing."

For years, Hamilton has pressed legislators for a base level of funding to state universities on a per-student basis, but they have been reluctant to embrace the concept.

"We will continue to preach that mantra," he said.

When not strolling the halls of the Capitol, Hamilton enjoys golfing and "getting away (to Florida) for the winter" with his wife Mary Pat, who recently retired.

Gene first entertained thoughts of retiring eight years ago and is unsure how long he will continue in his current role, but he pledges never to be far from SVSU.

"This is definitely home."



Professional Profile

- **Hasan Al-Halees**, associate professor of mathematics, published a paper titled “Directed Covering with block size 5 and both andare odd,” in the *Journal of Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing*, volume 66, (2008), pp. 237-255. The paper is co-authored by Omar A. AbuGhneim, Jordan University, and Ahmed M. Assaf, Central Michigan University.
- **Fenobia I. Dallas**, assistant professor of professional and technical writing, presented a paper titled “From the Melting Pot to the Diversity Diversion: Multiculturalism as Anathema” at the Association for African American Life and History Conference, Oct. 3 in Birmingham, Alabama.
- **Said Elfakhani**, Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in Business, published a paper titled “Profit Opportunities from Successive Analysts’ Revision of Stock Grading Status” in the *Journal for Global Business Advancement*, Vol. 1, Issue No. 2/3 (2008), pp. 237-251. This paper is co-authored with Zeina Halabieh.
- **Joe Jaks**, assistant professor of criminal justice, recently gave an invited talk to Flushing High School students who have an interest in the criminal justice profession. In his comments, Jaks addressed the importance of a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice as well as the opportunities for CJ majors at SVSU.

Condolences

- To **Deborah Huntley**, associate vice president for academic affairs, on the passing of her mother, Elizabeth Robsky, on Monday, Oct. 27.
- To **Mamie Thorns**, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, on the loss of her brother, Thomas H. Hicks, who passed away Monday, Oct. 27.

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty and staff may present the Alumni Scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during the Commencement ceremony at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 12. Call Joe Vogl at ext. 4051 to make arrangements.

Annual Sims Speaking Contest results

Six students were honored for their performances during the 19th annual Sims Public Speaking Competition.

Chunchun Tang, a pre-education major from Shenyang, China, took top honors for her speech on learning language and culture. Second place was awarded to Cassie Jo Hare, a psychology major from Carrollton, who spoke on school nutrition. Holly M. Plewa, a communication major from Holly, spoke on studying abroad and received third place. Three finalists were also awarded:

- **Walter Lubeckj**, a communication major from Mayville, who spoke on random acts of kindness
- **Jeremy Oldham**, a communication major from Midland, who spoke on donating blood
- **Kevan Umberfield**, a mathematics major from Freeland, who spoke on colony collapse disorder

Endowed by Larry and Linda Sims and co-sponsored by SVSU’s Department of Communication, the competition requires contestants to write an original persuasive speech of 5 to 8 minutes in length.

The first place recipient receives a \$400 cash prize, second place is awarded \$200, third place is awarded \$100, and finalists receive \$50 each. The tournament is largely planned by students in SVSU’s Directing Forensics and Debate course, taught by Amy Pierce, associate professor of communication.

Faculty and staff receive grants

College of Arts & Behavioral Sciences

Holly Child, assistant professor of criminal justice, received \$800 from Oak Park Business & Education Alliance for providing evaluation services for a program titled “Faces of the Future.”

Lynne Graft, **Katherine Harley**, and **Ruth Sawyers**, professors of English, received \$11,930 from Michigan Humanities Council for “Open House: A Community Celebration of Theodore Roethke’s Centennial.”

College of Science, Engineering & Technology

David Karpovich, associate professor of chemistry, received \$19,975 from Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee for “Developing Glycerin in Oil Emulsions for Heating Fuel Supplements.”

Robert Tuttle, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received \$157,293 from the Office of Naval Research for “Solidification Based Grain Refinement in Steels.”

Staff

Harry Leaver, executive director of the Center for Manufacturing Improvement, received \$3,000 from the C.S. Mott Foundation for the Entrepreneurship Internship Program.

Monica Reyes, director of Continuing Education and Professional Development, received \$2,000 from Endo Pharmaceuticals for the seminar “Pain Management: Making a Difference.”

Marilyn Wheaton, director of the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, received \$6,400 from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs in support of the Nancy Thayer Paintings and Russell Thayer Sculptures Exhibition, which will take place from February through May 2009.

Transitions

For office numbers, phone extensions, e-mail addresses and other information, go to www.svsu.edu/lookup/.

NEW STAFF

- **Sylventhia Banks** – Senior Accounting Clerk (external)
- **Jacqueline Busch-Campbell** – Interim Counselor
- **Mark Clevey** – Director, Center for Entrepreneurship and Commercialization
- **Leon Wilson** – Police Officer

PROMOTED/TRANSFERRED/TITLE CHANGE

- **Jeanne Chipman** – Academic Advisor
- **Jim Dwyer** – Assistant Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management
- **John Flores** – Assistant Director, Academic Advisement Center
- **Scott Maxwell** – Plumber

LEFT/LEAVING

Diane Lovett, **Raynae Sicotte**, **Michael Simon**, **Tony Thomson**

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.