

## Professors receive Fellowship to study tutoring, math transformations

M. Patricia Cavanaugh, professor of English education, and Zhidong

"Patrick" Pan, professor of mathematics, each will receive grants totaling up to \$37,500

over the next three years to further their scholarly and professional activities.

Cavanaugh will look at the history of tutoring and multiple existing techniques in the U.S. and abroad, as well as the psychological basis for successful tutoring. She regularly has her SVSU students engage in tutoring at local elementary and high schools.

Cavanaugh's research will find immediate practical application in her own tutor preparation work, and she plans to include her findings in practical "how to" articles and tutor training manuals, in addition to scholarly articles and ultimately a book.

Pan will examine the properties of mathematical transformations, and in particular reflexivity



Cavanaugh

Pan

properties. These have quite practical applications; scientists use transformations for understanding and predicting natural phenomena ranging from earthquakes and volcanoes to weather systems and even collisions of asteroids with planets.

Pan intends to include advanced undergraduate mathematics students in his research and will provide unique opportunities for them to participate in high level mathematical explorations. He plans to present his findings at professional conferences and by writing articles for refereed mathematics journals.

Cavanaugh joined the SVSU faculty in 1999; Pan joined the SVSU faculty in 1993.

Cavanaugh and Pan form the third class of Braun Fellows. Established in 2005, the Braun Fellowship program is named in honor of Ruth and Ted Braun of Saginaw and was created through a \$1.5 million endowment from the Saginaw-based Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation. Administered by the Saginaw Community Foundation, the program's purpose is to recognize the exceptional accomplishments and potential of select SVSU faculty and staff.



Michael D. Hayes, vice president of executive relations for The Dow Chemical Company, delivered the Commencement address to graduates Friday, Dec. 12. Hayes, who is a member of the SVSU Foundation's Board of Directors, joined Dow in 1989. In his address, he encouraged the audience to pursue one's dreams despite various obstacles, using the example of Dildar Mizoory, an SVSU alumna who immigrated to the U.S. and now is employed at The Dow Chemical Company. (Photo by James Fry)



SVSU has designated a room in the Regional Education Center to commemorate its friendship and ongoing partnership with a school in southern India. During a ceremony Friday, Dec. 12, the university dedicated the "Kittur Rani Channamma Friendship Room," which includes a painting and bronze of Rani Channamma (1778-1829), who served as queen of Kittur. It also displays a painting of S.R. Kanthi, who became an advocate for the women of Karnataka after the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War, and worked to found a residential school specifically for girls. Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa, the highest ranking elected official from Karnataka, a state in southern India with a population of more than 52 million, was among a delegation from India that attended the dedication ceremony. (Photo by Adam Baudoux)

# Helen Raica-Klotz

## Lecturer of English

The pen is mightier than the sword. The oft-repeated line from Edward Bulwer-Lytton's play "Richelieu" expresses the power behind the written word. Although "writing" usually takes place at a keyboard today, the coordinator of SVSU's first year writing program, Helen Raica-Klotz, hopes incoming students learn that lesson. Quickly.

"In 15 short weeks, we are trying to prepare students for the depth and breadth of writing that they will experience in the next four or five years," she said.

In freshman composition, students are required to write at least 30 pages, and according to survey data collected over the past five years, that is a challenge for many.

"The majority of students tell us that the amount of writing and the difficulty of the writing, along with the reading required, is far beyond what they experienced in high school."

Standardized tests have made the five-paragraph theme a frequent writing example in high school, and some students have a rude awakening to increased expectations.

"In many ways, we have to help students unlearn patterns and re-learn patterns," Raica-Klotz said. "One of the big struggles is getting them to understand that writing is always determined by audience and purpose."

Technology has transformed the use of the written word.

Raica-Klotz has her students keep a log of their activities and most of them spend more time sending text messages and on social networking Web sites such as Facebook than they do on their homework.

"They spend time writing, but they're writing quickly and without reflection. They're not using writing as a mechanism for thinking."

Raica-Klotz is grateful to her English faculty colleagues who had the program "running very well." She also appreciates that "SVSU offers great opportunities for faculty to collaborate" across disciplines. She and art faculty have been involved in service-learning projects. For the past three years, students from SVSU and Saginaw High School have collaborated in workshops and developed digital murals (see photo, below).

And in April, Raica-Klotz will be part of a writing workshop pairing 10 SVSU faculty with 10 local high school teachers to learn about best practices.

It's "heavy lifting," but all the attention to writing is ultimately for the students' benefit.

"Employers are looking for people who can write well. It's a valuable skill. I'd also argue that to engage in any discipline, you have to be able to critically think about it, and one of the most effective ways of thinking is through writing."



# Amanda Gleason

Senior Support Center Technology Specialist • December 2008

Amanda Gleason admits she's "not tough enough" to be a corrections officer, but when it comes to tackling tough technology tasks, she is more than up to the challenge. She graduated from SVSU with a criminal justice degree but rather than pursuing her original dream of working for the FBI, she decided to stay in Information Technology Services, where she had worked for two years as a student employee.

"I'm really comfortable here," she said. "It's a nice, relaxed environment and I liked my coworkers."

Gleason says she's known as "the printer girl" for visiting offices to make repairs. Recently she has had to become creative because MPC Computers filed for bankruptcy, and parts that were ordered to cover machines under warranty have not been delivered, requiring her find them through other means.

Gleason is one of the primary people responsible for setting up new campus computers, including 74 new units soon to be installed for faculty. The old faculty computers "find new homes" with staff.

While those jobs require Gleason to leave her office, she is pleased that technology also allows her to address some matters remotely from her desktop. She also is working on installing security software that will allow lost or stolen university laptops to be traced.

"As long as it connects to someone's network, we can find it," she said.

Gleason realizes her gender defies the "computer geek" stereotype.

"Everyone is usually surprised that I'm into computers," she said, adding that she is well-suited for her job, not only because it plays to her strengths, but also because it allows her to leave her job at the office.

"Outside of work I don't touch computers."

A self-described "homebody," Gleason does do "some" computer gaming, but her primary pastimes include scrapbooks, puzzles and spending time with friends and family.

"I need my time to chill," she said.

That is especially true when Gleason takes her turn as the office's primary person answering the phone.

"You get so many calls, and no one is too happy when they call because they have a problem."

On the whole, Gleason enjoys her job, particularly its problem-solving aspects.

"I like the calls that come in where no one has a solution to it. Those are the ones where you really have to dig in. When you get a problem that challenges you, that's what I like. When you find the answer, it feels good."



## Professional Profile

- **Hasan Al-Halees**, associate professor of mathematics, advised two students who presented at the Mathematical Association of America MathFest 2008 conference in Madison, Wis. Michelle Westrick presented “Parabolas and Their Tangent Lines” and Kristin Michelle Zaiki presented “Relationship of Cubic Functions and Their Tangent Lines.”
- **Don Earley**, associate professor of occupational therapy, and **Ellen Herlache**, research coordinator, co-authored “Healthy Lifestyles through an Adaptive Living Program: A Pilot Study,” which has been published in *Occupational Therapy International* (Dec. 2008). Additional co-authors were Meghan Barnes, Kim Bigari, Tiffany Culler, Heather Gregory, Julianne Hamilton, and Stacy Krawczyk, SVSU M.S.O.T. students.
- **Said Elfakhani**, Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in Business, published a paper titled “Intertemporal Test of Beta Stationarity Performance of Islamic Sector Structured Mutual Funds,” in the *Journal of International Business & Entrepreneurship Development*. M. Haddad, G. Homaifar, and H. Ahmedov were co-authors.
- **Margret McCue-Ensor**, assistant professor of communication, coordinated a panel discussion titled “Inviting the ‘UnConventional’: Teaching to Retain First-Generation and Non-Traditional Students” at the annual National Communication Association Conference, Nov. 22-23 in San Diego. **Amy Pierce**, associate professor of communication, also participated in the panel.
- **Sally Shepardson**, assistant professor of biology, gave a paper titled “Light and Electron Microscopy of the Typical and Atypical Pathways of Spermatogenesis in the Freshwater Mussel *Venustaconcha ellipsiformis* (*BIVALVIA: Unionidae*)” at the Michigan Microscopy and Microanalysis Society meeting, Dec. 5 in Ann Arbor. Her co-authors were **Richard Trdan**, professor of biology; Kim Anklam, Robert Huber, and Ashley Verner, all SVSU biology students; and Walter Hoeh, Kent State University.
- **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, will have two scholarly articles published in *The Southwestern Entomologist*. The two manuscripts are titled “A Note on the Identification of *Tipula longiventris* Loew (*Diptera: Tipulidae*)” and “Two Autumnal Crane Flies (*Diptera: Tipulidae*) from Michigan; Comments on the Difficulties of Tipulid Identification, and a Review of the Tiplua subgenus *Platytipula* Matsumura in the United States and Canada.”

## Condolences

- To **Turesie Genwright**, custodian, whose mother, Estella Genwright, passed away.
- To **Kathy Henris**, administrative secretary in Housing & Auxiliary Services, whose father, Lloyd “Chief” Vanslembrouck, passed away Dec. 2.

## Faculty, staff receive grants

### COLLEGE OF ARTS & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

- **M. Patricia Cavanaugh**, professor of English, received \$37,500 over three years from the Ruth and Ted Braun Fellowship program to provide college students the opportunity to tutor students at the K-12 level.
- **David Schneider**, professor of communication, received \$20,000 over two years from the Michigan Association for Higher Education (MAHE) to serve as president of the MAHE executive committee. The grant provides for Dr. Schneider’s release time.
- **Carol Zimmerman**, received \$11,000 from the Saginaw Intermediate School District for evaluating the district’s Readiness & Emergency Management for Schools grant.

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- **Brian Thomas**, received \$7,000 from the Saginaw Community Foundation for his project: Piloting two small-scale, four-season hydroponics for urban food production in the City of Saginaw. His design to grow fresh produce in partnership with two non-profit organizations using hydroponics will benefit our community.
- **James Royle**, received an award of \$21,000 from the Saginaw Intermediate School District. He will serve as a consultant in the development of emergency/crisis plans which will accommodate special needs and at-risk students in schools throughout the district.
- **Z. Patrick Pan**, professor of mathematics, received \$37,500 over three years from the Ruth and Ted Braun Fellowship program for his research in the study of transformations.

### STAFF

- **Linda Farynk**, director of the Melvin J. Zahnow Library, received \$1,000 from the Northeast Michigan Arts Council to bring the one-man play *Roethke and Me: Conjuring the Garden Master*, to our campus.
- **Carlos Ramet**, executive assistant to the president, received \$500 from the Michigan Humanities Council and \$2,000 from the Saginaw Community Foundation for The Theodore Roethke Poetry Prize Celebration. The centennial event in memory of distinguished poet Theodore Roethke offered the community a distinct perspective on the poet’s life.
- **Monica Reyes**, director of Continuing Education and Professional Development, received \$2,000 from Purdue Pharma L.P. for the seminar: Pain Management: Making a Difference.
- **Mamie Thorns**, special assistant to the president for diversity programs, received \$11,258 and \$35,890 from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for the King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Visiting Professors Program and the KCP Future Faculty Fellowship Program for 2008-2009. Dr. Thorns also received \$500 from the Michigan Campus Compact-Learn & Serve program to produce a DVD of past projects.

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