

## SVSU best in "Battle"

SVSU students proved passionate in their fundraising and trounced the counterparts from Grand Valley State University in the seventh annual "Battle of the Valleys" fundraising competition. Their efforts throughout the weeklong contest resulted in \$38,401 for the Boys & Girls Club of Saginaw County.

From Sept. 6-11, SVSU students engaged in a host of fundraising activities, including T-shirt sales, a date auction, a poker tournament and a "Price is Right" night similar to the popular television show.

The \$38,400 is the second-

highest total behind the \$47,278 SVSU students raised last year for local chapters of Habitat for Humanity during a week without a national holiday. Grand Valley's \$19,299 will go to Kids Food Basket, a nonprofit organization that works to curb child malnourishment in the Grand Rapids area.

The schools announced their results during halftime of the football game at GVSU Saturday, Sept. 12. SVSU has now won four of the seven contests and retains the traveling trophy. To date, the schools combined have raised more than \$278,000.

## Students flocking to SVSU in record numbers

Saginaw Valley State University set enrollment records for total students, freshmen, international students and residential students this fall.

The 10,498 students taking classes for the fall 2009 semester represent a 6.7 percent increase from last year's 9,837, and the rise of 661 students is the largest single-year increase in SVSU's 46-year history. Robert Maurovich, vice president for student services and enrollment management, said high numbers of returning undergraduates are a major reason why.

"We increased retention among returning freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors," he said. "That's an indication they're pleased with their SVSU experience."

The number of entering freshmen is up from last year's previous record class of 1,661 to 1,740 this fall, and has grown dramatically since

2005 when 1,263 new students enrolled. Maurovich attributes the sharp rise to factors inside and outside the classroom.

"You can't overstate the value of strong undergraduate teaching," he said. "Also, students are coming here with well-rounded talents from high school and are getting involved in clubs and organizations, community service and leadership opportunities."

The number of international students jumped to 458 from 406 a year ago. China and Saudi Arabia are the top two countries of origin.

With 72 percent of freshmen living on campus and the addition of Living Center Southwest, SVSU is now home to 2,698 residential students.

SVSU also saw an increase in the number of graduate students this fall, while the number of teacher certification students declined.

## TWELFTH ANNUAL THOMAS & HILDA RUSH DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP

"Athletics at SVSU:  
Past, Present, and Future"

by

George W. Eastland  
Professor of Chemistry

Thursday, Oct. 15; Founders Hall; 4 p.m.



A professor at SVSU since 1969 and its faculty athletics representative since 1973, George Eastland has contributed to the growth of both the athletics program at SVSU and the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletics Conference. He also served as interim athletic director during the 2006-07 academic year. In his talk, Eastland will chronicle the Athletic Department from its humble beginnings through its development into a championship-caliber NCAA Division II program with more than 500 student-athletes.

# Josh Ode

## Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

“I pinch myself every day.” Josh Ode isn’t describing skin calipers used as part of a kinesiology measurement; he’s talking about how surreal it is to be in his fourth year teaching at his alma mater.

Arriving on campus in 1997 to play basketball for the Cardinals, Ode “had no idea what I wanted to do.” Now he can’t conceive of wanting to do anything else.

“I’m excited to come to work every day,” he said. “I enjoy it more than I could have imagined.”

Like many new faculty, Ode found it challenging to balance teaching, research and service, but over time, he has learned to negotiate – and integrate – those competing demands. One example is the sports performance testing he conducts for the Flint Generals hockey team. What began as a service project has grown to include a research component that involves others.

“I let students do everything,” Ode said, “so it’s a great opportunity for them to get involved and actually take all the measurements.”

As part of a research team looking at Body Mass Index (BMI), Ode’s work has been widely cited, including a *Forbes* story about Oprah Winfrey and her battles with weight loss.

“By training, I’m a physical activity epidemiologist, so I look at the impact of physical activity on disease distributions. Obviously obesity is a pretty important issue.”

BMI is a simple measurement to determine obesity, but because of its simplicity, Ode says it also has limitations.

Where Ode wants no restrictions is in his students’ aspirations.

“I want to make sure my students know that I am unbelievably committed to them, not only in terms of learning the material, but I’m committed to their success. One of the first things I do with the students is create that atmosphere.”

And when those pupils are measured against peers elsewhere, applying for jobs and graduate programs, Ode says they stack up very well.

“The students at Saginaw Valley are tremendous. These are top-notch, high-quality students.”

Ode holds his kinesiology colleagues in equally high regard, especially when it comes to cooperation.

“We take the team mentality. It’s a situation where everyone shares the same goal.”

After finishing graduate school, Ode had career options, but no doubt that he wanted to return home. He was surprised the opportunity arose so quickly.

“My ultimate goal was always to come back to Saginaw Valley. To have your dream job be your first job is pretty unique, and I’m incredibly thankful for that.”



# Chris Camburn • Jackie Detrick • Chad Yensen

Athletic Trainers • September 2009

Injury time out. Those dreaded words are often the only time athletic trainers are front of mind. For SVSU staffers Chris Camburn, Jackie Detrick and Chad Yensen, attending to student-athletes' injuries is important, but the other aspects of the job are much more prominent.

"We do a lot of stuff you don't see," Yensen said, "a lot of taping, preventive bracing, and rehab to get people ready to play."

"It's tough to explain athletic training in a nutshell," added Camburn. "There's so much that goes into it. You are going from early morning to the late afternoon and night, doing stuff every hour."

Long hours are universally acknowledged as the toughest part of the job, as 70-80 hour work weeks are common.

"You need to be committed and you definitely need to love what you're doing," Detrick said. "We're the first ones here and the last to leave. Luckily, Chris and I have very understanding spouses."

When injuries occur, considerable understanding is needed from coaches and players, as well.

"Our job, most importantly, is for the health, safety and well-being of the student-athletes," Yensen said, "looking out for them first and making sure they get the best possible care. It's never fun to tell someone they can't play, but you need to think about what's best for the athlete."

Some techniques employed on professional athletes to get them ready to play are inappropriate for the college setting, and sometimes create unrealistic expectations, Detrick said.

"A student's main job is to get an education and graduate. People need to realize there's a big difference between college sports and professional sports, so we have a lot of educating to do."

Originally from Toledo, Ohio, Detrick has worked at SVSU for seven years, while Camburn and Yensen, a West Virginia native, each have four years of service. That tenure together is "unusual" in a profession that has a high turnover and burnout rate, and teamwork is vital to success and sanity.

Camburn was introduced to SVSU at a sports camp as a high school student, and while he didn't come here with the intent to study athletic training, he has no regrets.

"The experience here as a student was awesome."

Delivering a similar experience for student-athletes provides motivation.

"The reason why we do this is to see athletes from the beginning with their injury through their rehab and their return back to play," Yensen said. "I think that's the most rewarding thing you can do as an athletic trainer."



## Professional Profile

- **Eric Gardner**, professor of English, has an article titled “Forgotten Manuscripts: William Jay Greenly’s Antebellum Temperance Drama” in the current issue of *African American Review* (42.3-4: 389-406); in the article, Gardner shares his discovery of — as well as excerpts from — what may be the first book of plays published by an African American, William Jay Greenly’s 1858 collection *The Three Drunkards*.
- **Judith Kerman**, professor of English, has a poem titled “Imagining Sukkot” in the Autumn 2009 issue of *Jewish Currents* magazine. Also, Kerman has been named to the Fulbright Program’s 2009 selection committee for Canada and the Caribbean.
- **George Puia**, Dow Chemical Chair in Global Business, had a paper titled “The Sustainability-Diversification Dilemma” accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Sustainable Strategic Management*. Also, Rebecca Griffin (a student) and Puia had a paper titled “Failure to Launch: The Kyoto Protocol and Sustainable Strategic Management” accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Sustainable Strategic Management*. This paper was based on Griffin’s honors thesis.
- **Evelyn Ravuri**, associate professor of geography, published an article in the *Journal of Cultural Geography* (Vol. 26, Issue 2) titled “Hispanic Population Change in Southwestern Detroit and Surrounding Suburbs, 1990-2000: A Study of the Succession Process.”
- **Janet E. Rubin**, professor of theatre, presented “Comparative Benefits of Active Learning Through Theatre” at the 34th International Improving University Teaching Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, in July. Rubin also was invited to serve as a session moderator at this juried international conference. Also, in July, Rubin and Kathryn Fehrman, from the California Western School of Law, presented “Making Connections: Using Theatre Techniques to Improve Communication” at the Fourth International Conference on the Arts in Society in Venice, Italy. The juried conference was held in conjunction with the Venice Biennale and attracted an international group of artists and educators who explored arts and arts practices in a variety of contemporary contexts.
- **Arif Sultan**, assistant professor of economics, had a paper accepted for publication in *Atlantic Economic Journal*. The paper is titled “Can leasing and CPO Reduce Adverse Selection in the Used Car Market?”
- **Stephen Taber**, associate professor of biology, has a manuscript accepted for publication in *The Northeastern Naturalist* magazine. It is titled “The Antlered Crane Fly Tanyptera dorsalis Walker (*Diptera: Tipulidae*), in Michigan and a Review of its Distribution and Biology.”

## New Cardinals

- **Jennifer Burk**, manager of student financial services, gave birth to a daughter, Kenley Sue (6 lbs., 9 oz., 20 in.), Aug. 28.
- **Jennifer Pahl**, director of admissions, gave birth to a son, Jacob Daniel (7 lbs., 13 oz., 20.5 in.), Sept. 20.



Join Cardinal Kids Club, a new program sponsored by the Athletic Department. Families with young children can enjoy athletic contests and discounts on camps, and have opportunities to directly interact with athletes, coaches and the Cardinal mascot at a variety of events scheduled throughout the year. Call or click for more information on how to enroll your little ones in this family-friendly program!

[svsu.edu/cardinalkidsclub](http://svsu.edu/cardinalkidsclub) • 964-7311

## Condolences

- To the family of **Hero Masihcharan Singh**, professor emeritus of psychology, who passed away Sept. 5.
- To **Dan Strasz**, director of the academic advisement center, whose wife, Tracy, passed away Aug. 28.

## Briefly Speaking

- **Dan Strasz**, director of the academic advisement center, wishes to thank the campus community for the generous and kind support of his family following the recent passing of his wife Tracy.
- Order a Red Pride Package for \$20, which includes a t-shirt, 32-ounce sports bottle, noise sticks, pennant, face tattoos and two general admission coupons for either a home football or basketball game. For details, call Shelly Reminder at ext. 7306.
- The Society for Human Resource Management and Holmes Corporation presented the 2009 Certificate of Recognition to SVSU’s SHRM Learning System Course for achieving a 100 percent pass rate on the National Professional in Human Resources and Senior Professional in Human Resources certification exams. The 12-week course is offered by the Office of Continuing Education & Professional Development in partnership with the SHRM.

**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).**