

SVSU names three new endowed chairs

A trio of respected scholars and educators have accepted appointments for endowed chair positions that will utilize their expertise in the lab, the classroom and the community.

Drew Hinderer has been named the new James V. Finkbeiner Chair in Ethics. Since joining SVSU's philosophy faculty in 1980, he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in philosophy, logic, and ethics. He has received the Roosevelt Ruffin Diversity Award (2008), the House Family Award for Teacher Impact (2007), the Rush Distinguished Lectureship (2007) and the Faculty Association Award for Scholarly Achievement (1991).

Hinderer's research interests include health care ethics and policy. He has co-authored a book, *Health Care Ethics: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, as well as several scholarly articles and two hospital ethics workbooks on the topic. Hinderer currently serves on the MidMichigan Home Care/Hospice Ethics Committee and previously served on ethics committees for Bay Health Systems and the Lutz Veterans Administration Medical Center in Saginaw.

In addition to teaching, Hinderer has been the chair of the Roberts Fellows Program, a student leadership program, since its inception in 1999. He completed his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

David Karpovich becomes the first SVSU graduate to receive an appointment as an endowed chair, as he will serve as the H.H. Dow Endowed Chair of Chemistry. He has worked on research teams that have developed silicon



Drew Hinderer

derivatized macromolecules and biodegradable plastics, resulting in five pending patents. Karpovich also has been a named researcher on 18 separate grants, totaling more than \$700,000 in external funding support. He received SVSU's Warrick Award for Excellence in Research in 2009.

Much of Karpovich's research is focused on Michigan's agriculture industry, including two current projects that involve finding profitable uses for agricultural byproducts. In one, he is studying how to create biodegradable plastics from waste materials generated through the harvest of corn and other crops. The other entails the study of how to heat buildings using glycerin, a byproduct of producing biodiesel fuel from soybeans. Karpovich also has worked with a Midland



David Karpovich

company to analyze a natural pesticide generated by the Neem plant native to Africa.

An active scholar, Karpovich has co-authored 13 articles that have appeared in scholarly journals, and has given more than 40 invited academic presentations.

Karpovich completed his bachelor's degree at SVSU before going on to Michigan State University where he earned a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry in 1996. He also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash.

Jeffrey S. Smith has been named the first Malcolm and Lois Field Endowed Chair in Health Sciences. He comes to SVSU from the University of Portland where he served four years on the faculty in



Jeffrey Smith

psychology and biology, and was director of the brain research laboratory. Prior to that, Smith taught at Mount Union College for seven years.

Smith specializes in the study of brain injuries, including recovery from traumatic brain injury and stroke, and study of the central nervous system, including the role of blood borne immune cells in the nervous system, and the role of neuroglia (cells that support and protect neurons) in nervous system functioning.

Smith has been an invited presenter at more than 30 conferences; many of the presentations included students. Grants he has received include \$150,000 from the National Science Foundation to develop undergraduate physiology laboratories, and \$81,500 from Murdock Life Sciences to study recovery from controlled cortical contusion injury.

Smith completed his Ph.D. in psychology with an concentration in behavioral neuroscience at Emory University.

Karpovich succeeds David Swenson, while Hinderer replaces Francis Dane. All three new appointments are effective July 1.

ENDOWED CHAIRS SERVE AS RESIDENT SCHOLARS ACROSS SVSU'S FIVE ACADEMIC COLLEGES

- Andersen/Lange Clinical Professor in Nursing – **Jane Barnsteiner**
- Carl A. Gerstacker Endowed Chair in Education – **David Callejo-Perez**
- Charles J. Strosacker Endowed Chair in Engineering – **Christopher Schilling**
- Clifford Spicer Endowed Chair in Engineering – **Alan D. Freed**
- Dow Chemical Company Centennial Chair in Global Business – **George Puia**
- Malcolm and Lois Field Endowed Chair in Health Sciences – **Jeffrey Smith**
- Harvey Randall Wickes Endowed Chair in International Studies – **Said Elfakhani**
- Herbert H. Dow Endowed Chair in Chemistry – **David Karpovich**
- James V. Finkbeiner Endowed Chair in Ethics – **Drew Hinderer**

Joseph Jaksa

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

Leaving a legacy. That's why Joe Jaksa is devoting the second half of his criminal justice career to preparing the next generation.

"On one hand, I have to remember that I'm a professor sometimes, and I'm not out on street dealing with the criminal element," said the former vice president of a contract security and private investigations company. "At the same time, it helps students understand what they could come up against when they get out."

Jaksa got his first taste of teaching at Mott Community College when he had the chance to be a long-term substitute. That was when he knew. "I was hooked," he said.

Jaksa came to SVSU to complete his master's degree, and he says he is evidence that you can make major life changes at any age: last month, he was awarded his Ph.D.

"You can teach an old dog new tricks," he said, laughing. "I am living proof."

Jaksa's life before him has changed his perspective. "After spending 20 years working on the streets, you learn to appreciate life," he said. "And you learn to look at the positive side because you deal with the negative so much."

Little pleasures, he said, are important to catch, and his office seems a testament to the notion. Amid the trappings of academia,

an anxious student might be surprised: action figures rest on the bookshelves, and a framed comic book hangs on the wall.

"I am a closet Batman fan," he said. In fact, some of Jaksa's colleagues refer to him as the "Dark Knight" of the department. "As silly as that may sound, there are parallels — the disdain for crime, the hatred of weapons."

But here, the hobby has another facet to it. "It's something that shows I'm a person, too. I'm not this high and mighty individual. You can call me 'Dr. Jaksa' ... you can call me 'Joe' — I'll answer to both."

One thing he has noticed is the misconception that surrounds his subject matter.

"Many people think that criminal justice is all about policing and learning how to arrest people, and it isn't. We don't teach 'cuff-'em-and-stuff-'em.'"

Jaksa and his colleagues do teach the intricacies of a complex criminal justice system, as well as the tools students need to become solid writers and critical problem solvers.

"I love the philosophy that SVSU is a teaching institution — I think it makes all the difference in the world, because it's all about the students, getting them ready. We're all committed to that."



Bryan Crainer

Resident Director • March 2010

For Bryan Crainer, it's all a matter of perspective. Within the ranks of fellow SVSU staffers, he's a young professional still early in his career. His residents see it differently when he describes the relative paucity of residential buildings when he was a student.

"They think I'm the oldest person on earth," Crainer chuckled.

With housing at half of its present size, there was still quite a bit of culture shock coming from Whittemore-Prescott High School, 60 miles away but a world apart.

"When I got here, I thought this place was enormous."

Crainer and his "understanding" wife Kelli live on campus, and it's not uncommon to receive unexpected visitors. "People knock on our door at all hours – that's the downside of the job – but I prefer to be right there, so I can respond to something if I need to."

By necessity, Crainer spends time with students in trouble. "A lot of times they're meeting me because they have to, but that's how I build relationships with them. A lot of times that can turn into a positive."

Those who improve their residential environment make the inconveniences worthwhile. "The part of the job that appeals to me is working with the RA staff and community councils. Watching them grow motivates me. That's the best part of the job."

Crainer's original career path was as a teacher, and he has had to tap into that experience. "Being an educator, I still have that passion for the K-12 setting. I don't think that will ever leave me. I'm in a position here with resources, namely student leaders."

Those student leaders have been an integral part of the College Success Workshop, a program Crainer created for students from backgrounds similar to his own: small, rural high schools.

"In my opinion, some of these students struggle to prepare for college – not academically – but with what they're going to experience in terms of diversity, independence and those kinds of issues."

The high school students who visit campus gain a sense of the college experience and how it differs from high school, while their college counterparts benefit from organizing the workshops and presenting the sessions.

During his limited time spent off campus, Crainer usually can be found outdoors hunting, fishing or camping. Most of the rest of his spare time is spent with the "very good people" in Residential Life.

"There have been some growing pains, but I think we do a very good job with the 2,700 people who live here."





Blake Mycoskie, left, founder and chief shoe giver of TOMS Shoes, signs autographs for students following an appearance at SVSU Monday, March 15. TOMS Shoes, an L.A.-based footwear company, is known for its unusual mission: For every pair a customer buys, TOMS buys a pair for a child in a developing country. In Mycoskie's tour across the country, SVSU was the only university in Michigan he visited.

In 2006, Mycoskie befriended children in Argentina and found they had no shoes to protect their feet. Wanting to help, he created TOMS Shoes, and when he returned to Argentina with a group of family, friends and staff later that year, he provided 10,000 pairs of shoes to children. Since its beginning in May 2006, TOMS has given more than 400,000 pairs of shoes to children.

Professional Profile

- **Marsha Millikin**, lecturer of English, presented a paper titled “Negotiating the First-year Composition Gateway: From Basic Writing to the General Education Literature Class” at the College Composition and Communication Conference in Louisville, Ky., March 18.
- **Michael R. Mosher**, associate professor of art/communication & digital media, presented a paper titled “San Francisco 1978-83: Socialist School and Rats for Profit” in Chicago at CAA2010, the College Art Association 98th Annual Conference, as a part of the panel Autonomizing Practices in Art, Art History and Education, Feb. 11.
- **Altat Rahman**, professor of electrical and computer engineering, attended a workshop titled “Reforming Electric Energy Systems Curriculum – With Emphasis on Renewables/Storage, Smart Delivery and Efficient End-use,” which was sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation and organized by the University of Minnesota, Feb. 4-6 in Tucson, Ariz. Rahman took part in working group meetings of the Curriculum Advisory Group and ECE Department Heads, and discussed the details of the proposed curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota and its developed laboratories.

New Cardinals

- **Chris Camburn**, assistant athletic trainer, welcomed the birth of a son, Aiden Robert (6 lbs., 7 oz.), March 15.

Condolences

- To **Jeremy Frye**, SVSU Bookstore assistant manager, whose mother, Linda Frye, passed away March 10.
- To the family of **James R. House**, who passed away March 14; House was a committee member for the House Family Award for Teacher Impact.
- To **Linda Schmidt**, administrative assistant to the vice president for student services & enrollment management, whose mother, Sophia Schatzer, passed away March 19.

Transitions

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

Promoted/Transferred/Title Change

- **Sharon Chenette** – Student Loan Clerk
- **Cindy Putnam** – Customer Support Specialist, Learning Management System
- **Tammi Waugh** – Manager, Learning Management System

Left/Leaving

- **Laura Donajkowski**

Briefly Speaking

- Faculty and staff may present the Alumni Scroll to graduating members of their immediate family during the Commencement ceremony at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 8. Call Joe Vogl at ext. 4051 to make arrangements. SVSU provides regalia free of charge to faculty, adjunct faculty and staff; orders are due April 2. To order regalia, go to svsu.edu/webapps/regalia/. If you have your own regalia, please go to the above site to notify the SVSU Foundation that you will be attending.
- All RSVPs for the 2010 All University Awards Banquet are due April 6; for more information, call ext. 4126. This year's banquet takes place at 6 p.m., Friday, April 16 in Curtiss Hall.

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.

Tim Inman
Director of Creative Services
tmi@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4086

J.J. Boehm
Director of Media Relations
jjboehm@svsu.edu • (989) 964-4055

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