

## Decision & Destiny in focus for SVSU fall lecture series

Humans make countless choices every day – occasionally those decisions align with world events in ways that change their destiny. Such interesting perspectives will be examined in the 2011 Fall Focus lecture series with a theme of “The Individual in Global Society: Decision & Destiny.”

The series includes the James O’Neill Lecture, the annual Rush Lecture, Dow Visiting Scholars & Artists presentations, the inaugural Raana Akbar Memorial Lecture on Islam and Culture, and the Hoffmann/Willertz Lecture.

For more details on each lecture, and biographical information on each speaker, go to [svsu.edu/fallfocus](http://svsu.edu/fallfocus). Admission to all lectures is free of charge.

- **Minnijean Brown Trickey, “Return to Little Rock: A Seminal Moment in American Education and Civil Rights”**  
Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m., Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts
- **Eric Petersen, “Decisions for War: Vietnam, Iraq and the American Experience”**  
Thursday, Sept. 29, 4 p.m., Founders Hall
- **Michael Wolfe, “The Hajj to Mecca: A Spiritual Pilgrimage for Our Time”**  
Friday, Sept. 30, 5 p.m., Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts
- **Amanda Lindhout, “From Captivity to Freedom and Forgiveness”**  
Monday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall
- **James Bradley, “The Imperial Cruise: A Secret History of Empire and War”**  
Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts
- **Bill Strickland, “The Art of Leadership and the Business of Social Change”**  
Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m., Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts
- **Christine Mueller, “Caring for an Aging Society: Individual and Collective Responsibility”**  
Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m., Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts
- **Brad Jarvis, “Land, Sovereignty, and the Transformation of the Reverend Samson Occom”**  
Wednesday, Nov. 9, 4 p.m., Rhea Miller Recital Hall

## Fall 2011 semester enrollment tops 2010 record

SVSU reached all-time highs for the number of total students, incoming freshmen, residential and international students this year.

The 10,790 students taking classes for the fall 2011 semester represent an increase from last year’s previous record of 10,656. The incoming freshman class totaled 1,777 students, up from a high of 1,753 the year before.

“This is a healthy total

enrollment,” said James Dwyer, vice president for enrollment management. “We’re especially pleased to see growth in the freshman class; it’s an indication that interest in Saginaw Valley remains high during these tough economic times.”

A record number of students are living on campus: 2,734, an increase of 16 students from last year. Among the incoming freshman class, 72 percent chose

to live on campus.

SVSU also welcomed 542 international students this fall, up from 459 the year before. Saudi Arabia and China continue to be the two nations supplying the most international students.

With the number of Michigan high school graduates projected to decline and no plans to build additional student housing at SVSU, Dwyer

expects future freshman classes to be comparable in size to this year’s total. That places greater emphasis on those measures that help students stay in school.

“Starting in orientation, we have stressed to our freshmen that they cannot afford to fall behind,” Dwyer said. “The transition from high school to college is often difficult. We’ve instituted a number of programs to help students make connections to the university academically and socially so that they succeed in the classroom right away.”

Beginning with the fall 2011 freshman class, all students nationwide who do not have a GPA of at least 2.0 at the end of their freshman year will be ineligible for federal financial aid programs.

# FOURTH FRIDAY RECEPTIONS

**October 28**

**November 18\***

\*Moved to third Friday due to Thanksgiving holiday

Refreshments served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

President’s Reception Area & Board of Control Room – Third Floor Wickes Hall

# Kay Castillo

Assistant Professor of Medical Laboratory Science

Kay Castillo came to SVSU to teach laboratory science. Since joining the faculty last year, she has received quite an education. She spent her summer completing a self-study report for the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science; an accreditation team arrives next month for a site visit. “Now they want to talk to people,” she said.

Castillo came from Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw where she had been a laboratory manager and educator, and she was eager to take her new job.

“We’re filling a void in the whole mid-Michigan area,” she said, “for people who want to work here, go to school here and stay here. That’s why I was excited. I knew a lot of employees that wanted to further their education, but there was nothing in the area.”

A laboratory can be a high pressure environment, but so can the classroom, because of the advance preparation required. “It’s a different kind of deadline,” she said. “You have to be ready for class.”

Job opportunities in medical laboratory science are on the rise. “We’re in a national shortage, because the Baby Boomers are retiring,” Castillo said.

Earlier this summer, SVSU signed an articulation agreement with Macomb Community College, which has a lab technician program.

“We just opened a door for these students, and now we can look at other programs out there.”

The curriculum also appeals to a segment of traditional undergraduates. “It’s really good for the students who know they want to go into health care, but they don’t necessarily want to be involved in direct patient care,” she said.

At SVSU, Castillo says students are required to learn chemistry, statistics, physics and other courses to provide a solid scientific foundation. “It promotes critical thinking and takes it to the next level,” she said. “Working with the students, they’re just excited about what they’re doing. It’s a rigorous program and they’re learning how intense it is, but they’re embracing it.”

Beyond the classroom, students must complete field work requirements. SVSU has affiliations with all the regional hospitals, and recently added Huron Medical Center in Bad Axe.

Castillo says she has received strong internal backing since arriving.

“Academic Affairs has been extremely supportive. They want this to work. They remodeled a lab for us and helped us fill it with equipment and supplies.”

Her first 15 months have been challenging, but Castillo is convinced she’s in the right place, something she has in common with those she teaches.

“I love working with the students, especially this group of students. I feel like they found something they’ve been looking for.”



# Nancy Rood

Faculty Secretary • September 2011

Professors are known to form lasting relationships with their students. They're not alone. Nancy Rood keeps in close contact with past student employees and displays pictures of them and their families at her desk.

"I've gotten close with a lot of really good students. Most of my work-study students through the years, we still send Christmas cards, which is amazing. I've gone to their weddings."

The relationships date back to the early 1980s when Rood worked in the Controller's office. Student employees become like family to Rood – and sometimes *are* family. In the late 1990s, three student employees who worked in succession for Rood were related to each other.

This year, much of Rood's time has been spent preparing for SVSU's visit from the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET ([abet.org](http://abet.org)), which occurred earlier this month.

"We've been quite busy for the past six months," she said. "For electrical engineering, we had to prepare a manual. In that, you have to put all the programs that interact with your engineering program. You have to include all of your syllabi, all your curricula vitae. You have to copy student tests. It's quite a job putting it together."

Rood's work was evaluated critically by the program evaluators.

"When the accreditation team comes in, your books have to be all ready; they check things with a fine-tooth comb," she said.

By all accounts, the visit went well. Rood has a number of routine tasks, too, such as keeping files; typing syllabi, letters, memos and minutes; ordering supplies; maintaining the copier; and digitally scanning scholarly articles, tests and student papers. She also responds to the unexpected.

"There is no 'average' day," Rood insisted. "Every day is different; you don't know until you get here."

Away from the office, Rood reads mystery novels to relax. "(Fellow faculty secretary) Linda Peterson got me hooked on those," she said. Janet Evanovich is one of Rood's favorite authors.

When opportunity permits, Rood enjoys traveling to Minnesota to visit family, especially her 9-year-old grandson, Brendan. "He's the light of my life," she said.

Friends ask Rood if she plans to retire, but she intends to continue working for some time. "God willing, as long as my health holds up," she said.

Rood's colleagues are one of the main reasons for that. "I just love the people. I've been pretty lucky with the faculty. For most of them, I'm the only faculty secretary they've ever had. We all get along really well. I help the adjunct faculty, too. It's just a joy to work here."





**SVSU faculty and staff are eligible for 2011-12 All Sports Passes, which allow free admission into the newly-remodeled Wickes Memorial Stadium, where the Cardinals now play under the lights. In addition to regular season home football games, the All Sports Passes grant free admission to all home regular season basketball games. To obtain the passes, contact Shelly Reminder in the Ryder Center.**

## Professional Profile

- **Geoffrey V. Carter**, assistant professor of English, had a paper titled “Inter.Virtual.Vitalism.Views: Aural Encounters with Byron Hawk, Victor Vitanza, and Alex Reid” published in *Currents in Electronic Literacy* (Special Issue: Writing with Sound; Summer 2011).
- **Monika Dix**, assistant professor of Japanese language, literature & culture, presented a paper titled “Heike Nokyo: Taira no Kiyomori and kechien-gyo Practice in Kamakura-Period Japan” as part of a four-day international symposium titled “Loveable Losers: The Taira in Action and Memory,” which was sponsored by the East Asian Studies Department at the University of Alberta and held at the Banff Centre in Banff, Canada, Aug. 12-15.
- **Vanessa Brooks Herd**, assistant professor of social work, presented “Bad Hair Days: Life in the Foster Care System” at the Michigan County Social Services Association Training Conference, held in Bay City, Aug. 16. Also, Brooks Herd conducted an invited workshop on Foster Parent Cultural Diversity Training at the Saginaw County Department of Human Services, Aug. 11.
- **Gladys Hernandez**, professor of modern foreign languages, presented a paper titled “El lenguaje del agua y la cultura” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Washington, D.C., in July.
- **J. Blake Johnson**, assistant professor of art, has a paper sculpture on exhibit in the All Michigan All Media – Visual Arts Competition, sponsored by the Holland Area Arts Council. The show opened Sept. 9 and runs until Nov. 5.
- **Mark Potts**, assistant dean for the College of Business & Management, and **George M. Puia**, associate dean for faculty research and external relations/Dow Chemical Company Centennial Chair in Global Business, had a paper titled “Entrepreneurship in the European Union: Unified is not Uniform” accepted for publication in the *International Journal of E-Entrepreneurship and Innovation*.

• **David Rzeszutek**, assistant professor of theatre, was a panelist for a session titled “Reflections on the Field: Observing, Contemplating, and Imagining” at the American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference in Chicago in July.

## New Cardinals

• **Kevin Simons**, assistant professor of music, announced the birth of a daughter, Claire Allan Evelyn (7 lbs., 11 oz., 20 in.), Sept. 1.

## Briefly Speaking

• SVSU recently placed first in the 2011 Philo Media Arts Festival for an edition of Red Alert, a joint video production of the Instructional Technology Center and Athletics that is videotaped weekly each fall and periodically through the remainder of the academic year. The first place entry, which featured last fall’s re-cap of the Michigan Tech game, was directed by James Woods and produced by Dan Goodell, Matt Woodbury, and Brian Mudd. SVSU’s Red Alert is available online at [svsu.edu/athletics](http://svsu.edu/athletics).

## Transitions

Due to the number of staff and faculty who were new or reassigned in June and July, a listing of Transitions can be found online at [blogs.svsu.edu/newsroom](http://blogs.svsu.edu/newsroom). For complete directory information, including office numbers and telephone extensions, go to [svsu.edu/lookup](http://svsu.edu/lookup).

**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: [jjboehm@svsu.edu](mailto:jjboehm@svsu.edu).**